

ETS 1/6

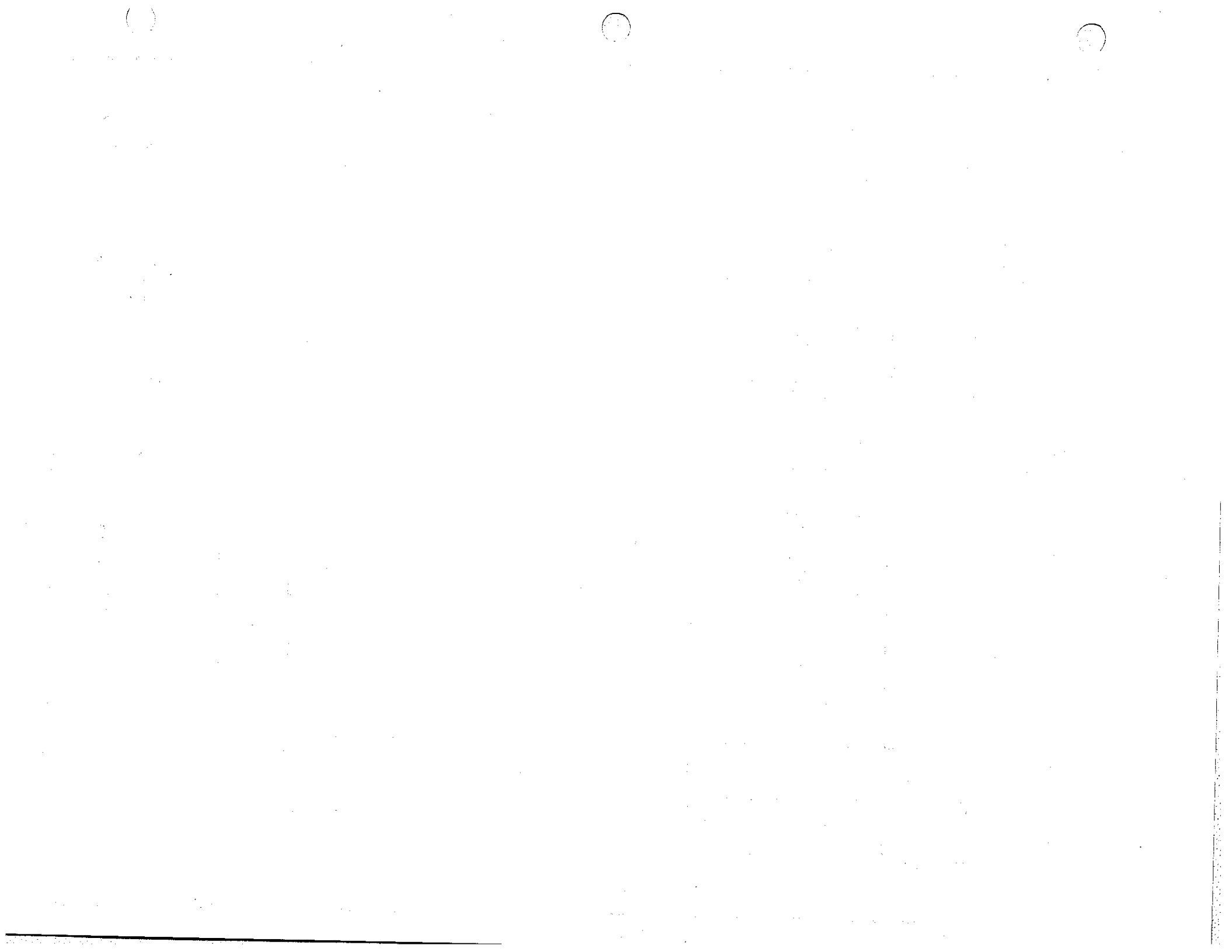
Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____ Topic Evangelism

Lesson Introduction To Evangelism Class _____

	Completed	
	Yes	No
Lecture		
Review "Introduction To Evangelism"		
Bible Study		
Do "Assurance of Victory"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 2 people to win to Christ.		
Pray for 1 person to disciple.		
Scripture Memory		
Matthew 4:19		
I Corinthians 10:13		



INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

The Command to Evangelize

In Mark's Gospel Jesus says:

Go ye into all the world and preach the
Gospel to EVERY CREATURE.

Mark 16:15

Jesus charges His disciples with the responsibility to see that every person hears the Good News of His saving love. This is a part of Jesus' plan for our lives. In John He goes on to tell us:

Ye have not chosen me, but I have CHOSEN you, and ORDAINED you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain....

John 15:16

Every Layman Called and Ordained

We have been both CALLED and ORDAINED by Jesus to this task. Now evangelism may not be our primary spiritual gift, but every Christian is called and ordained to the task of evangelism. Many of us have convinced ourselves that we can't do evangelism, and we excuse ourselves from the task. Jesus not only gives the command to evangelize, but He also gives us the knowledge to be able to do it.

The Knowledge to Evangelize

Jesus said:

...Follow me, and I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS
OF MEN.

Matthew 4:19

In this passage Jesus promises to make us fishers of men. He is going to teach us how to do evangelism so that we can win people to Christ. The secret of learning to do evangelism is following Jesus and doing what He commands. If you are not a fisher of men, I don't know who you are following, but I would wonder if it is Jesus. When you find the two words, "I WILL," and Jesus is speaking, this constitutes a promise. The Son of God says, "I will make you a FISHER OF MEN."

The Lord does not want us to be obnoxious, but He does want us to be ever at the task of reaching the lost. Everyone we know without Christ is to be a candidate for the Gospel. However, we are to use tact and wisdom in speaking with people. If they don't respond, we are not to force the issue. We must back off and continue to pray and wait for the Spirit of God to work in their lives.

Definition of Evangelism

Lorne Sanny, the president of the Navigators says:

Evangelism is taking a good look at Jesus Christ and then telling someone what you saw.

This is what John is saying in his first epistle.

That which we have SEEN and HEARD declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

I John 1:3

A witness is one who reports what has happened. This is what God expects us to do. David expresses this very well when he says:

Let the redeemed of the Lord SAY SO, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

Psalms 107:2

Evangelism is helping a person:

- To recognize his need for Jesus Christ
- To understand HOW TO receive Jesus into his life

Our job is to proclaim the Gospel in such a way that people understand their need for Him. In doing this we need to remember that the Gospel is Good News and not hell, fire and damnation. Our job is to proclaim the Word of God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring conviction of sin. Some Christians try to trade jobs with the Holy Spirit. We are most effective when we proclaim the Word in such a way that the Holy Spirit is not hindered in His work. If we are faithful in this task, often times our efforts will be rewarded with the privilege of assisting a person to receive Jesus Christ.

He that goeth forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalms 126:6

In Ephesians 4:11, we are told that God has given us evangelists. These are specifically instructed to perfect the saints: to instruct, prepare and equip the saints to carry out the work of evangelism. Their job is not simply to do the work for us, but to train us in evangelism.

Not only has Jesus commanded us to evangelism and given us the knowledge, but He has also given us the power.

The Power to Evangelize

Jesus said:

But YE SHALL receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and YE SHALL BE WITNESSES unto me both in JERUSALEM and in all JUDEA and in SAMARIA and to the uttermost part OF THE EARTH.

Acts 1:8

When the Holy Spirit comes into the life of a believer at conversion, He gives him power to witness to others about Christ. We need this power since there is a natural reluctance to talk with others about Jesus. Also, God wants us to have a world-wide witness. He wants to use us to carry the Gospel to the uttermost part of the earth. He not only intends for us to start in our Jerusalem (home town) but then to be used in our county, state, and eventually to the ends of the earth. If we are to do all this, we will need the Holy Spirit's power. God's plan for us involves a life-style of evangelism.

Life-Style of Evangelism

Paul was a good example of someone whose life-style was one of evangelism. In Colossians 1:28 Paul says:

So NATURALLY we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may 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 (JBP)

Both an Act and a Process

Often time we think of evangelism as an act, as if it were something we do for a given time and then it is over, like giving out tracts for an hour, or doing church visitation one night a week! In Matthew 13:4-23 Jesus likens evangelism to a farmer sowing seed in his field. Planting is a process for farmers.

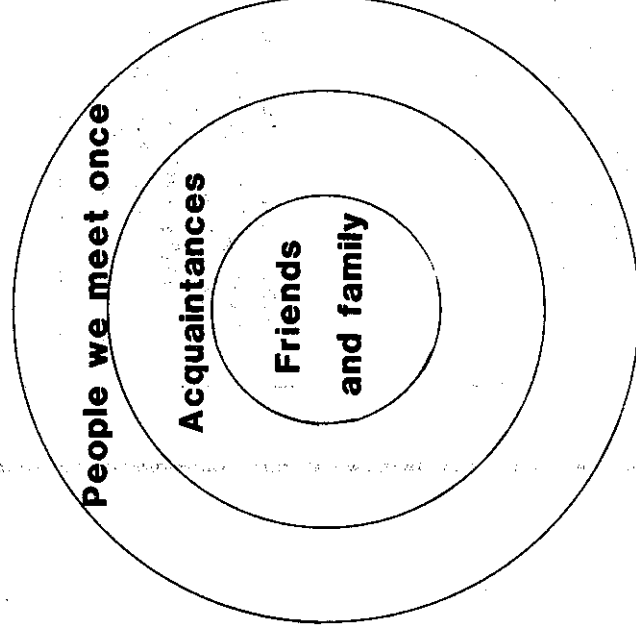
Farming	Evangelism
● Select the field	● Find a person
● Prepare the ground	● Pray for the person
● Sow the seed	● Present the Gospel
● Water and cultivate	● Friendship and help
● Harvest the seed	● Lead person to Christ
● Conserve the fruit	● Follow-up

A good witness understands this process and learns to assess the situation and do what is needed to further the process. If we think that every witnessing situation is a harvesting situation, we will probably not be very effective.

Relationships in Evangelism

In our lifetime we develop many types of relationships with people around us. Most of these relationships can be divided into three categories:

- People we meet once
- Occasional acquaintances
- Regular acquaintances/friends



God wants to use you in all of these relationships to win people to Christ. However, we are most responsible for people in categories two and three. Listed here are some practical considerations for each of these relationships.

Types of Relationships	Actions
People you meet only once in your life. (God often uses us to reap this kind of fruit if we are willing to be witnesses.)	We need to be constantly alert and prepared to present the Gospel briefly and concisely whenever we have an opening or opportunity.
Casual acquaintances you meet occasionally. (God has placed this person in your sphere of influence and wants to use you in the process of sharing the Gospel with him.)	Work at building the kind of relationship that allows conversation about spiritual issues.
Colleagues and Friends you meet as a regular part of your daily sphere of influence. (God will hold you most accountable for these.) This includes family and relatives.	Be a living example of what you preach, as well as a dependable friend. Ask God for wisdom as to when and how to share the Gospel.

Deliver those who are being taken away to death, and those who are staggering to slaughter, O hold them back. If you say, "See, we did not know this," does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?

Proverbs 24:11-12 (NASV)

Assurance of Victory

Begin memorizing I Corinthians 10:13

Meditation on I Corinthians 10:13

What is true about every temptation you face? _____

Who can give you victory when you are tempted? _____

Who can keep temptation from leading to sin? _____

Does God remove temptation? _____

What does God do for you? _____

"...temptation...common to man..."

1. What is the purpose of trials and temptations according to James 1:2-4? _____

2. What is a major source of temptation? James 1:13,14 _____

3. What are three areas of temptation in the world? I John 2:15,16 _____

4. When the devil tempts you, what is he seeking to do? I Peter 5:8 _____

"...God is faithful..."

5. What does God do for you? II Thessalonians 3:3 _____

6. What does Hebrews 4:15 tell you about Jesus Christ? _____

"...a way to escape..."

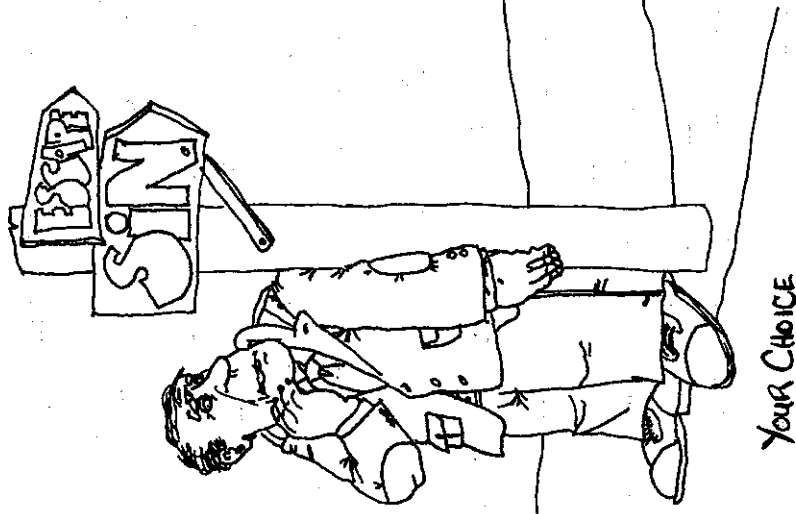
8. What are some of the things you can do to keep temptation from leading into sin? _____

Matthew 6:9,13

Psalm 119:9,11

I John 5:4,5

James 4:7



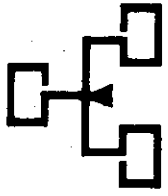
Your Choice

Write out I Corinthians 10:13 from memory.

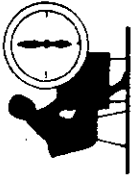
Application of I Corinthians 10:13:

What is a temptation that frequently overcomes you?

What do you think God's way of escape is?



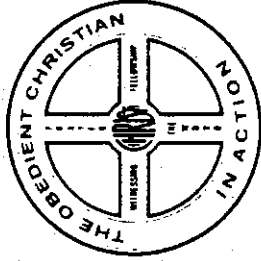
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE _____

APPLICATION

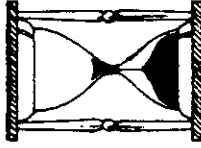


BASICS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW BACK REVIEW NEW VERSES	CHECK	DESCRIPTION
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE UP		

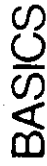
MANAGEMENT

Do List	Priorities	6 AM
		8
		10
		12 PM
		2
		4
		6
		8
		10
WRITE		
PHONE		
SEE		

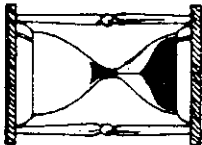


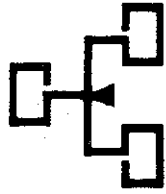


DATE _____

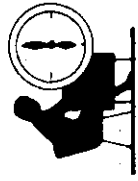
[illegible]

			CHECK	DESCRIPTION
SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW			
	BACK REVIEW			
	NEW VERSES			
BIBLE READING				
BIBLE STUDY				
PRAYER				
WITNESSING				
FOLLOW UP				
EXERCISE				
SLEEP				
WAKE UP				

MANAGEMENT		6 AM
	Do List	8
		10
		12 PM
		2
	WRITE	4
		6
	PHONE	8
		10
	SEE	



PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID

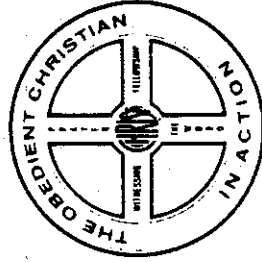


QUIET TIME

OBSERVATIONS

DATE

APPLICATION



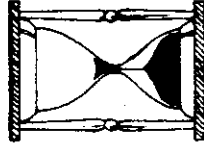
BASICS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW BACK REVIEW NEW VERSES	CHECK	DESCRIPTION
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE UP		

MANAGEMENT

Do List

Priorities



WRITE

PHONE

SEE

6AM

8

10

12PM

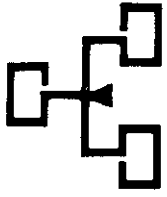
2

4

6

8

10



PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID

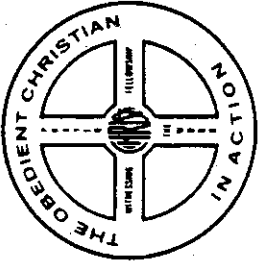


QUIET TIME

OBSERVATIONS

DATE

APPLICATION



BASICS

DESCRIPTION

CHECK

SCRIPTURE
MEMORY

CURRENT REVIEW

BACK REVIEW

NEW VERSES

BIBLE READING

BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER

WITNESSING

FOLLOW UP

EXERCISE

SLEEP

WAKE UP

MANAGEMENT

6AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12PM

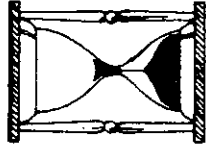
2

4

6

8

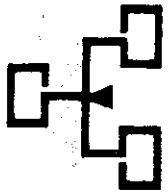
10



WRITE

PHONE

SEE



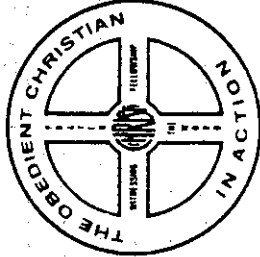
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE _____

APPLICATION



BASICS

DESCRIPTION

CHECK

CURRENT REVIEW

BACK REVIEW

NEW VERSES

SCRIPTURE
MEMORY

BIBLE READING

BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER

WITNESSING

FOLLOW UP

EXERCISE

SLEEP

WAKE UP

MANAGEMENT

6 AM

Do List

Priorities

8

10

12 PM

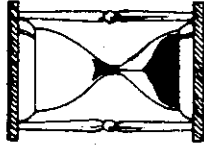
2

4

6

8

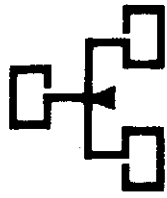
10



WRITE

PHONE

SEE



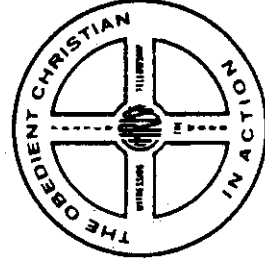
PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT AID



QUIET TIME
OBSERVATIONS

DATE _____

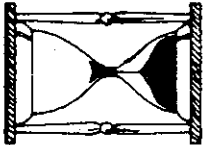
APPLICATION



BASICS

		CHECK	DESCRIPTION
SCRIPTURE MEMORY	CURRENT REVIEW		
	BACK REVIEW		
	NEW VERSES		
BIBLE READING			
BIBLE STUDY			
PRAYER			
WITNESSING			
FOLLOW UP			
EXERCISE			
SLEEP	WAKE	UP	

MANAGEMENT

	MANAGEMENT		6 AM
	Do List	Priorities	8
			10
			12 PM
			2
			4
			6
			8
			10
WRITE			
PHONE			
SEE			

ETS 1/7

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____

Topic Evangelism

Lesson The Bridge Presentation

Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "The Bridge Presentation"		
Bible Study		
Do "Assurance of Forgiveness"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 2 people to win to Christ.		
Pray for 1 person to disciple.		
Memorize first half of The Bridge Presentation.		
Scripture Memory		
Romans 10:9-10		
I John 1:9		

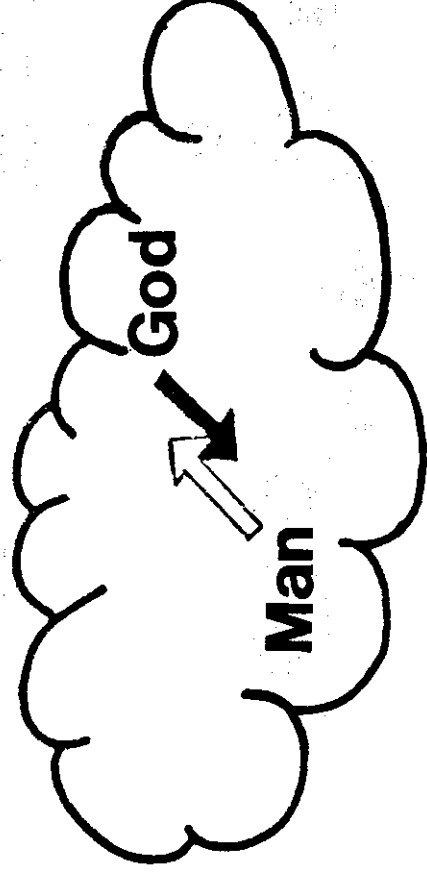


THE BRIDGE PRESENTATION

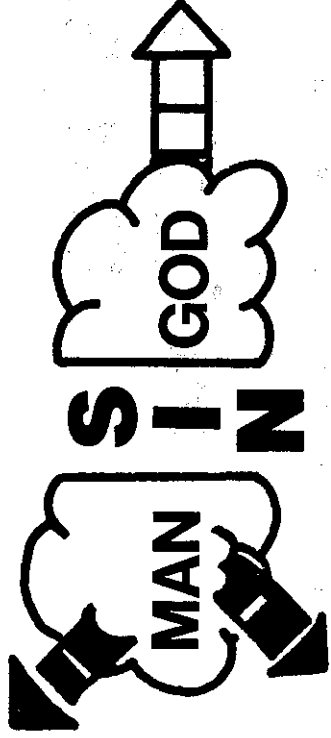
There are three things that a man must understand to become a Christian. With your permission, I would like to show you from the Bible what these three things are.

The First Thing

According to the Bible, in the beginning God created man and placed him in Eden to be responsible for a garden there. During those days, God and man related in perfect harmony with each other.



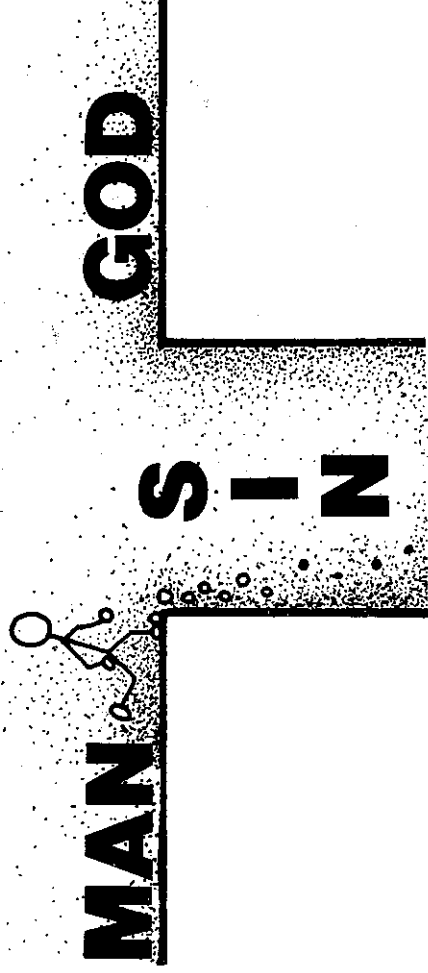
One day however, something happened in the Garden that caused a barrier to be erected between man and his Creator so that they could no longer have fellowship with each other.



Can you tell me what that was?

Was this when man ate the fruit and sinned against God?

THAT'S RIGHT -- Man chose to listen to the serpent's reasoning rather than God's command. Now if we could illustrate this another way, we could put man standing on one side of a cliff, God on the other side and SIN in between, separating them.



The Bible talks about this in Romans 3:23.

Would you please read this passage aloud?

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

According to this passage, how many have sinned?

It says "ALL."

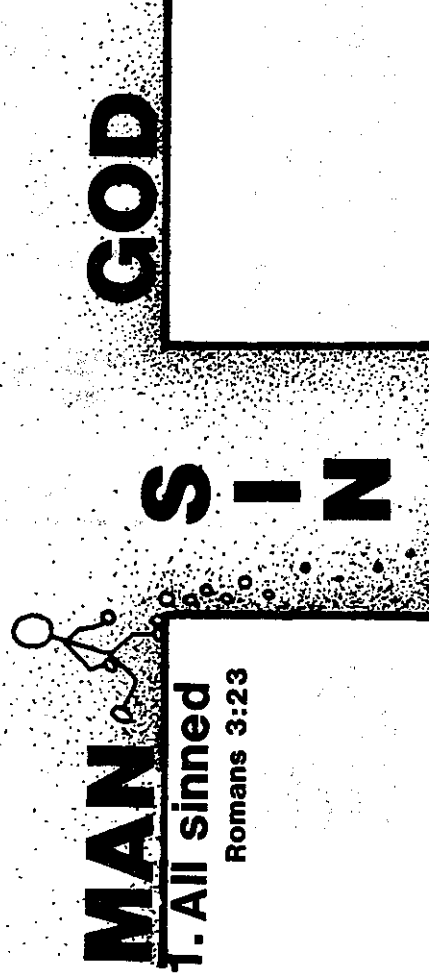
Does this mean I have sinned?

It says "all," so I guess that means you.

Does it mean that you too sinned?

Yes, it means that I too have sinned.

NOW THAT'S THE FIRST THING A MAN MUST UNDERSTAND TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN. LET'S WRITE THAT DOWN.



The Second Thing

THE SECOND THING THAT A MAN MUST UNDERSTAND TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN IS FOUND IN ROMANS 6:23. HERE THE AUTHOR DRAWS A CONCLUSION TO THIS MATTER OF SIN.

Would you please read this passage to me?

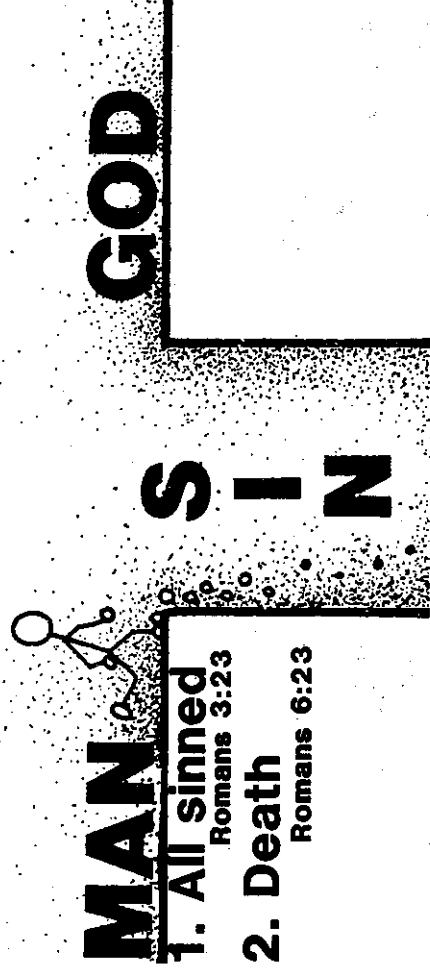
"For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

GOD DOES NOT EXPECT US TO SWEAT IT OUT AND BREAK OUR BACK MAKING THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE FOR NOTHING. IN FACT, GOD FULLY INTENDS TO REWARD US FOR ALL THAT WE HAVE EVER DONE.

However, here God says that the wages of sin is...?

It says "death."

NOW THAT IS THE SECOND THING THAT A MAN MUST UNDERSTAND TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN. SO LET'S WRITE THAT DOWN TOO.



We could say many things about Death. But if you reduce it to its simplest form, it is mere separation. Several years ago, my grandmother died. Now she is in one place and I am in another: death has separated us. When Adam and his wife sinned, they spiritually died and were separated from God.

The Third Thing

THE THIRD THING THAT A MAN MUST UNDERSTAND TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN IS FOUND IN HEBREWS 9:27.

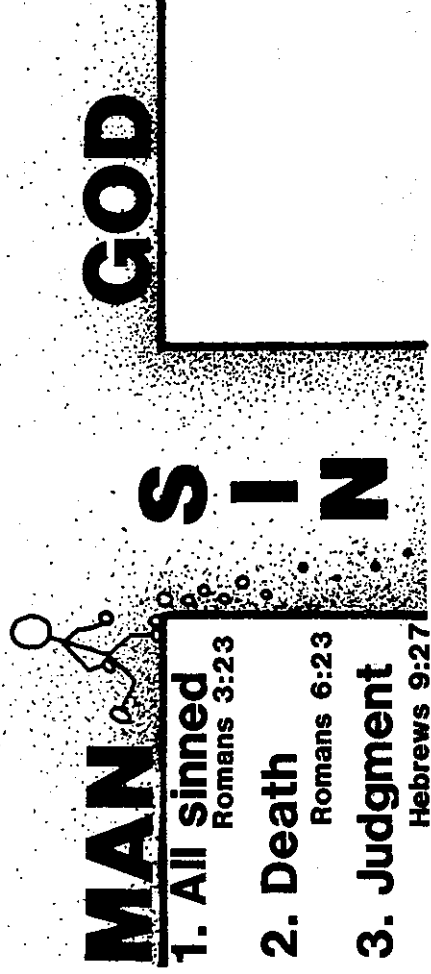
Would you please read this verse to me?

"And it is appointed unto man once to die and after this comes the judgment."

According to this verse, what happens when a man dies?

He is judged.

SINCE THAT IS THE THIRD THING THAT A MAN MUST UNDERSTAND TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN, LET'S WRITE IT DOWN.



NOW IF IT IS TRUE THAT ALL MEN HAVE SINNED, AND THAT THE PENALTY FOR SIN IS DEATH AND SEPARATION FROM GOD, AND THAT THE DAY IS COMING WHEN MAN WILL BE JUDGED,

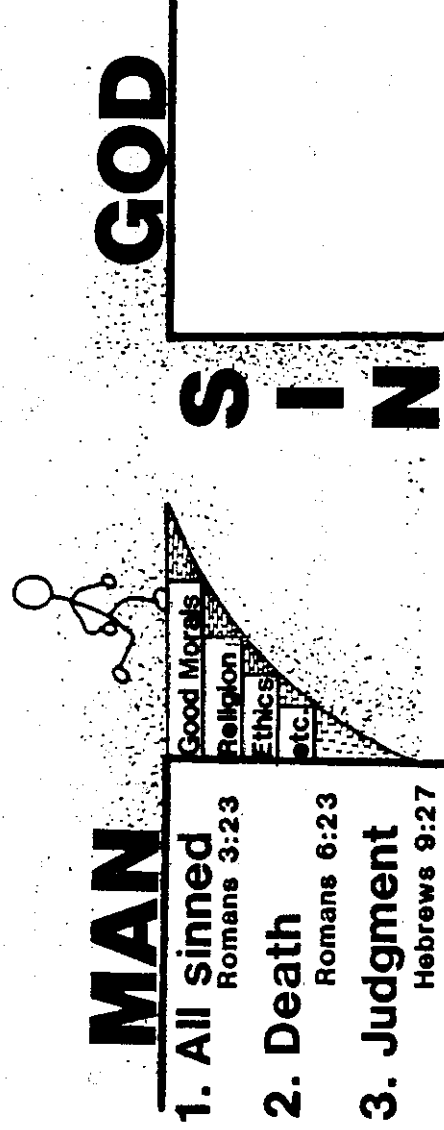
This does not paint a very bright picture, does it?

No, it certainly does not.

DOWN THROUGH THE AGES, MAN HAS BASICALLY UNDERSTOOD THIS AND HAS TRIED TO MAKE HIS WAY BACK TO GOD.

What are some ways men try to make their way back to God?

By living a good life? Being religious? Helping his fellow man?



YOU ARE RIGHT -- AND THIS IS BASICALLY HOW MEN TRY TO MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO GOD. BUT THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THIS FALLS SHORT OF WHAT GOD REQUIRES, AND THE BIBLE EXPLAINS WHAT GOD REQUIRES IN JOHN 5:24.

I wonder if you would read this verse to me?

"Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that heareth my word and believeth in Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life."

Who's speaking?

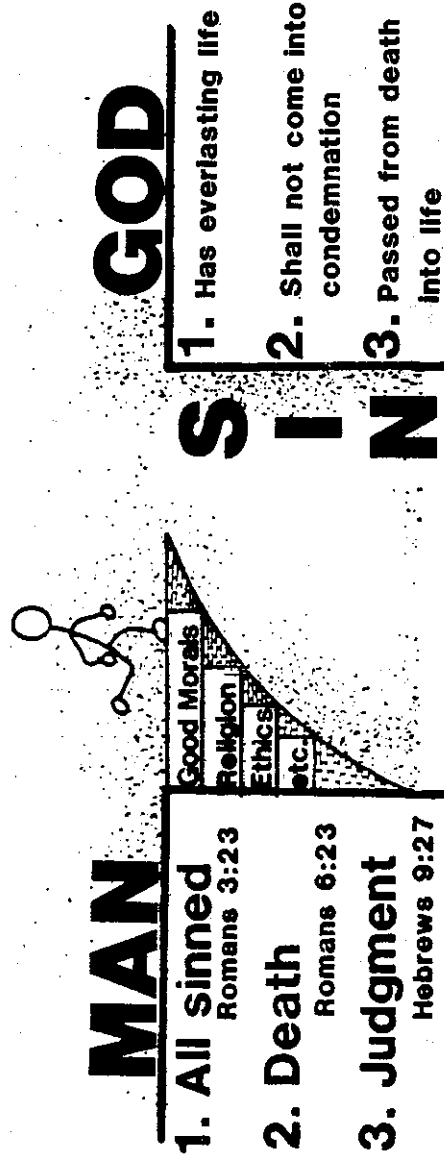
I guess it's Jesus.

THAT'S RIGHT -- He says that if you will hear him and believe in God who sent him, three things will happen.

What are they?

1. Has everlasting life.
2. Shall not come into condemnation.
3. Passed from death to life.

SO LET'S WRITE THOSE DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RAVINE.



Notice the tenses of the verbs in each of the above phrases.

In what tense is "has", past, present, or future?

Present tense.

What does the present tense in this statement mean?

It means that right now, in the present, I can have eternal life.

That's right. Now in what tense is "shall not"?

In the future tense.

So what does this phrase mean?

I will not be condemned at some future date.

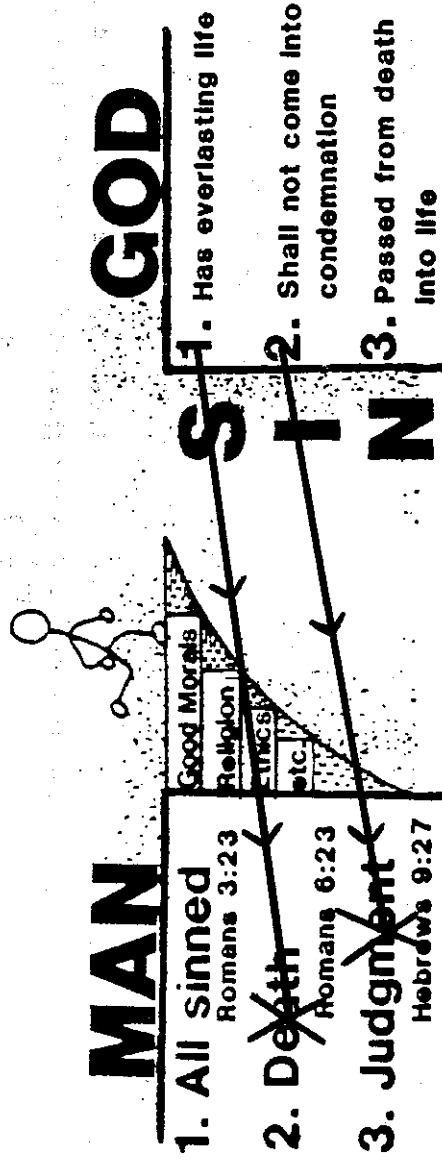
That's right. Now in what tense is "passed from"?

In the past tense.

And what does this phrase mean?

That I have already passed from death into life.

THAT'S RIGHT, AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THIS BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE LIFE NOW, IT CROSSES OUT DEATH AND IF YOU SHALL NOT BE CONDEMNED, IT CROSSES OUT JUDGMENT.



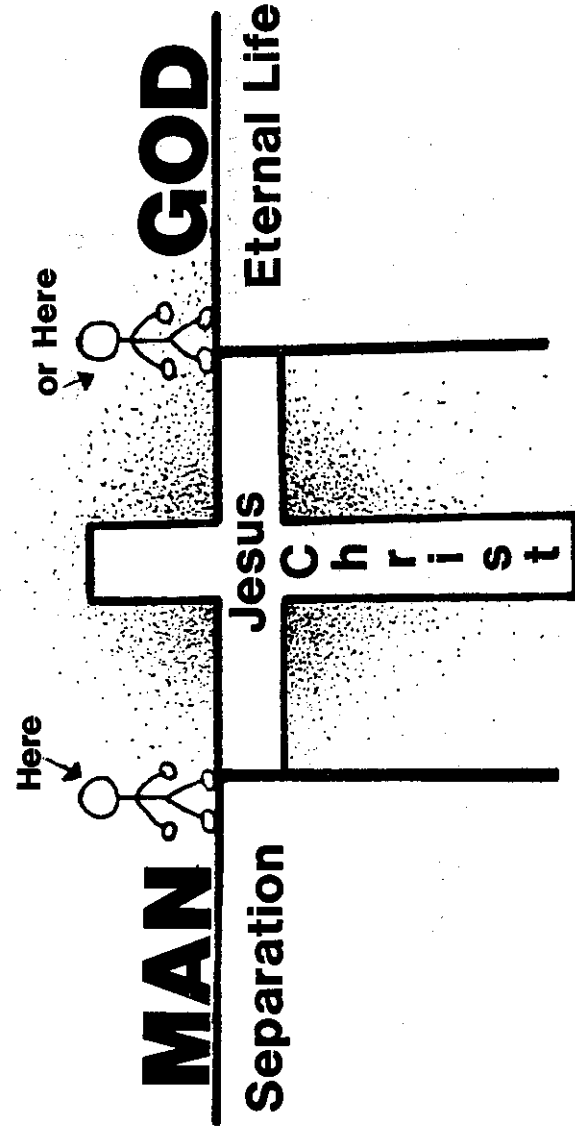
The reason for this is that Christ has come into the world and paid the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross as a substitute so that you and I might be restored to fellowship with God.

God is on one side and all the people on the other; Jesus, Himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.

I Timothy 2:5 (LB)

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

I Corinthians 15:3-4



If you were to place yourself into this illustration, where would you draw yourself?

I would place myself on MAN'S side.

Is that where you want to be?

No.

Where do you want to be?

Over on God's side.

Do you know how to get there?

I'm not sure.

Let's look at this verse. Read it aloud.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on His name."

John 1:12

What must a man do to become a son of God?

He must receive "Him."

Must receive whom?

Jesus Christ.

Do you know how to receive Him?

I'm not sure.

Let's look at another verse. Will you read this, please?

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hears my voice and will open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with me."

Revelation 3:20

Who is speaking?

Jesus.

What is He doing?

He is knocking at the door.

What door?

The door to man's heart and life.

Why is He knocking?

Because he wants to come in.

THE WAY TO RECEIVE CHRIST IS TO OPEN THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART AND LIFE AND LET HIM IN.

Are you willing to do this?

Yes, I would like to receive him.

Then you need to pray three things:

1. Forgive my sins.
2. Come into my life.
3. Give me the gift of eternal life.

I AM GOING TO ASK YOU TO PRAY THESE THREE THINGS LOUD
ENOUGH SO THAT WHEN YOU FINISH, I CAN PRAY WITH YOU.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Begin memorizing 1 John 1:9

Meditation on 1 John 1:9

What does God want to do about your sins? _____

What does it mean to confess? _____

In His act of forgiving us, how is God described? _____

What else does God do when you confess your sins? _____

"If we confess our sins..."

1. What should you recognize about yourself? 1 John 1:8,10 _____

2. What should be your attitude toward sin? _____

Psalms 139:23,24

Psalms 38:18

3. What should accompany your confession of sin? Proverbs 28:13 _____

"He is faithful and just to forgive...and to cleanse..."

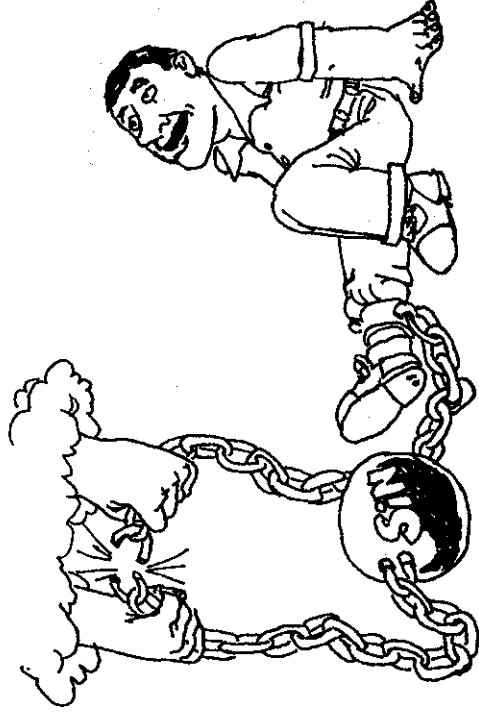
4. How is God described in Psalm 86:5? _____

5. On what basis are you forgiven? Ephesians 1:7 _____

6. What does Hebrews 10:12 say about Christ's sacrifice? _____

7. Why is it foolish for you to continue to feel guilty about confessed sin? Hebrews 10:17 _____

8. Since you have experienced God's forgiveness, what should be your attitude toward others? Ephesians 4:32 _____



Write out I John 1:9 from memory

Application of I John 1:9

Can you think of any sin you have committed for which you have not asked forgiveness?

If so, confess it to God and thank Him for His forgiveness. Has God forgiven you and forgotten about your sin?

ETS 1/8

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____ Topic Evangelism

Lesson Opening And Controlling A Conversation Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "Opening And Controlling A Conversation"		
Bible Study		
Do "Assurance of Guidance"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 2 people to win to Christ.		
Pray for 1 person to disciple.		
Memorize second half of Bridge Presentation.		
Scripture Memory		
II Timothy 1:7		
Proverbs 3:5-6		



OPENING AND CONTROLLING A CONVERSATION

Introduction

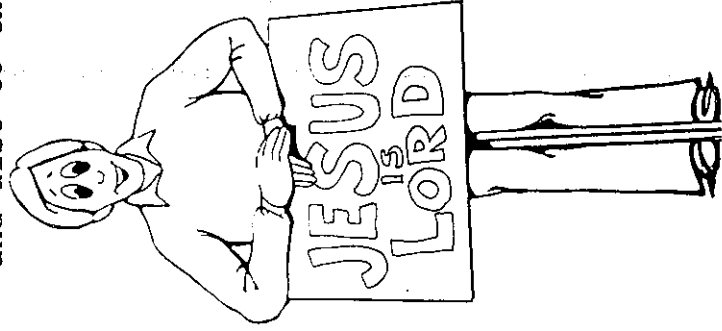
If Jesus Christ is first and pre-eminent in my life, it will be hard for me to tell you anything about myself without telling you about the ONE who is the center of my life.

A girl who is in love cannot talk at any length about herself without telling you about that special man who possesses her heart. How can we not share with others about Him who is the Lover of our souls?

Paul had this type of unembarrassed freedom when he told others about Christ:

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16



"...according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:20-21

This kind of freedom in proclaiming Christ is

NOTES

TRUE BOLDNESS!!

If there is a natural fear of talking to people about Jesus Christ, we need to remember that fear doesn't come from God. We are told:

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind.

I Timothy 1:7

So, if there is a fear rather than boldness, we need to understand where the fear comes from and deal with it. We learn from Acts 1:8 that God is empowering us to be witnesses, and part of the power is expressed in a boldness to be identified with Jesus and to share Him with others. It is wise to remember that we fear anything we don't know how to do. When we have learned how to do something, fear is often replaced by confidence and the joy which comes from obedience.

Guiding a Conversation to Spiritual Things

Oftentimes we meet people and want to talk to them about Christ, but we just can't seem to turn the conversation to spiritual things. We end up talking about the weather, sports, current events, or gossip, but in actual fact, would like to be talking about Christ. How, then, can we turn a conversation to things of God?

Ask lots of questions

When people get tired of answering questions, they will begin to ask you some.

Also, asking questions to draw a person out indicates that you are interested in him as an individual.

Volunteer information

When you are asked a question, give more of an answer than you are expected to give. In this

way, you can turn the conversation to spiritual things.

NOTES

Example

Often when I travel and am meeting new people, I am asked what I do. I can answer by saying that I work for the Navigators which is a Christian training organization. This meets the requirement of an answer for the question. However, I could go on to say that my job is involved with training laymen in churches to share their faith in Jesus Christ. With this information it is easy for me to turn the conversation by saying, "Are you interested in spiritual things?"

If my work was with a secular company I could say, "By day I am a salesman (teacher, mechanic, housewife, secretary, or whatever), but in my spare time I am an ordained layman who works at building the Kingdom of God. By the way, are you interested in spiritual things?"

Remember that Jesus said:

Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you.

John 15:16

If you were an official of some secular group, you would have no problem or fear of sharing that with other people. We are ordained lay church workers, and should have no trouble sharing that either.

Invite People to Spiritual Activities

Every time there is a spiritual activity going on in the community, you have an opportunity to invite someone to attend. This automatically turns any conversation to spiritual things and gives you an opportunity to identify with Christ and try to share your faith. Even if the person you have invited can't attend the function you can still ask, "Are you interested in spiritual things?"

Tell People about Past Events

Every time you walk away from a spiritual experience, you take with you an opportunity to share your faith. When you meet a friend on Monday you can always say, "You know, we heard the best message yesterday in church." Then you can share briefly what impressed you about the message. At the end of your sharing you have an opportunity to say, "By the way, are you interested in spiritual things?"

Usually when one of your friends attends any activity, you are almost forced to listen to a blow by blow account of what happened. So, all we need to do is to exercise a little tact and wisdom and begin sharing ourselves.

Relate Testimony to People's Problems

So often when we interact with people, they begin to share their problems. We can relate to about 80% of those problems through our own human experiences. We have faced similar events in our lives and can say to people, "You know, I faced a similar sort of thing in my life not so long ago, and God really helped me with that."

Then we can share with them how God can help a person with anything in life if we will just turn to Him. At the end you can naturally ask, "Are you interested in spiritual things?"

Relate Current Events back to Scripture

When we discuss world events with our Christian friends, we relate these events to what the Bible says. However with non-Christians we say nothing. We need to capitalize on these opportunities so we can ask people, "Are you interested in spiritual things?"

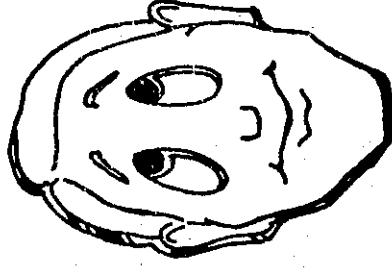
Develop an Approachable Attitude

Be a good listener.

Show interest in other people's activities, occupation, hobbies, problems, etc. Ask a thousand questions. You will be surprised at how much you can learn.

Be careful about body language and facial expressions when listening to people so that you express NO CONDEMNATION.

NOTES



Don't place yourself on a pedestal where you always come out on top. Be as quick to share your failures as you are to share your successes.

Questions to Ask to Take You to the Heart of the Gospel

All through this lesson I have worked towards asking people the question, "Are you interested in spiritual things?" This is not without design. Many years ago I learned several questions which help me turn a conversation to spiritual things and to take me to the heart of the Gospel in about 30 to 60 seconds. The questions are low-key and not offensive if asked in an appropriate setting. The questions take the sting out of sharing your faith with other people.

These questions narrow the scope of the conversation to how a person becomes a Christian. In discussing Christianity with people we can talk from A to Z. However, we really only want to discuss one subject until we know if a person is a Christian or not. These questions eliminate all the other topics.

Set I

- Are you interested in spiritual things?
- Have you ever considered becoming a "real" Christian?

NOTES

- If someone were to ask you, "How does a person become a 'real' Christian," what would you tell him?

(Make sure this question is indirect--i.e. in the third person.)

Most of the time people will answer this third question by describing what a Christian does--i.e. "He goes to church." The question, however, is designed to discover how a person becomes a Christian. Therefore, agree with the answer given, but then say, "You are telling me what a Christian does, but the intent of my question is how does a man become a Christian?"

If they come back and say, "By believing in God," you can answer again, "Yes, Christians believe in God, but again you are telling me what a Christian does. I am asking you how does one become a Christian."

When they have told you everything they know and you have agreed, "Yes, that is what a Christian does, but I want to know how does he become a Christian." They may say, "How does a man become a Christian?" Your reply should be, "With your permission I would like to show you three things the Bible says a person must understand to become a Christian." Then you start with the Bridge.

Set II

This set is a good one but not as easy to use as Set I. If a person doesn't believe in a Supreme Being you will never get to the second question. I don't use this set if I think the person doesn't recognize a Higher Power. However, this can be a good set if used in the right context.

- Do you believe there is a God or a Supreme Being?
- Do you believe that one day man will have to give account for his actions?
- If today were that day, would you be ready to give account for yourself?
- Do you know what the Bible says a man must do to be ready for that day?

Set III

NOTES

- If you were to arrive at Heaven's gate and God were to ask you, "Why should I let you enter my Heaven?"--how would you answer Him?
- Do you know what the Bible says a man must do to gain entrance to Heaven?

Note:

These simple sets of questions are designed to lead you from the general topic of spiritual things or "God" in general to the specific issue of the Gospel and how the individual can come to know Christ.

The questions help to draw out the person so that he will tell you everything he knows about your subject of man's salvation.

It makes no difference if the person answers the questions negatively or positively--you can proceed to the next question anyway.

If the person cannot answer one of your questions correctly, he may ask you for your opinion on the matter. At that point you can answer, "With your permission I'd like to show you three things the Bible says a man must do to become a child of God."

You may later develop other sets of questions or you may combine questions from several sets, but you must always move from the general to the specific.

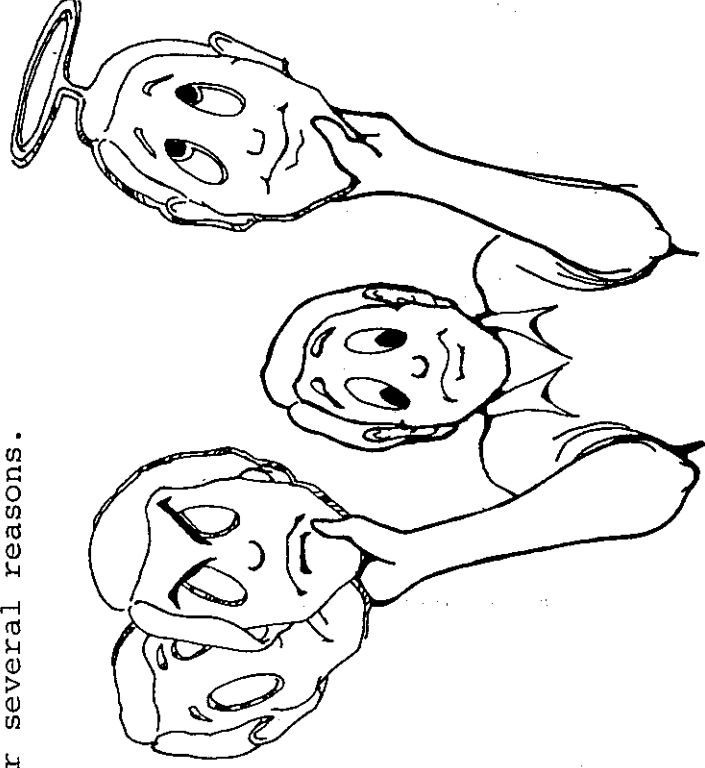
Relationships with Non-Christians

Most people live behind a series of masks. Whatever the occasion or the company they are in, they put on an appropriate mask so they will be accepted in that situation. For example, a man in the military may put on his "military" mask when he is in camp, use coarse language, and act tough so as to be accepted among his peers.

However, if the same man is in the company of the pastor or some religious people, he will guard his language and try to act in an acceptable way for that occasion. In other words, he puts on a religious mask.

If we as Christians can leave some word of witness with people we meet, they will soon learn that we are Christians and will probably put on a more "religious" mask when we are around. This is helpful for several reasons.

NOTES



- It is easier to penetrate a religious mask because he at least is identifying with you in some areas.
- If the person knows you are a Christian, he will not embarrass himself by doing or saying something crude that he would never have done if he had known you were a Christian.
- When you take a stand for Christ, people will either seek you or decide to stay out of your way. The ones who do seek after you are probably the ones being prepared by the Holy Spirit--and these are the ones we want to be available to help.

If your life is a constant witness for Jesus Christ, you will not so likely be enticed into adopting the non-Christian lifestyle as you would be if no one knew you were a Christian.

Conclusion

If Jesus is Lord of all, we must be identified with Him twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Assurance of Guidance

Begin memorizing Proverbs 3:5-6

Meditation on Proverbs 3:5-6

What three things are you told to do?

When these conditions are met, what are you promised?

"Trust in the Lord..."

1. What can you trust God to do for you? Psalm 32:8

2. Read Romans 12:1,2. What steps should be taken in order to experience God's will?

How is God's will described?

3. To whom does God promise special blessing? Jeremiah 17:7

"...lean not unto thine own understanding..."

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

5. Why shouldn't you limit yourself to human understanding?

Isaiah 55:8,9

6. What principle did Jesus follow in making decisions? John 6:38

"...He shall direct thy paths."

7. What means has God provided for determining His will?

Psalms 119:105

I Corinthians 2:12

8. What should you do about situations you don't understand? James 1:5

9. What precedes the fulfillment of God's promises? Hebrews 10:36

Write out Proverbs 3:5,6 from memory.

Application of Proverbs 3:5,6:

Describe a situation in your life in which you are seeking God's guidance.

What are you doing as you trust God in this situation?

ETS 1/9

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____ Topic Basic Christian Living

Lesson Assurance Of Salvation Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "Assurance Of Salvation"		
Bible Study		
Do "Living in Christ"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Read "Going on with Christ"		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 2 people to win to Christ.		
Pray for 1 person to disciple.		
Memorize and review complete Bridge Presentation.		
Scripture Memory		
I John 5:13		
John 15:5		



ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Introduction

When a person becomes a child of God, there are certain truths that God wants him to know. One of the most important of these truths for a new babe in Christ has to do with assurance of salvation.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that you have eternal life and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

I John 5:13

In the Greek, there are two words for know:

- **Ginosko**--to come to know (progressive knowledge which enlarges and grows as time passes).
- **Eido** --full knowledge (complete and cannot be improved upon; perfect or fullness of knowledge).

Eido is the Greek word used in I John 5:13. It means that we have the full knowledge and the full assurance that we have eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Definition of Assurance

Assurance is the believer's complete conviction or guarantee that through the finished work of Christ upon the cross which he has received by faith, he now has eternal life and will be eternally kept by God.

Facts concerning Assurance

NOTES

- God wants us to know that we have eternal life--
I John 5:13.

- It is available to every believer.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 5:24

- It requires belief in Jesus Christ.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

I John 5:11-12

- We have eternal life and shall never perish.

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 10:28

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:1

- No one can take us from God's hand.

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

John 10:29

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

- Inheritance is incorruptible and undefiled, reserved in heaven for us.

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

I Peter 1:2-5

- We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit until our redemption.

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ, in whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:11-14

- The indwelling Holy Spirit witnesses with our own spirit that we are children of God and joint heirs with Christ.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:16-17

- Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life--those who believe in Him will never die.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were

dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die. Believeest thou this?

John 11:25-26

Basis of Assurance

Unchangeable Truths

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 6:17-20

Unconditional Promises

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

Completeness of Atonement

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:12-14

Righteousness of Christ

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

I Corinthians 1:30

Inner Witness of the Spirit

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:16-17

Life and Sonship

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

I John 5:11-12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

John 1:12

Doesn't assurance of salvation encourage a person to sin? No!

- Love of God is the highest form of motivation.
- God still disciplines wayward Christians--sometimes severely.

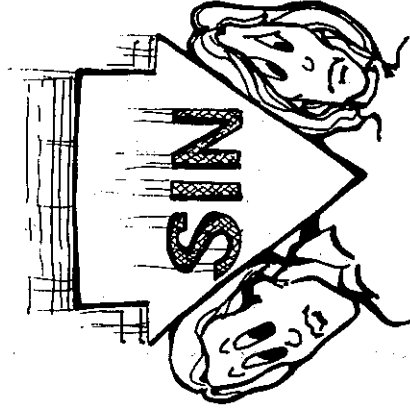
And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, my son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Hebrews 12:5-8

- Obedience motivated by fear will eventually destroy itself.
 - Sin prevents a Christian from discovering God's best for his life. Therefore most Christians who seek God's will resist sin.
 - A man's accountability at the Judgment Seat of Christ and loss of rewards are deterrents to sin.
- For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:10

What happens when a person sins



- Fellowship with God and man is broken until it is confessed and forgiven--his salvation is not lost.
- David lost the joy of salvation after his sin against God--but not his salvation.
- Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.
- Psalms 51:12
- Saul remained God's anointed one despite all his failure.
- And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?

II Samuel 1:14

- John teaches that there is a broken fellowship--not relationship.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

I John 1:7

- The rewards which a man wins for faithful service are endangered. A man's salvation is not his reward since the Bible teaches that it is a gift of God.

God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

- If a person's works do not stand the test of fire, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved.

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

I Corinthians 3:13-15

- Salvation is a gift of God--not of works.

For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Importance of Teaching

- It gives the young Christian a better grasp of:

The LOVE of God

The GRACE of God

The MERCY of God

NOTES

The FORGIVENESS of God

- Unless a person has proper understanding of this doctrine, it is very difficult for him to grow to maturity in Christ since he is constantly going back to re-establish the foundation of his faith.

Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to open shame.

Hebrews 5:11-6:6

GOING ON WITH CHRIST

Used by permission
of The Navigators

Going On With Christ

Without a doubt you have experienced some of the temptations that confront new Christians, and hopefully you have met them through God's appointed means. His Word. I Peter 5:8 describes Satan as a "roaring lion" and cautions Christians to be alert to his subtle attacks. God's Word has the power to alert you to his attacks and to enable you to resist temptation. The psalmist prayed, "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

The Word also has power to guide you in making decisions. God has given His Word to lead you into a daily experience of His will. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

The Word has power to bring joy into your life, too. Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you...that your joy may be full." As you begin to look at life in the light of who God is and what He has said, the tensions and perplexities of life will start to fade. Although circumstances may remain the same, you can understand what God's purposes are and experience real inner peace and joy. "Thy words were found and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart..." (Jeremiah 15:16).

The importance of God's Word and the power it imparts to each obedient Christian cannot be over emphasized.

Living in Christ -- John 15:5

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."

Sturdy, sprawling grapevines with lush green branches and clusters of fruit were a common sight in Palestine. Jesus used this picture to portray the abiding relationship of the believer with Himself. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit if it has been cut off from the vine, so your potential to live a fruitful, godly life is a direct result of living in close union with Him.

It is vitally important to put Christ first in your thoughts, desires, relationships and activities. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

But how can you abide in Christ? I John 2:6 says, "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked." That means daily obedience to the will of God as He reveals it in

His Word. It means responding to God just as Christ did. "...for I do always those things that please Him" (John 8:29).

As you memorize John 15:5, meditate on Christ's sufficiency for growth and fulfillment to the person who fully surrenders to His will.

Living by the Word of God -- Acts 20:32

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

As the Apostle Paul said farewell to believers from Ephesus, he committed them to the care of God and His Word, reminding them of the Scriptures' ability to nurture them toward spiritual maturity and prepare them for an eternal inheritance with God. Just as you need food for physical growth, so the Word of God nourishes you in your spiritual development. "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

It has become common practice to plan a day's activities around three meals. Should any less attention be given to a regular intake of God's Word? Peter says Christians should "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of (God's) Word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:2).

As you memorize Acts 20:32, meditate on the ways God's Word can build you up and look for evidence in your own life of God at work building you up through His Word.

Living by the Spirit of God -- Rom. 8:14

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

When you became a Christian, your heart became the home of the Holy Spirit. You can be sure of this. Paul exclaimed, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (I Corinthians 6:19) Not only does the Holy Spirit live in Christians, He also desires to live through them, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25).

If you want to experience the Holy Spirit more fully, yield to His will, confessing and forsaking the sin that He brings to your attention. As you follow Him, He will change you into a Christ-like person and you will learn what it is to be led by the Spirit of God.

As you meditate on this verse, thank God for all that He is able to do for you through the Holy Spirit.

Living by Faith -- II Cor. 5:7

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Faith is believing God and trusting His Word. Paul pointed out the relationship between faith and the Word of God, "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

At one time or another every Christian experiences doubt regarding some of God's promises. Perhaps this has already happened to you. You may have doubted that you will ever get victory over sin; you may have doubted that God really loves you or that your salvation is an accomplished fact. Since faith comes from the Word, hiding God's Word in your heart is one of the best things you can do to deal with doubt.

The Bible explains God's purposes and will reassure you of His power as you spend time in it. As you store it up in your heart, your faith will grow. God's Word gives you spiritual insight--the ability to view life from His perspective. Abraham experienced this when "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief: but was strong in the faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform" (Romans 4:20,21).

As you memorize II Corinthians 5:7, resolve to obey God by keeping His Word at any cost.

Living a Life of Love -- I John 4:11

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

The ability to love others grows as you experience God's love for you. I John 4:10 says "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

God is the source of love. "He also is the perfect example of what love is. His love is sacrificial. He has already demonstrated that at the cost of His own Son. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16). Christ's death stands as an eternal reminder of God's sacrificial love.

God's love is also unconditional so you never have to worry about God's love diminishing. His love is not dependent upon the worthiness or unworthiness of the one loved. No one can earn or deserve God's love--yet He loves everyone. What a joy to be the recipients of this kind of love!

Jesus urges Christians to give the same enduring, sacrificial, unconditional love to each other that He gives, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you; that ye also love one another" (John 13:34).

As you memorize I John 4:11, meditate on some ways you can demonstrate God's love toward others.

Living in Christian Fellowship -- I John 1:7

"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

When you trusted Christ you entered into a special fellowship as a member of God's family. The harmony of this family is the responsibility of every member. John says the secret is to "walk in the light."

But what is walking in the light? Jesus said, "...I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). To walk in the light means to walk in constant communion with Christ. Thus, your fellowship with Christ is the key to your fellowship with other Christians.

John goes on to say that "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8,9).

How then do you live in fellowship with other believers? By confessing and forsaking sin. Don't carry anger and resentment toward others around. Confess it and forsake it. God is eager to cleanse and forgive. As you learn I John 1:7, search your heart for any matters that need to be confessed. Ask God to forgive you and lead you into His way.

Living as a Witness -- I Peter 3:15

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

What would you tell someone who inquired about your faith in Christ? Would you be ready with an answer? Peter says that the first step is to "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts." To sanctify means to "set apart or consecrate." You sanctify God in your heart by honoring Him and consciously acknowledging His Lordship. The more you love and worship Him, the more eager you will be to tell others about Him.

The imprint of fellowship with Christ will not go unnoticed by people around you, so be ready with an answer. When Peter and John were questioned they said, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). You too have seen Christ bring peace and joy to your life. You have heard His words of love and forgiveness in the Scripture.

Let your answer be those things you have seen and heard. As you memorize I Peter 3:15 pause and take a fresh look at your Saviour, then be ready to share with others what you have seen.

Living a Life of Generosity -- II Cor. 9:7

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

God's inexhaustible riches are available to you. As His child you are an heir to all that He possesses, both spiritually and materially. Romans 8:17 says "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..." It was for this purpose that Christ left His glory in heaven and came to earth, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich" (II Corinthians 8:9).

You can show your gratitude by generously giving your possessions to those who have needs. "Freely ye have received, freely give" is the Lord's admonition. A wonderful blessing is in store for those who make a practice of giving to others while those who hang on selfishly to their possessions seem only to have less. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

As you memorize II Corinthians 9:7 think prayerfully about giving to another what God has freely given to you.

After you have memorized these verses and learned to apply them, you will be aware of the strength and blessing that come from hiding God's Word in your heart.

Living in Christ

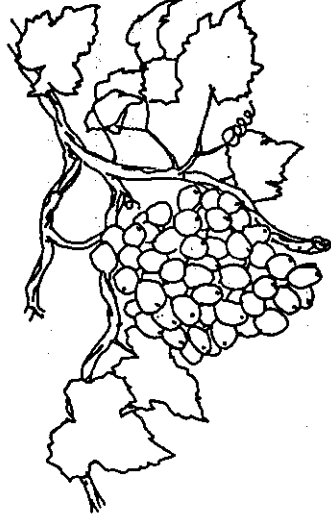
Begin memorizing John 15:5

Meditation on John 15:5

Who is the vine? Who are the branches? _____

What relationship do you see between a branch and a vine? _____

How is the relationship between a branch and vine similar to the Christian and Christ? _____



"...abideth in Me, and I in him..."

1. What should be the primary objective of every believer?
Matthew 6:33 _____
2. What will be true of your life if you are abiding in Christ?
I John 2:6 _____
3. What must you do in order to abide or dwell in Christ?
I John 3:24 _____
4. How does Paul describe his relationship to Christ?
Galatians 2:20 _____

"...bringeth forth much fruit..."

5. What are the results of being fruitful?
John 15:8 _____

6. What fruit does the Spirit produce in the life of the believer?
Galatians 5:22,23

7. What should you do to continue being fruitful?

II Peter 1:5-8

8. What else does Jesus promise those who follow Him?
Matthew 4:19

"...without Me ye can do nothing."

9. Rewrite II Corinthians 3:5 in your own words.

10. If Christians can do nothing apart from Christ, what can they
do with Him?

Philippians 4:13

11. How did God's grace affect Paul?

I Corinthians 15:10

Write out John 15:5.

Application of John 15:5:

Is there anything that hinders you from abiding in Christ? What is it?

What are you going to do about it?

In prayer commit this area to Christ.

Review John 15:5 daily along with your other Scripture memory verses.

BASIC CHRISTIAN LIVING

- Assurance of Salvation
- Quiet Time
- The Word of God
- Prayer
- The Victorious Life
- The Obedient Life
- The Lordship of Christ



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
54 EAST LAKE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607
TEL: 773-707-5000
FAX: 773-707-5001
WWW.CHICAGO.PRESS.EDU

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
54 EAST LAKE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607
TEL: 773-707-5000
FAX: 773-707-5001
WWW.CHICAGO.PRESS.EDU

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
54 EAST LAKE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607
TEL: 773-707-5000
FAX: 773-707-5001
WWW.CHICAGO.PRESS.EDU

LESSONS ON CHRISTIAN LIVING

Used by permission
of The Navigators



ETS 1/10

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____

Topic Basic Christian Living

Lesson The Quiet Time

Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "The Quiet Time"		
Bible Study		
Do "Living By The Word"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Do 6 AWG		
Reading		
Read "Appointment with God"		
Read "Planned Appointments with God"		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 2 people to win to Christ.		
Pray for 1 person to disciple.		
Share "Bridge" with a friend.		
Scripture Memory		
Mark 1:35		
Acts 20:32		

THE QUIET TIME

Introduction

Every Christian--young or old in the Lord--needs to know God in a personal way. The only way we can get to know God is by spending personal time with Him. As we do this on a regular basis, we establish a growing relationship with Him. This pleases the heart of God since He loves us and wants to spend time with us. We often call this time with God a quiet time or a daily devotional time.

The Purpose

Developing a personal relationship with God is the major purpose of the quiet time. In John we are told:

But to as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

John 1:12

When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, God makes us His sons and daughters. Then, just like a parent who loves to have his children in his presence, God desires us to spend daily time with Him. God's purpose in this is to help us grow to maturity. In II Corinthians we are reminded:

But we all with open face beholding as in a glass (or mirror) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

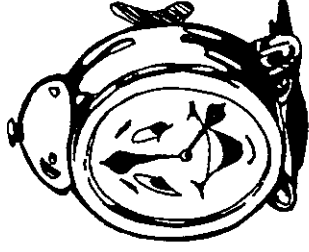
II Corinthians 3:18

As we spend time beholding Him through the Word of God, we are being changed. We mature from children in Christ to adults who have the likeness of the Son of God.

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.

I Peter 2:2

Basic Elements for Developing a Relationship



Time

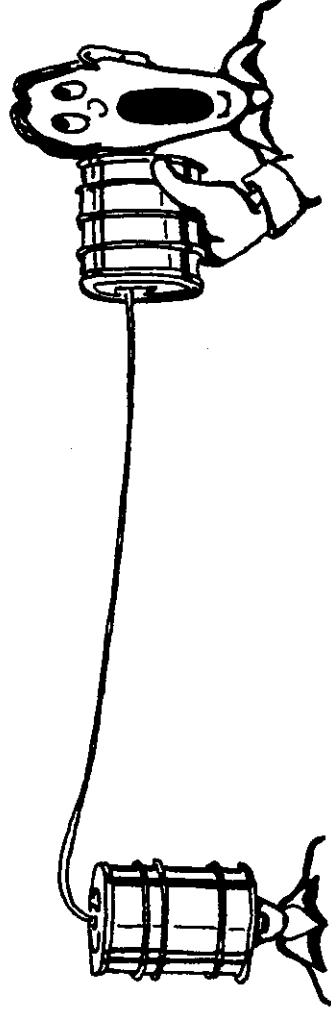
Any type of growth requires time. If you want to get to know someone you must spend time together in developing the relationship. Time spent alone with God will water our roots, strengthen our stem and nurture our leaves.

Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:7

Communication

The key to a developed relationship is the presence of clear lines of communication. We cannot understand one another unless we talk to one another. True communication involves not only facts and ideas but also feelings and attitudes. We must know what is on God's heart and then we can share our hearts with Him. God communicates with us through His Word, and we communicate back to Him through our prayers.



Circumstances

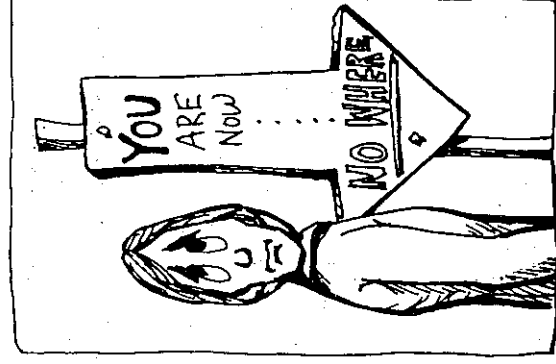
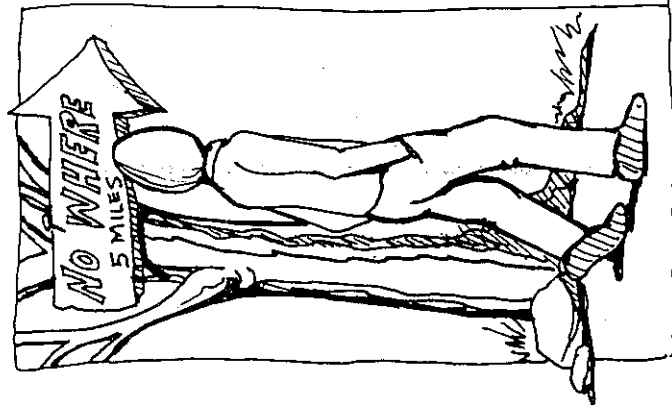
Understanding one another comes from observing one another in different circumstances. Through the circumstances of life God will mold us. The Quiet Time helps us see God in our daily lives, how He is at work, how He is in control, how He is responding to us and how we are responding to Him.

Attitudes

Our attitudes toward a relationship will determine the priority of developing that relationship. If I am not interested or think it is not worthwhile, then I am not prepared to spend time and effort in cultivating that relationship. A positive mental attitude will invariably determine the success of the development of the relationship. We must have the correct attitude in our Quiet Time. We must be willing to be both hearers and doers of God's Word as well as His will.

Objectives

Going nowhere will get you nowhere. Without objectives, relationships will remain stagnant or will flounder when difficulties or conflicts come. Clearly defined objectives help us get where we are going.



Convictions from Scripture

The need for a Quite Time

● Jesus' Example

Mark tells us that Jesus started His days in a quiet place with God.

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Mark 1:35

● God's Command to Joshua

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8

This was not Moses' command to Joshua; this was God Himself commanding Joshua to be daily in the Word of God. If Joshua was to be God's man, there was only one way to do it--to meditate on and obey God's Word daily.

● David's Example

Cause me to hear thy loving kindness early in the morning: for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk: for I lift up my soul unto thee.

Psalms 143:8

David (like Jesus) found it necessary to come to God in the morning before the day's activities began. If we are to know, "the way wherein I should walk," during the day, we must approach God in the morning.

● Jesus' Instruction

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5

NOTES

Whatever else one does in a day's time, it is considered nothing from Christ's viewpoint if it does not include Him.

NOTES

Worship and Prayer

Prayer is the way we communicate to God. Part of this communication should include worship. Revelation 4:11 tells us that Christ is worthy to receive our praise, and it is important that we do not neglect to offer our personal adoration to Him. During our prayer time we should also review our own lives before God to see if there is any blockage of sin between ourselves and the Father. If some sin comes to mind, we need to confess and ask forgiveness for that sin and purpose to make right any wrong which we have done to another. Prayer also should include thanks for both the blessings and the testings of our lives, for the Bible commands:

In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

I Thessalonians 5:18

Finally, we should share our own personal needs with God in supplication.

These four parts of prayer can be summed up by a simple acrostic--A.C.T.S.:

Adoration

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

I Chronicles 29:11

Confession

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:9

Thanksgiving

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Supplication

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

John 16:24

Reading God's Word

The Word of God is God's way of communicating with us. As we read, we should expect God to speak to us personally. When a verse of Scripture especially impresses you, you should mark it in your Bible or jot it down in a notebook with a note about how it speaks to you.

God's Word does many things for the growing Christian.

II Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that the Word is profitable for the following:

- Doctrine --tells us what to believe
- Reproof --shows where we are wrong
- Correction --helps us get back on track
- Instruction in righteousness --guidance and direction for our lives so that we do not stumble.

DOCTRINE

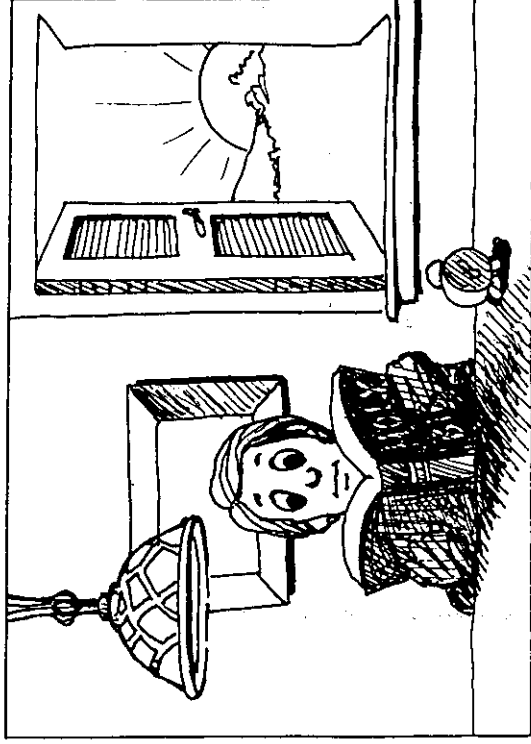
INSTRUCTION



REPROOF

CORRECTION

NOTES



- Peter says that the Word of God is spiritual food to help us grow in Christ.

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby.

I Peter 2:2

- Daily time in the Word of God is essential if we hope to be equipped to witness the truth to others.

Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge. For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

Proverbs 22:17-18

The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

Isaiah 50:4

Application

NOTES

Where are you concerning your Quiet Time? If you are not doing it already, the thing to do is start now!

- Read Appointment with God.
- Schedule a time every morning.
- Set yourself a minimal standard.

If you are having difficulty maintaining a regular and fruitful Quiet Time, try these suggestions.

- Begin by reviewing your own convictions about your need for regularity.
- Start immediately to set a time tomorrow morning.

Time _____

Place _____

- Set a standard for yourself.

Helpful Hints

- Go to bed on time in order to be awake and alert for your appointment with God.
- Choose a quiet place.
- Don't rush through God's Word.
- Continue to experience the presence of God for the rest of the day.
- Define some objectives concerning your program for reading.
- Aim at not missing any appointment.
- Correct attitudes will bring about correct actions.
- It is rude to be late for an appointment or to miss one.
- Make it the top priority of every day.
- Every 3-4 weeks evaluate how you are doing in terms of the basic elements in developing a relationship with God.

Conclusion

NOTES

Jesus said:

It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

Before a person receives Christ into his life, he is spiritually dead. When Christ enters his life at conversion he becomes spiritually alive. The Holy Spirit comes to take up residence in the new believer at conversion. Now a person has a new spiritual nature and must take care of it like he does his physical nature in order for it to remain strong.

The Bible is the food which we must feed our spiritual nature. Daily we must nurture it if we are to grow to maturity. It is a shame that so many Christians try to live spiritually by one or perhaps two spiritual meals per week. It is no wonder so many of God's children never grow up.

If you study the lives of the great men of the Bible, you soon realize that their secret of success was feeding daily from God's Word.

Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Job 23:12

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Ezra 7:10

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:2

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:16

NOTES

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:16

The men who have most fully illustrated Christ in their character and have most powerfully affected the world for Him have been men who spend much time with God as to make it a notable feature in their lives...to be little with God is to be little for God.

E. M. Bounds

APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

Used by permission
of The Navigators

Preface

The most exciting and dynamic relationship you will ever experience is available to you as you get to know Jesus Christ. This relationship, however, will not mature naturally. It requires careful attention and energy and cannot be accomplished without a plan.

The men who have most fully illustrated Christ in their character, and have most powerfully affected the world for Him have been men who spend so much time with God as to make it a notable feature in their lives...to be little with God is to be little for God.

E. M. Bounds

Regardless of the name you prefer--daily devotions, morning watch, quiet time, daily appointment with God, or any other--this time serves as a method in building a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.

A person's relationship with God is established when he accepts Jesus Christ as his Saviour and becomes a child of God. Then it becomes the responsibility of each individual Christian to actively cultivate a growing relationship with God. "Appointment with God" explains this relationship, provides you with the tools necessary to develop your own plan for a maturing relationship with Jesus Christ, and helps you put this plan into action.

Note: All verses in "Appointment with God" are from Revised Standard Version unless otherwise indicated. This book is used by permission of the Navigators.

God the Initiator

In keeping with His character as Creator of the universe, God throughout history has been the One to initiate the relationship between man and Himself.

God created man in His own image so that they might fellowship together. Man was made for God and His glory. More specifically, every man is designed to have both the potential and the need for a personal relationship with God. Sin is man's declaration of independence from God and, thus, man needs to have his relationship restored.

And again, it was God who initiated the plan to bring man into an eternal relationship with Him in the Person of Jesus Christ. "But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The Cross re-established the potential for this relationship which was once broken by sin.

Just as God sought out Adam after Adam's sin, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9), He is still seeking men today, "Where are you?" What was true then is true today; God, who restored at free cost the potential for being part of His family, loves you and desires a personal relationship with you. This relationship begins when you accept God's solution to your sin problem by inviting Jesus Christ into your life.

God is seeking you. He wants personal fellowship with you rather than a ritual you might perform.

Why you do something is more important to God than what you do. "And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not with a blameless heart" (II Chronicles 25:2). Man is interested in how people appear externally while God is interested in attitudes of the heart. "... man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7).

If a man does the right things for the wrong reasons, he may soon begin to do the wrong thing. The process, as well as the end product, is important to God because it is the process that builds and reveals attitudes. Regardless of how successful a physician may have been in diagnosing illnesses in the past, who would go to him for help if he revealed all his conclusions were based on luck rather than on analysis? The process, therefore, is as important as the product. To begin to develop a relationship with God for any reason other than love and your desire to know Him would be futile. Even love was initiated by God.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the expiation for our sins.

I John 4:10

For no other reason except that He loves men, He has said, "For the Lord's portion is His people..." He wants you!

A Relationship with a Purpose

Every man and woman has a desire to grow into his full potential as a person. Just as Jesus developed in every area, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52), so you should grow and develop mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially. But your growth into spiritual maturity only begins to develop as you establish a close personal relationship with your Lord through God's written word.

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby...

I Peter 2:2 (KJV)

Just as each person has certain apparent aptitudes and abilities, God has provided each individual with a certain set of spiritual gifts. "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another..." (I Peter 4:10). These gifts are developed through a personal relationship with Christ and the outworking of that relationship. God had a purpose in mind when He designed you with your specific set of gifts. When you function in the purpose for which you were designed, you are fulfilled in every way. Freedom and order, not slavery and chaos, are God's eternal purpose.

There are those who neglect their relationship with God. The result is spiritual immaturity. God designed you with strengths in some areas, but He also fashioned you with weaknesses in others. A neglected relationship allows your weaknesses to begin to control you while your strengths dwindle in effectiveness. And yet, God is sufficient in every area of your life in the Person of Jesus Christ.

For in Him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.

Colossians 2:9-10

Unless you develop a close relationship with Him, however, you will never experience His sufficiency.

Sin pollutes your relationship to God just as man pollutes the environment. In man's haste to get what he wants out of nature, he unthinkingly upsets its balance and is now well on the way to destroying it completely. Once he realizes his error, however, it is not possible to immediately restore its delicate balance. In the same way, once you realize that you have neglected your relationship with God, it takes time and concentrated effort to build a mature relationship with Him. Even though confession immediately restores fellowship (I John 1:9), a quality relationship with God, like nature's delicate balance, takes time to be restored.

Without the development of a maturing relationship with Christ, you will be out of step with the world around you. It is impossible to

relate properly to other people or to accept yourself without this relationship; you are controlled by your circumstances and unable to measure up to your own standards. A neglected relationship with Christ is not a pretty picture.

In contrast, you can relate properly to other people when you are continually learning more about God and His values; you can accept yourself because you know God accepts you according to His Word; you can have victory over circumstances because you know God is in control and He loves you; and He gives you the strength to live as He desires. You can experience the sufficiency of Christ as you begin to make Him the center of your life. You will find guidance for your life in the never changing Word of God, "All Scripture is inspired by God...that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17). This relationship is continually refreshed through prayer and meditation. Your relationships with other people become more meaningful as you engage in Christian fellowship. A natural outgrowth of a personal relationship with Christ is sharing Him with others. The purpose of developing a relationship with Christ is to know Him and to become a channel of His love to the world.

A Biblical example of a man who desires to know God is found in Psalm 1, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers" (Psalm 1:1-3). A key to a successful relationship is realizing that knowing God is different from knowing about Him!

Essentials of Relating

Just as there are essentials that cannot be overlooked in erecting any structure, there are essentials you cannot afford to neglect in building a relationship. These essentials are the foundation of successful building. A visible example today of that relationship is found in the few truly successful marriages. The fifth chapter of Ephesians characterizes the husband-wife relationship as one permeated with love, submission, and order. This relationship between a husband and his wife communicates visibly to the world the kind of relationship you can have with Christ. Unfortunately, in many marriages, the essentials of building a good relationship are not employed by husbands and wives. The consequences are obvious.

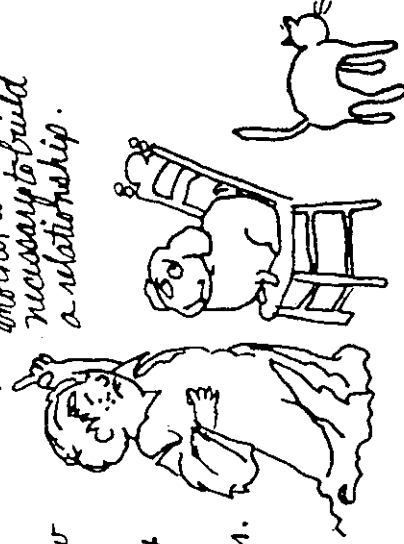
There are at least five essentials in building a good relationship: (1) time, (2) communication, (3) circumstances, (4) attitudes, and (5) objectives.

Time--Any type of growth requires time. Obviously, if you are going to get to know someone it is necessary to spend time together. Your emotions, as well as your intellect, are involved in the development of a meaningful relationship. Every relationship needs time to mature and develop, but time with Jesus is often neglected. The key

*Any type of growth
requires time.
Obviously if you
are going to
get to know
someone
it is
necessary
to spend
time
together.*



*The transmission of thoughts
from one person to
another is
necessary to build
a relationship.*



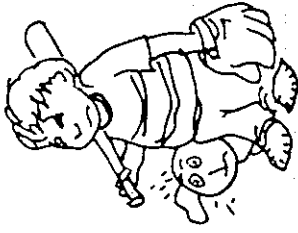
is coming to a point of empathy with Jesus Christ by getting to know how He thinks. Everyone needs to develop the understanding and appreciation for Him that He already has for them.

Communication--The transmission of thoughts from one person to another is necessary to build a relationship. No matter how close you grow to a person, you will never get to know each other without talking, since talking is the primary means of transferring thoughts. You must develop a listening ear. Listening is the key to understanding. It is helpful to listen to what a person can, can't, and won't say. You cannot understand someone without listening to him talk, nor will you ever feel understood until you feel you have been heard. God speaks to you through His Word and His indwelling Holy Spirit, and you have the privilege of communicating to Him in prayer. Remember that God is interested in all aspects of your life, even the little things.

True communication not only involves transmitting words, it also involves transmitting feelings. In many marriages, communication is limited to exchanges of information without feeling. When this happens, understanding is soon lost. There should not be long periods of silence in which barriers develop. Both parties must participate in an exchange of ideas; one party alone is not sufficient.

Circumstances--You grow to know someone as you observe him in a variety of circumstances. There needs to be variety in the time spent getting to know someone. In order to get inside someone's mind, you must observe his reactions in different situations. Learning how someone thinks is not an easy task. It usually takes difficult times together as well as enjoyable ones. The disciples got to know Jesus in a variety of situations.

You grow to know
someone as you
observe them in a
variety of
circumstances.



In any relationship
your attitude is
important because it
determines your
approach

to any
given
circum-
stance.



All too often
people begin
with no
objective, no
direction.



When they
arrive at
the familiar
place "Nowhere"
they
wonder
why.

...it is specified that the Twelve are appointed in the first place 'That they might be with Him' (Mark 3:14). For close to three years these men experienced, not the limited contact of the classroom or the pulpit, but full contact in every phase of life.

Dr. W. Maxfield Garrott

In any relationship, you share life itself. Your life cannot be separated from the variety of circumstances in which it occurs and still have meaning.

Attitudes--

In any relationship, your attitude is important because it determines your approach to any given circumstance. If you feel a project is unworthy of your time, no matter how much time you devote to that particular task, it will never receive your best. Your relationship with God deserves your best--Jesus is God's best and He is waiting for fellowship and communion with you, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock..." (Revelation 3:20). In any relationship with other people, attitudes of mutual respect are built on knowledge about each other. This log of knowledge must not only contain likes and dislikes, but failures, successes, and aspirations as well. In establishing a relationship, the proper attitude is foundational for the growth of the relationship.

Objectives-- All too often, people begin without direction. When you arrive at the familiar place called "nowhere," do you wonder why? Your objective wasn't clearly defined, therefore, it was never attained. The building of relationships should be related to your

life goal. What is a legitimate life goal? Jesus said, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 6:38). By developing a close relationship with Christ, your life can begin to take on divine purpose as He reveals His will for you. Only when your objective is to fulfill His purpose, will your relationship with Him become vital.

Time, communication, circumstances, attitudes, and objectives are five foundational essentials in building any good relationship. They are basic to your accomplishment of the too often neglected task of developing a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Method

Principles without methods to apply them result in hollow idealism. It is important, therefore, to devise methods to put into practice the essentials you have discovered about developing a relationship. Creative methods built on a foundation of essentials will result in a continually vital relationship with the Saviour.

It is important to understand from the beginning the difference between essentials and methods. Without the essentials, your relationship with Jesus will become anemic. Methods, however, are not universal. Feel free to vary, change, combine, or even create new methods at any time. If you marry yourself to one method or become closed except to a select few, the result may be a dry relationship strangled by legalism. It is not difficult to fall into the trap of performing a method, rather than getting to know the Person of Christ. Many people have spent time reading their Bibles and praying without developing a vital relationship with Christ.

In order to approach any task properly, you must first make a decision. Ask yourself if you actually desire a relationship with Christ. After making your decision, commit yourself to the job of working at developing a relationship with your Lord. You might also make your commitment known to a friend who will be faithful to encourage you.

Every person has been entrusted with 168 hours each week. Part of that time should be set aside for time with God. In fact, why not an appointment with God daily?

It is important to have a time and place for your appointment planned before you actually meet with God. The place should be quiet and private, away from as much disturbance as possible--when you are at your best.

David decided, "O Lord, in the morning Thou dost hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for Thee, and watch" (Psalm 5:3). Again in Psalm 143:8, David refers to his daily appointment with God, "Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul."

You may find that morning is best for you because it enables you to dedicate your life that day to the discipline of walking with Christ.

Whatever time you choose, you need to be alert and consistent.

Now that you have determined the time and place for your appointment with God, explore how you might spend this time with Him in worship, prayer, His Word, meditation, and application.

Worship involves recognizing and acknowledging who God is and what He has done. A rewarding way of doing this is to read all or any part of Psalms 145 to 150 aloud. In prayer, it is possible to express your own personal recognition of the attributes of God. This is accomplished by word and attitude.

Prayer is the method by which you communicate with God. "With confidence draw near to the throne of grace" (Hebrews 4:16).

Prayer is spiritual work; and human nature does not like taxing, spiritual work. Human nature wants to sail to heaven under a favoring breeze, a full, smooth sea. Prayer is humbling work. It abases intellect and pride, crucifies vain-glory, and signs our spiritual bankruptcy, and all these are hard for flesh and blood to bear. It is easier not to pray than to bear them. So we come to one of the crying evils of these times, maybe of all times--little or no praying... Little praying is a kind of make-believe, a salve for the conscience, a farce and a delusion.

E. M. Bounds

There are different approaches to prayer. The following are four approaches to prayer which form the acronym ACTS:

- Adoration is a selfless kind of prayer because it is primarily for God. There is something, however, in it for you--it establishes your relationship as you tell the Lord that you love Him. Reflect on His greatness, His power, His majesty, and His sovereignty!
- Confession is making sure every known sin is acknowledged to God and forsaken. Confession comes from a root word meaning "to agree together with." Apply this to prayer and agree with God about sin in your life using I John 1:9. Call sin what God calls it--sin. "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened" (Psalm 66:18).
- Thanksgiving is expressing your appreciation to God. Thank God for several of the specific things He has done for you personally.
- Supplication is asking for things, earnestly and humbly. Ask for others . . . then for yourself. This is the part of your prayer life where you make your petitions known to God. Why not include your family, friends, even other people from around the world--missionaries and the nationals of many lands who have yet to hear about Jesus Christ. You might want to develop your own prayer list. Make your prayer specific--praying specifically requires faith, but then you can see the results.

God's Word, the Bible, is His written revelation to man. Your greatest need is to hear some Word from God--allow the Word to strike fire within your heart. Don't race. This is Bible reading for the pure joy of reading and allowing God to speak to you personally. Feel free to stop reading and meditate if you feel God is speaking to you.

Meditation is the process by which you appropriate the very life of the Lord Jesus into your spiritual bloodstream. Meditation involves pondering and reviewing various thoughts by mulling them over in your mind and heart. It is the processing of mental food. You might call it "thought digestion"---"chewing" upon a thought deliberately and thoroughly, providing a vital link between theory and action.

Meditation is also analysis. It is the art of taking a good, long look at a given object as the craftsman does his dazzling jewel... polishing the diamond to reflect all its light and beauty. Meditation on a portion of the Holy Bible is like gazing at a prism of many facets, turning the stone from angle to angle in the bright sunlight. Steady and constant reflection reveals unlimited beauties from the Scriptures which otherwise may not be seen. "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law" (Psalm 119:18). A practical way to facilitate meditation throughout the day is to memorize God's Word.

Beware of getting alone with your own thoughts. There is danger in rummaging through waste and barren desert--thoughts that can be labeled daydreaming or worse. There is always danger in meditating on your problems. Get alone with God's thoughts. Don't meditate on yourself but dwell on Him. Seek God in your inner thought life. Develop the habit of reflection upon the Word of God and therein find the answers to your problems. "My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the watches of the night" (Psalms 63:5-6).

The importance of meditation is seen by the commands and promises of Joshua 1:8, "This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success."

Without meditation, it is impossible to develop a healthy relationship with the Lord. Perhaps you will want to develop your own technique. THE PLAN introduces several ways of approaching the art of meditation.

Application is putting the new truth God has revealed to you into practice. The visible result of appointments with God is the changed life. Unless your life changes, further development of your relationship stops. This was the problem Jesus had with the Pharisees of His day. They knew the facts and were experts in doctrine. They were conscientious, possibly sincere and dedicated men. But the Lord called them sons of Satan, "...You are of your father the devil..." Why this stinging indictment? Because in spite of all their study of the Old Testament, their lives didn't change. There was no

heart application. There were many who still oppressed the poor, defrauded widows, and pursued doubtful business practices (Matthew 23).

Beware of meditation that ends in pious words only. True meditation ends in moral action. A changed attitude toward God and your fellow man is the result. A changed work habit. A changed relationship to your family. In short--a changed life! Anything less is not enough. "Oh, How I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalms 119:97).

Your appointment with God may not be the highlight of your day--but it should be the renewing of a vital relationship with Him that lasts throughout the day. God will probably speak to you at other times in addition to your appointment with Him. Therefore, it is important to be available to Him throughout the day and experience Him in all your activities. Do not become devoted to the habit of a daily appointment, but to the Person of Christ.

The Plan

Begin now to develop the habit of having a daily appointment with God--not because others are doing it--not as a spiritless duty every morning--nor merely as an end in itself--but as a means to begin developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Will you covenant with Him right now to guard, nourish, and maintain your daily appointment so that your relationship with Him will deepen week by week?

The following appointment calendar contains a plan to help you get started building your relationship with Jesus Christ. This plan will familiarize you with a variety of methods to use in the future and furnish you with ideas to expand on later. The appointment calendar will give you an overview of your month of appointments.

In the accompanying Planned Appointments With God, you will find the daily plans for these appointments. Keep them as a record of your growing relationship with God. Start now--you don't have to wait until a certain date. Simply mark the date in the small box provided in the upper lefthand corner of the first day's box on your calendar, turn to the page for Appointment No. 1, and you are on your way. You'll also want to record the time of your appointment in the space provided on the calendar.

Complete your month of appointments before going on to Chapter VI. It will give you ideas for continuing your appointments after you finish your month.

Remember, go to bed on time in order to be awake and alert for your appointment. Choose a quiet place where you are less likely to be distracted. Don't rush! Your appointment with God is not a time to "get something"---it is a time to begin developing a relationship. Begin to consciously experience the presence of God and continue throughout the day.

APPOINTMENT CALENDAR

☐ 1 PRAY and PLAN FOR THE WEEK TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 2 ← BECOMING ACQUAINTED WITH JESUS CHRIST → (John 1:1-3) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 3 (John 1:14-18) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 4 (John 1:19-28) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 5 (John 1:29-42) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 6 → (John 1:43-51) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 7 REVIEWING YOUR RELATIONSHIP TIME: ____ to ____
☐ 8 PRAY and PLAN FOR THE WEEK TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 9 ← GETTING CLOSER TO HIM → (John 2:1-12) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 10 (John 2:13-25) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 11 (John 3:1-15) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 12 (John 3:16-21) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 13 (John 3:22-26) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 14 REVIEWING YOUR RELATIONSHIP TIME: ____ to ____
☐ 15 PRAY and PLAN FOR THE WEEK TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 16 ← OBSERVING THE PSALMIST'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD → (Psalm 1) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 17 (Psalm 5) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 18 (Psalm 15) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 19 (Psalm 23) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 20 (Psalm 112) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 21 REVIEWING YOUR RELATIONSHIP TIME: ____ to ____
☐ 22 PRAY and PLAN FOR THE WEEK TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 23 WORSHIP (Psalms 145-150) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 24 PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 25 GOD'S WORD (Psalm 119:9-16) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 26 MEDITATION (Romans 4:20-21) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 27 APPLICATION (Psalm 139:23-24) TIME: ____ to ____	☐ 28 REVIEWING YOUR RELATIONSHIP TIME: ____ to ____
☐ 29 PRAY and PLAN FOR THE WEEK TIME: ____ to ____	← BEGIN YOUR OWN APPOINTMENTS WITH GOD →					

That we might accustom ourselves to a continual conversation with Him, with freedom and in simplicity. That we need only to recognize God intimately present with us, to address ourselves to Him every moment, that we may beg His assistance for knowing His will in things doubtful, and for rightly performing those which we plainly see He requires of us, offering them to Him before we do them, and giving Him thanks when we have done.

Brother Lawrence

Continual Development

Vast opportunities lie ahead of you in further developing your relationship with God. However, don't expand these at the expense of your relationship with God. This chapter of suggestions on how to keep your relationship with Him vital is designed to be read after completing your month of Planned Appointments With God.

Man is a creature of habit. Most people do something once or twice and it becomes a habit--be careful not to do this in your appointments with God. For your continual development in establishing a close personal relationship with your Lord, this chapter lists methods you can employ during your appointments with God. View them as starting points and not ends in themselves. This is not an exhaustive list. Don't try everything at once or feel you must employ every method in order to have a maturing relationship. You can implement them with your own ideas to make them more meaningful to you.

Methods already explored in your planned appointments include:

1. The use of the acronym ACTS

A - Adoration
C - Confession
T - Thanksgiving
S - Supplication

2. George Muller's approach to application

Is there any...

- Example for me to follow?
- Command for me to obey?
- Error for me to avoid?
- Sin for me to forsake?
- New thought about God Himself?

3. Devotional Diary

Date _____ Passage _____

Wondrous Thing: (Title) _____

Wondrous Thing in Context: _____

Wondrous Thing Applied to My Life: _____

4. Verse Analysis

Date: _____ Passage _____

What is the thought before the verse? _____

What is the thought after the verse? _____

What is the thought of the verse? _____

What is another verse that teaches the same thought? _____

What are your questions and/or observations on the verse? _____

What personal application will you make from the verse? _____

-
-
-
-
5. Reading Psalms aloud in praise to God
 6. Meditation using recurring thoughts
 - Are there any patterns in the passage?
 - Are there any recurring thoughts exemplified by repeated use of the same word, phrases, contrasting words or thoughts, words that sound alike or begin with the same letter?
 - What is the direction of the passage--specific to general or general to specific in the subject matter?
 7. Application of the Word
 - Use Psalm 139:23-24 as a prayer.
 - Use the prayer of Jesus as a guide for your prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).
 - Find out what the approach to God's Word should be (Psalm 119:9-16).

As you further your relationship with God, you may wish to vary your use of prayer, reading, memorization, study, and meditation.

Prayer

1. PRAY through a psalm. Read a thought, then pray the same thought back to God, asking how it may apply to you personally.
2. PRAY through Beginning With Christ. Beginning With Christ is a Navigator booklet that contains five assurances that all Christians have from the Word of God.
 - Assurance of Salvation
 - Assurance of Answered Prayer
 - Assurance of Victory
 - Assurance of Forgiveness
 - Assurance of Guidance
3. PRAY through a Bible Study. Select a study from The Navigators Design for Discipleship such as "The person of Jesus Christ" and pray through and meditate on it.
4. PRAY through a hymn. Read and meditate on verses of hymns that glorify God. You might like to pray through the verses and ask

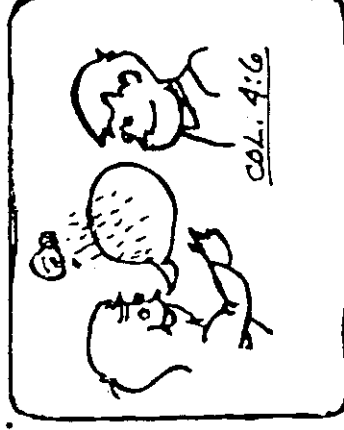
God to speak to you concerning the words of the hymn. (Warning-- hymns are not Scripture and occasionally are not scriptural.)

Reading

1. READ Psalms and Proverbs. Read five psalms and one chapter of Proverbs each day. This enables you to cover the entire 150 chapters of Psalms and 31 chapters of Proverbs each month. You may also get more satisfying results if you do not read consecutively. Take the date on the calendar and select the psalm corresponding to the date. Add 30 to it and read that psalm. Add 30 to that number and read another. Continue in this way until you have read five psalms. For example, if this is the 25th day of the month, you would read Psalms 25, 55, 85, 115, and 145.
2. READ the Bible through in one year. The Navigators have a plan you can use to read through the Bible in a year by reading three short passages daily. Two in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. This plan is a part of the ETS course. You may obtain a copy of this plan from The Materials Department, The Navigators, P. O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, Col., 80934.
3. READ through the chapters from which your memory verses come.
4. READ an entire book. Most of the books in the New Testament can be read in 20 minutes or less. This is no more reading than two or three columns in a newspaper. You wouldn't want to do this type of reading all the time, but sometimes you can get an overview that could not otherwise be obtained by reading parts at different sittings.
5. READ devotional books. Some examples are:
 - My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers
 - Great Devotional Classics
 - The Upper Room

Memorization

1. MEMORIZE a verse from a passage you are meditating on during your appointment with God.
2. MEMORIZE a verse and draw a picture or a diagram to help you recall it. This can be done on a verse card.



Study

1. STUDY a character or topic. Plan on spending several appointments on this project. Look up the references related to the topic or character in a concordance. List the references on the left side of your page and record the key thoughts from these verses next to them. Ask questions concerning the verses:

- Who is mentioned?
- How do they relate to your topic or character?
- What is being said?
- By whom?
- When did these things take place?
- Where did they happen?
- How are they related?
- What does it mean to me?

Answer these and any other questions you have. Then categorize your discoveries about the topic or character--for example, truths to explain your topic, or strengths and weaknesses of the character. Finally, write out a personal application on the basis of your study.

Meditation

Meditation is not mind-wandering. Meditation has a form and an object. It is directing our thoughts to a single topic. Meditation is thinking with a purpose.

Meditation is not a solemn, academic exercise. It requires an attitude of curiosity and expectation, and lends to exciting discoveries, a refreshed spirit, and transformation of character. It brings reward and benefit. It is a crucial step toward fully knowing and obeying God's will.

Here are five methods of meditation you may want to try:

1. Paraphrasing--Some exciting insights can come from rewriting a verse or passage in your own words. This exercise is made even more challenging by using as few words as possible in your paraphrase.

For example: Isaiah 26:3 (RSV)

"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."

You could paraphrase this:

"You promise freedom from worry to the person who trusts you completely without any doubts in his mind."

2. Asking questions--You can sort through the information in a verse by asking who, what, where, why, and how questions about the verse or by jotting down random questions that come to mind as you memo-

rize and reflect on it. (You may not come up with answers for all your questions.)

For Isaiah 26:3 you could ask, "Who does God give perfect peace to?" "What attitude toward God do I need to have in my mind?" and "Why does God provide this perfect peace?"

3. Praying--Pray over the passage: Praise God for the way his character is revealed in the verse; thank Him for any promises you see, and claim these in your own life; and confess any failure which the verse may bring to mind. Think "out loud" with God as you meditate.

4. Emphasizing different words or phrases--This simple exercise involves fixing your focus on small parts of the verse and how they relate to the verse as a whole.

For Isaiah 26:3, you could emphasize these words and think of their implications: "You will keep in perfect peace," "You will keep in perfect peace," "You will keep in perfect peace," and so on.

5. Finding cross-references--Try to think of other passages which relate directly to the meaning of the verse you are memorizing. Looking for the relationships between various parts of Scripture can be stimulating, and will help you gain an overall view of the major themes in God's word.

Again considering Isaiah 26:3, you might think of Philipians 4:6-7, I Peter 5:7, or Matthew 11:28.

In all these forms of meditation, relate the verse to your own circumstances. Suppose you are worried and restless and are not experiencing inner peace. You know this doesn't please the Lord, but you can't help it. You decide to meditate on Isaiah 26:3 as a source of help.

As you think about the verse, you ask yourself, "What does it mean to have perfect peace? Is this really available to me? How can I trust God more?"

Then you might make a list of the things that trouble you. For each item on the list you ask, "Am I ready to trust God to take care of these things for me? Am I willing to make a conscious effort to really trust him?"

Some Christians confuse Bible knowledge with spiritual maturity, assuming that knowing more about the Bible automatically makes them better Christians. This is not true. The Pharisees knew the Old Testament, yet they were spiritual reprobates. The key to spiritual maturity is applying God's word to your life.

PLANNED APPOINTMENTS WITH GOD

Used by permission
of The Navigators



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Week One

DATE: _____

What will you do during your first appointment with God? After getting out of bed and taking care of your personal needs, you will want to find a quiet place and there, with your Bible, spend five to ten minutes in solitude with God.

1. Invest the first few seconds preparing your heart as you look forward to the new day by committing it to the Lord in prayer. You may not be in a good mood, but emotions are subject to your will, and they can be changed if you really want them changed. Ask God to change your mood if need be. Ask Him to give you an expectant and alert mind toward this new adventure of developing a relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. The purpose of this time is to fix firmly in your mind the objective for the week--becoming acquainted with Jesus Christ. Look over your appointment calendar. You will be exploring a portion of God's Word daily. Note that you will only cover a small portion of Scripture. You will find that there are deep spiritual truths in each portion.
3. A good place to begin getting acquainted with Jesus is the Gospel of John. Now take several minutes to look over Chapter 1. Read it through, taking time to think about what you have read.
4. Ask God to give you the proper heart attitude and know Him and His truth, so that you will be diligent in digging for truth as it applies to you personally throughout the week.

You are now ready to continue tomorrow.

Date: _____

After God has spoken to you through His book, then speak to Him in prayer. Remember ACTS:

Adoration
_Confession
_Thanksgiving
_Supplication

Remember to take the first few minutes to make the transition from sleep and thoughts of yourself to spending time with God. Prepare your heart to seek God (Ezra 7:10). Commit the new day to Christ as you seek to become acquainted with Him throughout the day.

Now take several minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear some word from God. Allow the Word to speak to you personally. Meet the Author! Begin reading in the Gospel of John. Read verses 1 through 13.

E. M. Bounds

"What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use--men of prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men--men of prayer."

Date: _____

Prepare your heart in prayer.

Read John 1:14-18.

Pray using ACTS:

Adoration
_Confession
_Thanksgiving
_Supplication

Perhaps you have already begun to make notes during your time with God. You might want to jot down any observations you make during your Bible reading, a specific prayer request you might have, or a question that comes to mind during any of your appointments.

Questions:

What does the Word refer to? _____

What is the function of light? _____

How does one enter God's family? _____

Date: _____

Prepare your heart in prayer.

Read John 1:19-28.

Pray using ACTS:

Adoration
 Confession
 Thanksgiving
 Supplication

To help you zero in on what God is saying to you personally during your Bible reading, you might ask yourself some or all of the following questions which George Muller, a great man of faith, used in developing his relationship with Christ.

Is there any example for me to follow? _____

Is there any command for me to obey? _____

Is there any error for me to forsake? _____

Is there any sin for me to claim? _____

Is there any new thought about God Himself? _____

Date: _____

Prepare your heart in prayer.

Read John 1:29-42.

Pray using ACTS:

Adoration
 Confession
 Thanksgiving
 Supplication

Did George Muller's questions help? Record the answers to any or all in the space provided.

Is there any example for me to follow? _____

Is there any command for me to obey? _____

Is there any error for me to forsake? _____

Is there any sin for me to claim? _____

Is there any new thought about God Himself? _____

Date: _____

Prepare your heart in prayer.

Read John 1:43-51.

Pray using ACTS:

Adoration _____
 Confession _____
 Thanksgiving _____
 Supplication _____

You might want to make your own prayer list for a reminder. Record your requests and answers and see how God works.

EXAMPLE _____

COMMAND _____

ERROR _____

SIN _____

PROMISE _____

NEW THOUGHT _____

Date: _____

How was your first week of spending time with God? Were you able to relate the remainder of the day to your appointed time with God? Remember this appointment is not a law, but a method to help you become acquainted with Jesus Christ. If you happen to have missed an appointment one day, that day should not have been a failure. But you don't want breaking appointments with God to become a habit!

Review John 1. Did you learn anything about Jesus Christ? Do you feel you are becoming acquainted with Him? Why?

Invest some time praying through those things that stood out to you during the week. Is there any action you should take based on the new truths you have discovered about Jesus Christ?

Are you praying specifically? Has God answered you yet? Do you feel He has spoken to you?

Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be complete (John 16:24).

Living by the Word of God

Begin memorizing Acts 20:32

Meditation on Acts 20:32

What is God's Word able to do? _____

Why is the Bible called "the Word of His grace"? _____

"...I commend you to God, and to the Word..."

1. How should you regard the Bible?

I Thessalonians 2:13 _____

2. What did Jesus say about the Word?

John 17:17 _____

3. How did Ezra relate to God's Word?

Ezra 7:10 _____

4. What helps you live according to God's Word?

Johsua 1:8 _____

"...which is able..."

5. Study Psalm 19:7,8 and fill in the chart below.

VERSE	WHAT THE WORD IS	WHAT THE WORD DOES
7		
7		
8		
8		

6. What does God say about His Word?

Isaiah 55:10,11 _____

7. What will the Word do in your life?

II Timothy 3:16 _____

DOCTRINE

SHOWS YOU THE
PATH TO WALK ON

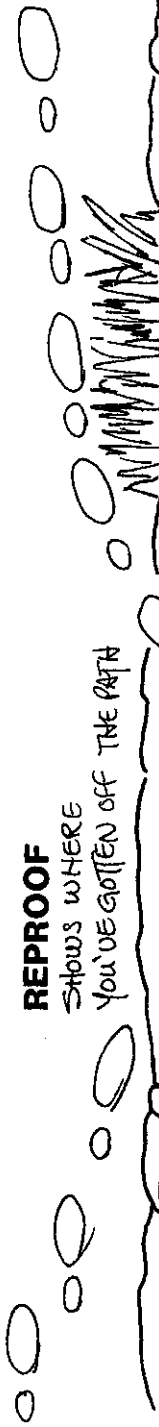
INSTRUCTION

SHOWS HOW TO STAY
ON THE PATH



REPROOF

SHOWS WHERE
YOU'VE GOTTEN OFF THE PATH



CORRECTION

SHOWS HOW TO GET
BACK ON THE PATH

8. What is the Word of God able to do in your life?

Hebrews 4:12 _____

9. What are the results of abiding in God's Word?

John 8:31,32 _____

John 15:7 _____

Write out Acts 20:32.

Application of Acts 20:32

Do you feel you are spending enough time in the Word?

What are you planning to do about this? _____

Review Acts 20:32 daily along with your other Scripture memory verses.