

deal of wealth. Boulevards, schools, and libraries are named after him because of his philanthropic contributions. Just before his death, he came to the city fathers and told them that he would give to them all of his wealth if they would be willing to name the city after him. Brevity of life causes man to cling to it and to reach out for immortality in whatever form he can find it.

Isaiah 47:8-10: "Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, 'I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children.' But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood; they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments. For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness; thou hast said, 'None seeth me.' Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, 'I am, and none else beside me.'" Because man strives for immortality in the wrong way, he runs contrary to the purposes of God. The subject of this passage is Babylon, but it can be readily applied to all of mankind.

In a famous passage prophesying the coming Jesus Christ, Isaiah writes, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every-one to his own way" (53:6). Again, the prophet wrote, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities like the wind, have taken us away" (64:6).

A proper perspective of God and man shows us that all of the evil and calamity that falls upon man is a product of his own folly and sinfulness. Conversely, all of the good that falls upon man is a product of God's grace and mercy. The natural man takes issue with this. He, in violent disagreement, could turn this around and say that all of man's achievements, his blessings, and his progress are attributed to his own ingenuity and greatness. However, when calamity and disaster strike, he is quick to blame God.

People who have trouble attributing all that is good to God and all that is evil and wrong to the sinfulness of man understand neither the character of God nor the character of man. Now, we must be quick to remind ourselves that circumstances often enter our lives that are a reflection of God's perfect plan but which we, because of our lack of perspective, interpret to be evil. Take, for instance, the cross of Calvary. If you and I were with the disciples on that eventful day, we, like they, would no doubt have seen the crucifixion as a tragedy. Likewise, if we had been with the women at the tomb on that Sunday morning when they found it empty, we, like they, would have concluded that a further calamity had struck, that somebody had stolen the body.

However, with the perspective of 2,000 years, we view both the cross and the empty tomb not as calamities or disasters, but as triumphs and victories. Often a seemingly adverse circumstance

will strike, such as the loss of a loved one, and from our perspective it has all the marks of a tragedy. But from God's perspective, it may very well be the unfolding of a higher and more beautiful plan.

God's Commitment to Man

Much of Isaiah 40-66 is Messianic, and by and large the promises contained in these chapters are either to the Messiah or to the nation of Israel. However, the Holy Spirit promises, "The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations" (Ps. 33:11). Just as we can see in these great chapters the nature of God and man, we can also draw some principles and promises for our own lives.

Consider the promise God makes to us in Isaiah 58:10-12: "And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday; and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones; and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places. Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, 'The repairer of the breach,' 'The restorer of paths to dwell in.'"

Your light will rise in obscurity. The Lord will assume responsibility for guiding you. During the dry periods in your life, the Lord will satisfy your soul. You will have the privilege of becoming the foundation of many generations. But all of this is qualified by an "if." If you draw your soul to the hungry and afflicted. If you will devote your life to this kind of goal and objective, God will in turn prosper you beyond your wildest imagination.

This is God's commitment to man. In His love, He saves us through the finished work of Jesus Christ and then He blesses and prospers us so that as we take on the character of Jesus Christ, we can effect a change in the lives of other people. All of this in turn spells "purpose" for the believer. This is what disciple-making is all about.

Let me urge you to look further at Isaiah 40-66. Read through these great chapters three separate times. The first time through, write down all you learn about the nature and character of God. In your second reading, write down all you learn about the nature and character of man. The third time through, write down all the you learn about God's commitment to man. This third reading will stagger you. Having learned of His greatness and our tendency to sin, you will see how graciously He has dealt with us.

ETS 3/4

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____

Topic _____ Advanced Follow-Up

Lesson _____ Leading Bible Discussion II

Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "Leading Bible Discussion II"		
Bible Study		
Do "Who Is God?"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Bible Reading Chart		
Disciples Are Made Not Born -- Chapter 4		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Share Bridge with non-Christian.		
Meet with your disciple.		
Pray for your disciple.		
Scripture Memory		
I John 2:15-16		
Romans 12:2		
Review previous verses.		



LEADING BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION II

The Nature of the Discussion Group

What a Bible Discussion is NOT

- Not a "Mama-Bird" Lecture

Many Bible Study groups are really only the study of the leader fed in lecture fashion to the other members of the group. In such groups no one is required to prepare the study except the leader and individual interest is totally dependent upon the skill and accuracy of the leader as speaker. This is not a true Bible discussion group because nothing is discussed, only absorbed.

- Not a "Share-Our-Ignorance" Session

In this type of Bible sharing, no one is required to prepare. A chapter is read together and then various members of the group share whatever thoughts or impressions come to their minds. In such groups there is often no leader at all, certainly no real objective and very little profit to anyone. Since no one has given any previous thought, research or prayer to the passage in consideration, the time is spent simply "sharing our ignorance."

- Not a "Series of Conversations"

Sometimes members of a Bible Study group agree to do some preparation and come to the session with some individual discoveries. However, the actual discussion is dominated by the "experts" of the group or those who are overly opinionated or talkative. Instead of a total exchange of ideas with everyone participating, only a few members talk at all. The others retreat in shyness and never contribute. This type of study discourages growth and faithfulness in preparation by all the members because it becomes apparent that only the dominant personalities will control the session.

What a Bible Discussion IS

NOTES

A true Bible study discussion group aims for the involvement and participation of each group member. It requires that each person prepare his lesson in advance and come to class ready to share what he has discovered. In such a group each person's contribution is considered to be valuable and the leader will seek to draw out the findings of all the individuals.

The Nature of the Leader

The effective discussion leader will act as a chairman and guide, not as a teacher or authority, because he realizes that the authority is the Word of God and the teacher is the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are the sword of the Spirit. The leader's role is to guide the discussion, encouraging personal interaction according to each individual's need. This means the Bible will be the focus of attention, not the leader.

Remember that as the leader you do not have to be a walking encyclopedia with all the answers. Leading means guiding the group in such a way that each member, including yourself, amplifies and clarifies the personal insights gained through personal study as he shares. The key to leading is preparation. So even a young Christian can master the simple principles taught in this section on leading Bible study discussion.

A good discussion leader assists the people in the group to discover Biblical truths for themselves rather than simply giving them his answers. To do this he must learn to ask stimulating, clear questions which act as springboards to launch the discussion among the members. If the group has prepared a question-answer type study, the leader should not parrot the same question asked in the book (i.e., "What did someone get for number one?"). He must formulate new questions based upon the study, which will help the group to discover new truths and will carry them a step beyond their own personal study.

Examining Discussion Questions

Questions are the heartbeat of any true discussion. They do a number of very useful things for both the group and the leader.

The Importance of Questions

NOTES

- They prevent the leader from becoming a lecturer and make him a chairman or discussion leader.
- They force the group to think for themselves, rather than being told what to think.
- They help people to discover truths for themselves which aid in retention and conviction-building.
- They help people to evaluate what they know or understand. Often we think we know something until we are asked a question on the subject which we find ourselves at a loss to answer.
- They direct the flow of discussion and focus conversation on specific topics rather than allowing the discussion to drift and get off track.

Kinds of Questions

In Bible study discussion there are four basic kinds of questions which aid the discussion. It is interesting to note that these questions are in keeping with the four basic steps of the learning process:

Discovery
Understanding
Correlation
Application

If we follow this flow in leading the group, it will aid our understanding of the topic at hand.

Discovery

As we study the Bible we are discovering truths in the text under consideration, which we may or may not have known before. The discovery really comes when we are dealing with truths we had not previously known, understood, correlated or applied.

Understanding

Having discovered something leads us to the next step--determining what the discovery means. It is important that we accurately understand, as this is a building block for other truths.

Correlation

Having understood a concept, the mind takes the next step of relating this information to what it already knows. It does this for two purposes:

1. To increase understanding and develop new truth.
2. To locate the proper place to store the new information until it is needed.

Application

Relating the truth properly leads to the final step in learning: application or putting the new information into practice in daily life. At this point the information becomes more than mental and begins to affect behavior and lifestyle. Since these four stages make up the normal flow of the learning process, the discussion is enhanced by following this natural pattern. We will therefore normally have four kinds of questions:

Discovery Questions
Understanding Questions
Correlation Questions
Application Questions

Discovery Questions

The purpose of these questions in Bible discussion is to identify what the passage is saying. They are basically factual in nature and are the basis for all good discussion. In your discussion outline, you will need this kind of question to launch every major section of your outline. Discovery questions will allow members to interact and share what they have discovered in the portion of text under consideration. It is often amazing to observe the way that different people in the group are able to see facts in the passage which others missed. Once the basic content of the passage is revealed, the group is ready to move to the next type of question.

Understanding Questions

The purpose of this type of question is to discern what this passage means. Often a leader makes the mistake of sharing his own personal interpretation of various words or phrases in the text. It is not the leader's job to tell the group what the passage means,

but to ask the kind of questions that will cause the answer to surface from the group members' responses. A good leader will have done research into the meaning of a passage in order to guide the group in the right direction. It is important to realize that often there is more than one interpretation of a word or fact. We therefore must take care to determine the definition which the author had in mind when he wrote it. Tools which will aid the leader in this phase are a good Bible dictionary, a concordance and a Bible commentary.

Having discovered what the passage says and means, the discussion can move on to relate the new truth to what is already known through correlation questions.

Correlation Questions

The purpose of these questions is to shed more light on the issue from other parts of the Word of God. Here we attempt to relate the passage we are studying to other passages and to see how various truths relate to each other. The Bible is its own best commentary on itself, and therefore understanding can be increased by seeing what light other passages can shed upon the text. The purpose of this phase is to ensure that meaning is not assigned to a text which the author did not intend and that the group's understanding of the passage is consistent with the rest of the Scripture.

Application Questions

The purpose of these questions is to help group members determine how they should apply what they have learned to their own personal lives. No study is complete unless it is applied personally. The Bible was primarily given to change our lives and not to just make us more knowledgeable. Scripture bears this out.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 1:22

I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy commandments. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

Psalms 119:59-60

The benefits of Bible study only come as we obey the voice of God and put His commands into practice in our daily living. Application questions should be a part of each major section of the Bible study and not just at the end.

Writing Good Questions

A good question has three basic ingredients.

It is: Clear
Relevant
Stimulating to the discussion

We need to keep the three ingredients in mind as we develop our discussion questions. The kind of question you ask determines the answer you will get. So you must design the question to give you the kind of answer you are looking for. By answering your own question you can determine whether or not it needs additional development or clarification.

- Make sure your question is really only asking one question. Sometimes "and" or "but" can introduce a second question which leads to confusion.
- Make sure your question can be answered from the passage under consideration.
- Ask questions which are broad enough so that more than one person can speak to it.
- Ask summarizing questions which cover the content of several verses and allow more than one contribution from the group.

Discovery Questions

This type of question is used to discover what the passage says. Be careful in selecting your questions since they will determine the topic you discuss and the responses you will get from the group. It is best to ask general questions in order to stimulate discussion.

EXAMPLES: What did God do? (Limits the response.)
What did you discover about God from his actions? (This can give a variety of members an opportunity to speak to the question. It also allows the participant to answer from several verses rather than just one.)

A good way to develop broad general questions is to take the chapter subpoints and turn them into questions.

EXAMPLE: God cares for you (chapter sub point) What did you discover about God's care for you in the lesson?

To evaluate each question, ask yourself if it is:

Clear ?

- Does it extract facts rather than feelings or opinions?
- Will people know what you were asking so they can answer?

Relevant ?

- Does it deal with the key issues?
- Could it be answered by two or more truths in the text?

Stimulating ?

- Will it stimulate discussion?
- Can more than one person speak to the question?

Understanding Questions

These questions are used to discover what the passage means and should help the people to go beyond their original discovery of the facts and to learn what the author meant. You can best develop your questions by determining what words and phrases in the passage may not be clear or easily understood.

In a discussion, people will often ask, "What does this mean"? They themselves may be asking one of your understanding questions. Allow the other group members to answer if they can. If the question is relevant and if no one in the group knows the answer including you--suggest that everyone do some research on the question and that you deal with it next week. Remember, no one knows the answer to every question, and as a discussion group leader you are not setting yourself up as an expert--just the chairman.

This kind of question should be included in the understanding phase.

"What is meant by the word _____?"
 "What does it mean that _____?"
 "What does _____ mean?"

To evaluate each question ask yourself if it is:

Clear ?

- Does the question clarify the issue?
- Does the question raise unnecessary problems?

Relevant?

- Will the answer reveal what the author meant?
- Does the question focus on the key issue?

Stimulating ?

- Will the question help their personal understanding?
- Do the members have the knowledge to answer the question?

Correlation Questions

The purpose of these questions is to help members identify the relationship between certain truths and passages. We are seeking to highlight a truth in the passage under consideration and to relate it to what the rest of the Bible teaches about it. We are trying to draw this particular truth into the integrated whole of the Scriptures.

EXAMPLES:

"How does this passage relate to _____?"

"Do you know any other passages that speak to this issue?"

"Where else is this word or expression found in the Scriptures?"

If most of the group members are unfamiliar with the Bible, the leader can help them to find pertinent cross references by asking the entire group to turn

to another passage dealing with the same truth. The leader can ask someone to read the passage and can then ask the group:

"How do you feel that this passage relates to the passage in our study? What new light does it shed?"

Such structured correlation questions can help a group of young Christians to see how the Bible fits together and will stimulate their own personal search for related passages and cross references.

To evaluate each question, ask yourself if it is:

Clear ?

- Does it ask how this passage is related to other Scriptures?
- Does the group have enough knowledge and maturity to know other related passages or do they need help?

Relevant ?

- Does it relate to the truths the group has discovered?
- Does it help people to see relationships that exist between passages and truths?

Stimulating ?

- Does it help people draw from what they already know to answer the question?
- Does it stimulate the interest of the group to search for further related passages on their own later?

Application Questions

The purpose of these questions is to encourage people to apply the truth of Scripture to their individual lives. God blesses the doers and not the hearers or knowers of His Word. This is where theology is turned into reality.

EXAMPLES:

"How can we apply this truth to our daily living?"

"How or why does God want his children to apply this truth?"

"What application did you make to this passage?"

To evaluate each question, ask yourself if it is:

Clear?

- Does it extract what should be done about this passage?
- Is the expected personal response clear enough to be acted upon?

Relevant?

- Is it practical and obtainable by the individual?
- Is it built on a solid understanding of the passage?

Stimulating?

- Will it encourage people to respond?
- Does it call for personal action now?

Summary

Ask God to help you and to give you wisdom as you prepare your questions. Failure to ask questions, to listen to answers, or to help the group understand the content of their study may cool desire to learn more from the Scriptures. As you allow them to dig into the Word for themselves and share their discoveries with others, they will become excited and desire to continue.

WHO IS GOD?

By himself man can never bridge the unknown to discover God. We could never know Him unless God revealed Himself. Has God revealed Himself? The Bible says yes! From cover to cover, the Scriptures abound with insights into His character.

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

1. What are some of God's names recorded in Scripture?

Genesis 17:1 _____

Psalms 95:6 _____

Luke 11:2 _____

I Timothy 6:15 _____

2. Read Isaiah 45:18-24. List several truths about God that can be discovered from this passage.

3. What else can you discover about God?

Isaiah 40:28 _____

John 4:24 _____

4. From the references below, select one for each of the following attributes of God. Briefly summarize each verse in the space provided.

Psalm 90:2; Jeremiah 23:24; Jeremiah 32:17;
James 1:17; I John 3:20

a. God is all-powerful (omnipotent)

b. God is all-knowing (omniscient)

c. God is everywhere (omnipresent)

d. God is eternal

e. God never changes (immutable)

5. What facts about God are mentioned in David's prayer in I Chronicles 29:10-13?

Rewrite these verses in your own words as a personal prayer, using it to praise God for who He is and what He is like.

Without doubt the mightiest thought the mind
can entertain is the thought of God.

A. W. TOZER*

6. Man's character should reflect the fact that he was created in the image of God. For each of the following verses, list one aspect of God's nature and tell how this should be reflected in your life.

WHAT ASPECT OF GOD'S NATURE IS REVEALED?	HOW SHOULD YOUR LIFE REFLECT THIS ATTRIBUTE?
--	--

Deuteronomy 7:9

Psalms 119:137

Psalms 130:3-4

I Peter 1:15-16

I John 1:5

I John 4:16

7. Every problem we have is related to a wrong concept of God. Failure to understand what God is like leads to many conflicts. For example, if you don't believe God is forgiving, you may be continually weighed down with guilt. Choose several truths about God listed in question 6 and explain what problems might occur if you are unaware of these aspects of God's nature.

* From The Knowledge of the Holy (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1961), page 10.

8. One of the most comforting truths in Scripture is the sovereignty of God--He is in control of everything. How do the following verses affirm the sovereignty of God?

Proverbs 21:1

Isaiah 14:27

Acts 4:26-28

The Bible states that God is not only a Spirit and a Person, but God is a Holy and Righteous Being. From Genesis to Revelation, God reveals Himself as a Holy ...and a Perfect God...It is in God's holiness that we find the reason for the death of Christ. His holiness demanded the most exacting penalty for sin, and His love provided Jesus Christ to pay this penalty and provide man with salvation.

BILLY GRAHAM*

WHAT DOES GOD DO?

9. What are some of the things God is doing in the world today?

II Chronicles 16:9

* From Peace with God (New York: Doubleday, 1953), pages 39-40.

Psalms 75:6-7

Acts 14:17

10. Each of the following verses outlines a different way in which God has revealed Himself to men. Match the verses with the correct statement.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| _____ Through the prophets | a. Psalm 40:7 |
| _____ In Christ | b. Romans 1:19-20 |
| _____ In creation | c. Romans 2:15 |
| _____ In man's conscience | d. Hebrews 1:1 |
| _____ In the Bible | e. Hebrews 1:2 |

11. Examine Jeremiah 31:3, Ephesians 3:19, and John 3:16.

a. Summarize what these verses teach about God's love.

b. Why do you think it is important to know and experience God's love?

12. Read Psalm 46:1

a. How is the Lord described?

b. Give a personal example of how you have experienced this aspect of God in your life.

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT FROM YOU?

The most important thought I ever had was that of my individual responsibility to God.

DANIEL WEBSTER

13. What does Psalm 46:10 teach about knowing God?

14. What does God desire? Psalm 51:16-17

15. How should you respond to God? Psalm 95:6

16. Using the following references, write a short paragraph explaining some of the essentials in knowing God. Deuteronomy 10:12; Psalm 100:4; Hebrews 11:6

In all his dealings with us, God is at work for our good; In prosperity He tests our gratitude; in mediocrity, our contentment; in misfortune, our submission; in darkness, and at all times, our obedience and trust in Him.

17. What was David's counsel to his son? I Chronicles 28:9

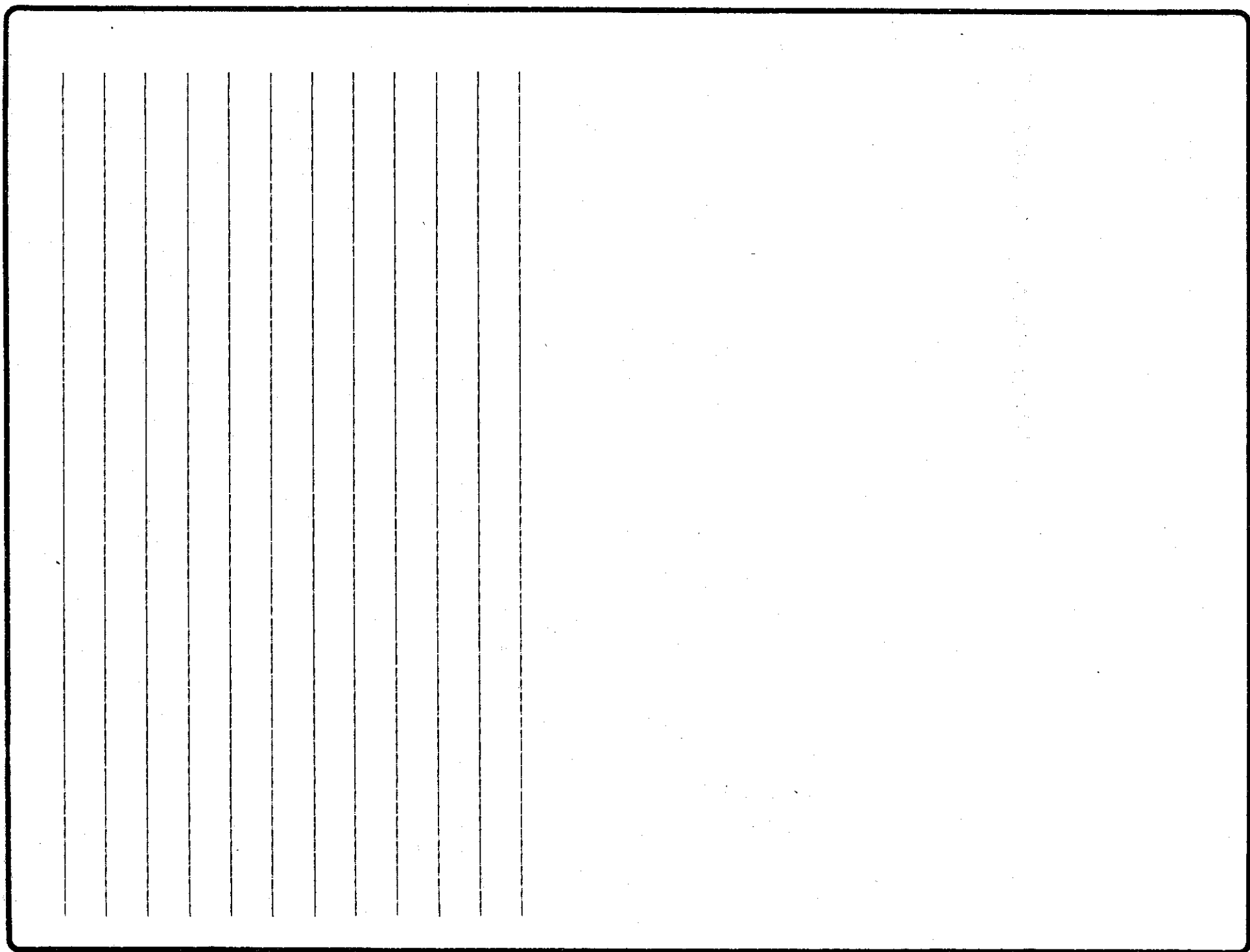
18. a. From your study of this chapter, write a brief definition of worship.

b. Why do you think the worship of God is vital for Christian living?

c. In what practical ways can you improve your worship of God?

Remember These Points:

Review the chapter subtopics and use them as an outline to write your own summary of the chapter, below.



ETS 3/5

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____

Topic Advanced Follow-Up

Lesson Leading Bible Discussion III

Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "Leading Bible Discussion III"		
Review Outline Form for "Who Is Jesus Christ?"		
Bible Study		
Do "The Authority of God's Word"		
Do "Who Is Jesus Christ?"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Bible Reading Chart		
Disciples Are Made Not Born--Chapter 5		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 1 person to win to Christ.		
Pray for your disciple.		
Meet with your disciple.		
Scripture Memory		
I Corinthians 15:58		
Hebrews 12:3		
Review previous verses.		



LEADING BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION III

Developing the Outline

Discussion Outline

Most well-written Bible Study material has a basic outline written into it. In leading Bible discussion it is wise to use that outline as the framework for your discussion outline. The first step is to study the outline of the study very carefully and record it on your paper. For example see Studies in Christian Living. Chapter One, Who Is Jesus Christ, is enclosed at the end of this lesson.

Example

Title Who is Jesus Christ?

Outline

- I. His Humanity
- II. Human Yet Sinless
- III. His Divinity

Discussion Questions

The next step is to do the lesson very carefully yourself thinking as you do it about various questions you might use in the discussion. Your questions have to do with:

1. Discovery -- What does it say?
2. Understanding -- What does it mean?
3. Correlation -- Where else is this taught in Scripture?
4. Application -- How can I apply this to my life?

Discussion Objective

The third step is to develop an objective for the discussion. The objective is a statement which tells what you hope to accomplish in the discussion session.

Example

To help the group discover the Biblical answers to the question: "Who is Jesus Christ?"

Discussion Introduction

Now you are ready to begin to write the introduction to your discussion outline. This could be a short paragraph which you would use to introduce the topic under consideration and to direct everyone's attention to the discussion. You can write your own introduction, or if there are introductory remarks in the Bible Study material, you may use those by reading them aloud to the group or by asking a group member to read them aloud.

Example

Since Jesus Christ is the central figure of Christianity, it is good for us to know exactly who He is. Everywhere you go people have their own ideas about Him. Some say, "He's a good man." Others say, "He was a great teacher." Still others claim, "He was God." In our discussion today we will examine some of the key passages of the Bible which shed light on the answer to the question: "Who is Jesus Christ?"

Developing the Discussion Questions

The next step in planning the outline is to formulate questions for each major heading in the study. In this lesson we will use Studies in Christian Living, Chapter One: Who is Jesus Christ?

His Humanity

Discovery

What did you discover about Jesus' humanity in our lesson?

NOTES

Understanding

What does it mean when it says in Galatians 4:4 that Jesus was "made of a woman?"

Correlation

Why is it important that Jesus was human?

Application

How can Jesus' humanity help us when we are facing difficulties or temptations?

Human--Yet Sinless**Discovery**

What verses in our study tell us about Jesus' sinless life?

Understanding

What does it mean to be sinless?

Correlation

Why was it important that Jesus be sinless?

Application

What is God's desire for me in relationship to sin?

His Divinity**Discovery**

What are some characteristics and incidents in Jesus' life which demonstrated His divine nature?

Understanding

What does the phrase mean in John 1:14 which says, "the Word was made flesh?"

Correlation

How does Jesus' claim that He was God affect the commonly held opinions that He was simply "a good man" or "the world's greatest teacher?"

Application

In this passage, why is Jesus' divinity important in being able to save me?

Conclusion

The last section of the leader's outline is the conclusion. In this section he summarizes the main points of the discussion and encourages the people to make specific and personal applications in the coming week. During the conclusion section, time should be spent in prayer for the applications, and the next week's assignment should be introduced.

Schedule Time

Plan how long you are going to spend on each point in your outline and add a time frame to the discussion.

Using the Discussion Outline

Remember that your outline is simply a guide for the discussion--a tool to help you, not a structure to imprison you. If the discussion does not follow the plan exactly or if you are unable to complete the discussion of every point on the outline, don't worry. Give the Holy Spirit the freedom to teach the truths. He wants to teach--even if it means spending a little longer on a particular question.

Be sure to review your lesson plan before the group meets--especially the objective and chapter outline. Pray over each section and question. Then trust God to lead!

Sample Form

Enclosed is a sample copy of this form completed on Who Is Jesus Christ. When you have completed the Bible Study on Who Is Jesus Christ, analyze the questions on the Discussion Outline Form. This should guide you as you use this form to prepare for leading a Bible discussion.

NOTES

Bible Study Discussion Outline Form

Lesson SCL Ch. 1 Who is Jesus Christ?		Date
Time	Objective	
2 min.	To help the group discover the Biblical answers to the question: "Who is Jesus Christ?"	
	Introduction Since Jesus Christ is the central figure of Christianity, it is good for us to know exactly who He is. Everywhere you go, people have their own ideas about Him. Some say: "He is a good man." Others say, "He was a great teacher." Still others claim, "He was God." I trust our lesson will answer these questions.	
1 min.	Prayer	
	Discussion Question	Answer
	I His Humanity	
	Discovery What did you discover about Jesus' humanity in our lesson?	
	Understanding What does it mean when it says in Galatians 4:4 that Jesus was "made of a woman?"	
12 min.	Correlation Why is it important that Jesus was human?	
	Application How can Jesus' humanity help us when we are facing difficulties or temptations?	
	Summarize	
	II Human-Yet Sinless	
	Discovery What verses in our study tell us about Jesus' sinless life?	
	Understanding What does it mean to be sinless?	
12 mins	Correlation Why was it important that Jesus be sinless?	
	Application What is God's desire for me in relationship to sin?	
	Summarize	

Time	III His Divinity	Answer
12 mins	Discovery What are some characteristics and incidents in Jesus' life which demonstrated His divine nature?	
	Understanding What does the phrase mean in John 1:14 which says, "the Word was made flesh?"	
	Correlation How does Jesus' claim that He was God affect the commonly held opinions that He was simply "a good man" or "the world's greatest teacher?"	
	Application Why is Jesus' divinity important in His being able to save me?	
	Summarize	
12 mins.	IV Divine Characteristics	
	Discovery What divine characteristics did you discover in the lesson?	
	Understanding What does it mean that Jesus has power to give life?	
	Correlation Can you think of other places in the Gospel where Jesus demonstrates his divine character?	
	Application In what way can Jesus' divine nature and abilities help me in my daily life?	
	Summarize	
	Conclusion The last section of the leader's outline is the conclusion. In this section, he summarizes the main points of the discussion and encourages the people to make specific and personal applications in the coming week. During the conclusion section, time should be spent in prayer for the applications, and the next week's assignment should be introduced.	
	Prayer	

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

When we are introduced to another person, two questions often come to mind: "Who is he?" and "What does he do?"

As we look into the Bible to learn about Jesus Christ, we may well ask these same questions. Jesus Himself once asked His followers: "Whom do men say that I am?" After they had listed several wrong opinions, He turned and questioned them personally: "But whom say ye that I am?"

The question was important then--and it's vital today. The answer is the foundation of the Christian faith--and the reason for this Bible study.

First we consider the question Who is He?--and in the next lesson, What did He do?

HIS HUMANITY

1. How does Galatians 4:4 describe the birth of Jesus, God's Son?

2. Where was Jesus born? (Matthew 2:1)

(Judea was the province surrounding Jerusalem.) For the full story of the birth of Jesus Christ, read Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 1:26-2:20.

3. How was Jesus' youth like that of other children? (Luke 2:52)

4. What was Jesus' condition after fasting in the wilderness? (Matthew 4:2)

5. How does John 4:6 show that Jesus was human?

6. After a hard day of teaching, what did Jesus do? (Mark 4:38)

7. How did Jesus show His sorrow for grief-stricken friends?
(John 11:35)

"Jesus Christ has trod the world. The trace of Divine footsteps will never be obliterated. And the Divine footsteps were the footsteps of a Man...not an angel, not a disembodied spirit, not an abstract ideal, but THE MAN JESUS CHRIST."

--Peter Bayne

HUMAN - YET SINLESS

8. Although Jesus Christ was tempted as all men are, in what way is He different from us? (Hebrews 4:15)

9. In John 8:46 Jesus challenged the Jews to

HIS DIVINITY

Some speak of Jesus Christ as a great man. To some He was the founder of a new religion. Others consider Him a prophet. But Jesus Himself claimed that He was God. If this were not true, He could not be called even a good man, but would be an impostor and a deceiver.

Isaiah prophesied Christ's birth 750 years before it happened and recorded: "...His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

10. In Hebrews 1:8, when God the Father speaks of His Son, Jesus Christ, what does He call Him?

11. In John 5:23 Jesus Christ teaches us that He is to receive the same honor as _____
12. After the disciples saw Jesus' power over the sea and wind in (Matthew 14:22-33), what did they do? (Verse 33) _____
13. How did Jesus let Thomas address Him? (John 20:28) _____

"If Socrates should enter the room, we would all rise and do him honor. But if Jesus Christ came into the room, we would all fall down and worship him."

Learn more about the Deity of Jesus Christ in Colossians 1:15-20 and Hebrews 1.

DIVINE CHARACTERISTICS

Jesus Christ had many titles: Son of God, Son of Man, Saviour, Lord, Master, Teacher, Messiah and others. One title for Christ in the Book of John is "the Word," since He is God's living message to man.

14. How long has the Word (Jesus Christ) existed? (John 1:1, compare 1:14,17) _____
15. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus says He has been given _____
16. Jesus demonstrated His power over:
Matthew 8:23-27 _____
Luke 4:40 _____
Luke 4:33-36 _____
John 11:43,44 _____
17. In Mark 2:3-12, Jesus demonstrates His power in healing a paralytic and also claims the authority to _____.

18. One of the reasons Christ came was _____ (John 10:10).
19. Jesus has the power to give life to _____ (John 5:21).
20. What can keep a person from receiving this life? (John 5:40)
- _____

In these passages Jesus speaks not merely of physical life, but of eternal life--life in fellowship with God.

21. Review the questions and your answers in this lesson carefully. What new things have you learned about Jesus Christ and who He is through your study?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD

What would you do if obedience to the Scriptures jeopardized your possessions, your career, your family, or your life? Would you remain loyal to God? How would you decide what to do? Or have you, perhaps, decided already? In this chapter you will examine the authority of the Bible and its reliability in helping us make decisions.

THE AUTHOR OF THE SCRIPTURES

1. How do the writers of Scripture attribute their words to God in the following passages?

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

II Samuel 23:1-3

Jeremiah 1:6-9

I Thessalonians 2:13

2. What did Paul write about the divine authorship of Scripture?
II Timothy 3:16

3. What importance does God place on his word? Psalm 138:2

If it is a word from God, it has authority over men. For behind every word that anybody utters stands the person who speaks it. It is the speaker himself (his character, knowledge, and position) who determines how people regard his words. So God's word carries God's authority. It is because of who He is that we believe what He has said.

JOHN R. STOTT*

* From Understanding the Bible (London: Scripture Union, 1972), pages 183-184.

JESUS' VIEW OF SCRIPTURE

4. Read the account of Jesus' temptation in Matthew 4:1-11.

a. What use of Scripture does Jesus make? Verse 10

b. How much consideration did Jesus give Satan's offer before He made His decision? Verses 9-10

c. How did Jesus apply the verse He quoted--to Himself or to Satan?

d. If Jesus placed Himself under the authority of Scripture, what meaning does this have for you?

5. How did Jesus use Scripture in the following situations?

Mark 7:6-9

Mark 12:24-27

Luke 10:25-28

6. Why did Jesus believe it was necessary to go to the cross?
Luke 24:25-27

7. What else does Jesus say about the Scriptures?

Matthew 5:17-18

John 17:17 _____

8. Using the material in questions 4-7, write a short paragraph explaining Jesus' view of Scripture.

9. In what ways is Jesus' example a challenge to you?

THE RELIABILITY OF THE SCRIPTURES

10. What do the following passages say about the reliability of the word of God?

Joshua 23:14 _____

Psalms 33:4 _____

Proverbs 30:5-6 _____

11. What conclusions about the reliability of Scripture can be drawn from Luke's introductory statements of his gospel? Luke 1:1-4

12. Read II Peter 1:15-21.

a. What affirmation does Peter make in verse 16?

b. What unusual experience did Peter and others have? (Compare verses 17-18 with Matthew 17:1-9).

c. What did Peter believe was more reliable than a voice from heaven? Verse 19

d. Why did he think the prophecies of Scripture were so reliable? Verses 20-21

13. What fulfilled prophecy do you think provides the most convincing evidence of the reliability of Scripture?

THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES

14. What is the word of God able to do in your life?

Psalms 37:31

Psalms 119:130

John 15:3 _____

Acts 20:32 _____

II Timothy 3:16 _____

James 1:21 _____

15. A harvest begins with sowing. In order to reap a spiritual harvest, what did the sower sow? Mark 4:14

16. What are some ways you can be a sower during the next week?

16. Read Isaiah 55:10-11. Notice the parallel between water and the word of God. Think through the process pictured and then record any new insights you have into the way God fulfills His word.

17. Open your Bible to Psalm 119 and begin reading anywhere in the chapter. As you observe the benefits listed there of God's word (also referred to as His commandments, testimonies, precepts, judgments, and law), list four or five of them below.

The ultimate reason for the authority of Scripture lies in the authorship of Scripture. It is God's word, therefore it is authoritative. Do you desire greater faith in the Bible? Then seek a greater knowledge of God. Your concept of God and of the authority of the Scriptures will stand or fall together.

APPLYING THE BIBLE TO YOUR LIFE

18. What disappointed Jesus about the people of His day?

Luke 6:46

Luke 24:25

19. How did King Josiah put God's word into practice?
II Kings 23:2-4

20. What principles do you see in Psalm 119:59-60 that relate to applying Scripture to your life?

21. Here is a good plan to follow in taking specific steps to apply the Bible:

- State what the Scriptures say about some area of your life.
- Tell what your life is like in this area.
- Describe what you are going to do to bring your life into conformity with God's word.
- Specify what practical steps you will take to check up on yourself.

Now--use this plan!

a. What Scripture passage in this chapter has touched an area of need in your life? Explain what the passage means to you.

Question number _____ Scripture reference _____

b. What improvement is needed in your life in this area?

c. What specific steps can you take toward improvement in this area?

d. How will you know when you have completed your application?

Are you committed to following God and obeying His word?

Remember These Points:

Review the chapter subtopics and use them as an outline to write your own summary of the chapter.

Evangelism and the Disciple

Being a disciple begins with a proper relationship to Jesus Christ and having on your heart what is on His. Making disciples begins with evangelism. As one person put it, the objective in the Christian life is to populate heaven and depopulate hell.

In evangelism the Christian's pacesetter is none other than the Lord Jesus Himself. The fourth chapter of John provides us with a striking example of Jesus' approach to evangelism.

Picking the Opportunity

Verse 4: "And he must needs go through Samaria." A close look at a map of Palestine in the days of our Lord Jesus reveals that the shortest and easiest route from Jerusalem to Galilee was through Samaria. This, however, was not the way most people traveled. Rather than going through Samaria, they would descend from the heights of Jerusalem to the banks of the Jordan and follow the river's gently winding path to Galilee.

The reason for this dates back to the Assyrian captivity when the 10 northern tribes of Israel were displaced. A remnant of those tribes remained in the land and intermarried with other peoples, producing a nation of mixed origin--the Samaritans. For this reason, they were despised by the Jews. These Jewish "thoroughbreds" would go to any length to avoid contact with the Samaritans.

But here we find Jesus needing to go through Samaria. Why? Why did He feel that it was necessary to pass through this region of outcast people? I believe it was to show the universality of the Gospel. The message of our Lord Jesus was not just for a chosen people, but it was designed for men and women of every tongue, tribe, and race.

Underlying all of this is an important lesson for every aspiring disciple. His objective must be to reach the lost. To do this, he must follow the Saviour's example of being the "friend of publicans and sinners." Too many evangelicals interpret "separation from the world" as meaning separation from worldly people. Evangelism begins with becoming friends with worldly people. The disciple must be faithful to the Scriptures, but he is under no obligation to be faithful to the idiosyncrasies of people who are extra-biblical in their theology.

Verse 9: [The woman of Samaria said to Jesus,] "The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."

What Jesus replied by His interest in her was, "I have dealings with the whole world."

Jesus arrived at Jacob's well tired and thirsty (vv. 6-7). His needs were simple and easy to understand. He needed rest and refreshment. But instead of satisfying Himself, He created out of His need an opportunity to witness.

When I first discovered this truth in John 4, I was smitten in my conscience. Often I use my need as an excuse not to witness. I remember, for example, a conference on the East Coast. In the course of the weekend, I had spoken four or five times and had had personal interviews with dozens of people. I was tired, and I did not want to get involved in another conversation. On my return home, I made sure that I was one of the first people on the plane, chose a window seat, and then quickly put my briefcase on the seat next to me in an attempt to discourage people from sitting there. I allowed my need to become an excuse not to witness.

As Jesus sat resting, He saw a Samaritan woman come to the well to draw some water. She could hardly be considered a "good opportunity." She was a Samaritan. He was a Jew. Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. She was a woman. He was a man. Men do not counsel women. She was immoral. He was righteous. Righteous people just do not associate with the unrighteous. She was an outcast, He was a great teacher. She had lost her reputation; and He, by His association with her, would stand a good chance of losing His.

One day I was traveling in an old DC3 on one of the commuter airlines. I was already in my seat when a rather portly lady, probably in her 60s, came and sat next to me. She had given an appearance of cheerfulness and friendliness as she made her way to her seat, laughing and joking with others.

When she sat down, I struck up a conversation with her by saying, "My, you are a happy, young lady."

She reached over, put her hand on my arm, and said, "Young man, you have no idea how miserable I really am. I have all the money I will ever need, but my husband is dead, I have no real friends and have no reason for living."

By her outward show, there was no way I could have guessed that that woman was a prime candidate for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet, there she was, opening her life to me and letting me know in her own way that she was in desperate need of what the Saviour had to offer. What appeared to be a poor opportunity to share Christ was in fact an excellent opportunity.

Principles in Evangelism

There are many principles that can be derived from the ministry of our Lord in the area of evangelism. Eight of them from John 4 should draw our attention. Possibly this will stimulate your own thinking and cause you in your Bible study to come up with still more.

- Open the opportunity by asking a favor.

"There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus saith unto her, 'Give Me to drink'" (v.7).

It is part of our human nature to like to have others feel obligated to us, because this makes us feel needed and important. By asking her for a drink of water, Jesus made the Samaritan woman feel needed and important. By revealing His need to her, He created a permissive atmosphere in which she could feel free to talk about her own needs.

A university student once met a beautiful coed in his biology class. Many of his buddies had tried to date her and none of them had met with success. He decided on a novel approach. His sports coat was missing a button, so he asked her if she would sew one on for him. She agreed to do this, and he insisted on returning the favor by taking her out on a date.

In making friends with people, there are many things we can do to make them feel important. On the ski slopes or on the golf course you could say to someone, "Say, I noticed you are really proficient at this. I wonder if you could spare a few moments to give me some tips on how to improve my style." A housewife can use the same approach with her neighbor by asking to borrow a recipe or a cup of flour or some other supplies.

- Tailor the approach to the person.

"Jesus answered and said unto her, 'If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, "Give me to drink"; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.'" (v,10).

Jesus did two things here that few women can resist--He offered her a gift and aroused her curiosity.

Shortly after I was married, I purchased a cut glass bowl for my wife's birthday. I brought it home and left it in the trunk of the automobile until it was time to give it to her. That night as we were lying in bed, I mentioned that I had chosen her birthday present and so aroused her curiosity that she could not sleep until I went out to the car and got it for her.

The Lord Jesus was a master at using the right approach for the right person. He did the same thing with Nicodemus in John chapter 3. Recognizing that Nicodemus was a religious leader, Jesus' approach to him was theological: "Ye must be born again."

The great evangelist Dr. Trumble was riding along on a train next to a person who opened a flask and offered him a drink of whiskey. Dr. Trumble declined the offer. A few minutes later the man repeated the offer, and again Dr. Trumble turned him down. The third time the offer was made, the man said to Dr. Trumble, "I bet

you think I am a rather evil man doing all this drinking, don't you?"

"No," said Dr. Trumble. "I was thinking what a generous man you are to keep offering me a drink." That entree was sufficient for Dr. Trumble to lead the man to Christ before the journey ended.

- Choose the questions you want to answer and ignore the others.

The woman of Samaria said to Jesus, "...the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (v.9). Jesus chose to ignore her controversial point. The Samaritan woman again brought up a point of controversy, this time pertaining to the place where people ought to worship God (v.20). Now she was striking at a critical issue, and Jesus chose to respond.

In evangelism, develop a feel for the important questions and major in them. Generally speaking, these are questions that deal with getting to know God. Jesus geared His conversation to answering her needs rather than getting entangled in peripheral issues.

When you talk to people about Christ, all kinds of questions come up. "If the Bible says you cannot marry your sister, who did Cain marry?" "What will God do with people who have never heard the message of salvation?"

Many times one is not quite sure how critical the issue is to the person. Is it a genuine problem with him, or is he trying to sidestep the real issues? To help determine this, you can counter with, "If you knew the answer to this question, would it make any difference in your relationship with Jesus Christ?" If his answer is no, you might suggest that the real and important questions center around getting to know God in a personal way. If, however, his answer is yes, then do all that you can to reply. If you don't know the answer, be honest, tell him that you don't, and that you will endeavor to get it for him.

- Strike for the "open nerve" that causes the person to expose his need.

The Samaritan woman began to argue with Jesus about His ability to draw water by Himself from Jacob's well. Jesus countered with the statement, "Go, call thy husband and come hither" (v.16). She replied that she had no husband, and Jesus completely exposed her with the comment, "Thou hast well said, I have no husband; for thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband" (v.17).

The Gospel is the good news that God can change an individual. This Good News is based on the assumption that each person's needs can be met. In evangelism, therefore, one of the first objectives is to get the person to expose his need.

Suppose you are walking down the street and a stranger appears from nowhere, grabs hold of you and says, "You look sick. Come with me into my office, and I will operate on you and make you feel better." What do you think your response would be? I would probably flee as fast as I could.

We must be careful not to be guilty of the same approach in evangelism. It is probably not the best approach to walk up to a stranger and say something to the effect, "Do you want to be saved?" Rather, concentrate on getting to know the person. Ask probing questions--even before you begin to engage him in a conversation about Jesus Christ. Find out what his needs are, what is occupying his thinking.

A few months ago I was talking to a young coed who was returning from home to the university. In the course of our conversation, she happened to mention that she was majoring in sociology. She had her heart set on being a social worker. I asked her why she chose this career, and she said she had a desire to help people. At this point I was able to ask her what she felt were the real needs people faced. This triggered off a deep, spiritual conversation, during which I was able to share the Gospel.

● Tell the truth even if it hurts.

"Ye worship ye know not what. We know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews" (v.22). This statement by the Lord Jesus, "salvation is of the Jews," was the very thing that turned Samaritans off. Her initial response to such a statement would probably have been, "Well, here is another bigoted Jew who thinks He's got all the answers." Yet Christ's straightforwardness here gave her confidence and trust in His character when He revealed to her that He was the Messiah. If we hedge on things we know to be true, then we convey to our listeners a lack of trust in our own convictions.

Bible-believing Christians sometimes become embarrassed by the way God acts. To that often-asked question, "Why did God destroy whole nations in the Old Testament," our inward response frequently is, "Oh, Lord, You've got Yourself into trouble again! Let's see if I can dig You out of this one."

As you witness, you will meet people who will look you right in the eye and ask, "Do men really go to hell if they don't believe in Jesus Christ?" What will you do? Will you tell them what you know to be the truth? Or will you seek to run around it and change the subject?

This does not mean that we are to be tactless or obnoxious as we talk to people about spiritual truths. Kindness, patience, and long-suffering should be the virtues that characterize our lives (2 Tim. 2:24-25). But having said this, we must be willing to tell people the truth.

- Agree with the person as much as possible.

This principle brings in balance principle number 5. The Jews and Samaritans could not get together on the simplest of questions; namely where God was to be worshipped (vv. 20-24). Agreeing with the woman as much as possible, Jesus said, "Well, you are partly right. The issue is not between Jerusalem and this mountain. God is a Spirit. You worship Him in spirit and in truth."

A buddy of mine was witnessing to a friend who retorted, "I'm a Catholic and you are a Protestant," as though that should terminate the conversation between them.

My friend said, "Well, that's interesting. I have more in common with my Catholic friends than I do with many of my Protestant friends." That simple statement was enough to bridge a potential argument and allow the conversation to continue.

- Don't allow the conversation to get off the subject.

This principle is seen in how the woman responded to the Lord Jesus when He revealed that the man she was living with was not her husband. She immediately tried to change the subject by getting into a theological argument over where God was to be worshipped. She tried to avoid the moral issue by asking a theological question.

This often happens when one is talking to people about Jesus if the conversation becomes a bit too personal. Instead of facing up to the personal matters, they might counter with, "What about all those people in non-Christian countries who have never heard the message of Jesus Christ?"

In pursuing the real issue, we must lovingly point out that the question is not so much, "What about people who have not heard," but rather, "What will you do with Jesus Christ now that you have heard?" However, if this is a genuine question that is an obstacle to the person becoming a Christian, then we must do all we can to find the answer for him (see principle 3).

- Be sensitive to how the Holy Spirit is working in the person's life.

Jesus did not push her. He engaged her in conversation and allowed her to ponder the implications of what had been said. As you read through the story, you notice that salvation became her idea, not just His. She ended up truly wanting it. He did not push it on her.

A beautiful illustration of this is found in Acts 2:36-38. Peter had just finished his great sermon at Pentecost. He gave no invitation. He did not tell his audience what to do. He merely ended with a divine claim--Jesus was the Christ. But what he said shook them; and because the Spirit of God was working in their hearts, salvation became their idea, not Peter's. They took the initiative, asking, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Peter's reply was, "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ."

When you talk to people about Christ, you can often tell where they are by their changing view of who He is. This can be seen by the Samaritan woman's response to Christ. First, she calls Him a Jew (v.9). Next, she addresses Him as Sir (v.11). Then she calls Him a prophet (v.19). Finally, she confesses Him as the Christ (v.29).

Passion to Do the Job

Jesus said that His food was to do God's will. This is what concerned Him, what was uppermost in His mind. "Jesus saith unto them [the disciples], 'My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, "There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest"? Behold, I say unto you, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest!"' (John 4:34-35). Jesus does not say here that He is exercising His gifts, or that He really loves to talk to people about their eternal destiny. He simply says that He is doing the will of God.

People shun evangelism because they say it is not their strength, it is not their gift, or they do not enjoy doing it. I can certainly empathize with that. Evangelism is engaging the enemy in what the Bible calls "spiritual warfare." It means fighting the forces of darkness for the souls of people. Let's face it; few people enjoy fighting.

A buddy of mine, a marine infantry officer, once confided that he loved to lead men. He enjoyed going out on bivouac and practicing maneuvers with them. He loved the thrill of the dress parade. But when he was in Vietnam engaging the enemy in combat and seeing his own men die, he realized that he hated fighting.

What is true in physical warfare is equally true in spiritual warfare. If you do not enjoy engaging people in spiritual combat, don't feel that you stand alone. Few people enjoy it. That really is not the question, nor is the question one of whether evangelism is your gift or your strength.

The only relevant question is whether it is the will of God--and we know from the Scriptures that the will of God is for us to do the work of evangelism. The disciple's ministry begins with evangelism.

ETS 3/6

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____

Topic _____ Advanced Follow-Up

Lesson _____ Leading Bible Discussion IV

Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "Leading Bible Discussion IV"		
Bible Study		
Do "The Holy Spirit"		
Write a set of Discussion Questions.		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Bible Reading Chart		
Disciples Are Made Not Born--Chapter 6		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Share "Bridge" with non-Christian		
Meet with your disciple.		
Pray for your disciple.		
Scripture Memory		
Mark 10:45		
II Corinthians 4:5		
Review previous verses.		



LEADING BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION IV

Introduction

For the past three weeks we have been examining the art of leading Bible discussion. We have studied the importance of the Bible study group and the importance of questions in leading the discussion. We learned that Discovery, Understanding, Correlation, and Application are the four phases of discussion, and we examined ways to write stimulating questions for each phase.

Tonight we will conclude our study of Bible discussion by dealing with:

The three stages of each discussion question.

Evaluating ourselves as leaders.

Evaluating our questions.

Evaluating the discussion group members.

Choosing an assistant.

Solutions to some common problems.

Three Stages of Each Discussion Question

In the development and use of discussion questions there are three basic stages:

THE LAUNCHING STAGE

THE GUIDING STAGE

THE SUMMARY STAGE

These three stages should be found in each of the four phases of the discussion (discovery, understanding, correlation, and application).

NOTES

Launching

When a ship is being launched, the anchor is pulled up and it is pushed out into the sea. This is exactly what the launching stage of each question does. It propels the group into the action of sharing their discoveries. The launching stage should be prepared in advance and written on the discussion outline.

Example: What did you discover about...?

Give the group time to think; don't be afraid of a little silence. The silence shows the group that you really do expect them to contribute and that you are only the chairperson--not the teacher. As they begin to share their thoughts and discoveries, accept their answers with real appreciation.

Guiding

The second stage of the discussion question guides the group into total participation. Guiding questions don't have to be prepared in advance since they simply encourage other members to add their contributions to the discussion.

Examples: What did someone else discover about this?

Does someone else want to share what he found?

Would someone else like to add to that?

What do some of the rest of you think?

If someone in the group is especially shy or reluctant to share, you may personalize the guiding stage to him.

Example: "John, what can you contribute to the discoveries we are making here?"

(Don't say, "John would you like to add anything to this?" A shy person will usually say, "No," and then be quiet. Try to ask the guiding question in such a way that you force the person to at least make a complete statement.

By watching faces you will see who is ready to contribute to the discussion. As you lead, remain in the background but in control through your questions. After everyone or almost everyone has shared, you are ready to summarize.

Summarizing

This is the last stage of the discussion question. You summarize by logically arranging the various points your group has contributed. This will give you an opportunity to highlight the most significant conclusions. At the end of this stage you are ready to return to your discussion outline sheet and launch the next discussion question.

Evaluating Ourselves as Leaders

Every person who leads a Bible discussion for the first time will feel inexperienced and somewhat apprehensive. Afterward, he may realize that everything did not go exactly the way he expected. If this happens to you, don't feel discouraged. It happens to everyone occasionally--even the most experienced leaders.

The important thing to remember is that with each study, the leader should seek to improve himself. This can only be done through prayerful and objective evaluation after each session. As the leader evaluates himself, he can determine whether or not his objectives were achieved and how he can learn from his experiences with the group.

Remember:

Skill in Bible discussion comes with practice and experience. Learn from each experience you have--positive or negative.

If you have a Christian friend or pastor who is experienced in discussion leading, you may ask him to sit in on your group from time to time. His observations and comments on your leadership can be extremely helpful. However, during those sessions when there is no one to help you critique your leadership, the following checklist may prove helpful for your personal evaluation.

The Leader Evaluation List

- Did all the members attend the discussion?
- Did you start and stop on time?

- Was it a discussion, conversation or a lecture?
- Did all the members participate adequately?
- Were you able to guide the discussion with your questions?
- Did your questions stimulate discussion?
- Did you launch, guide and summarize each section of the discussion?
- Did you get side-tracked or were you able to keep to the subject?
- Did anyone take over as the group leader or monopolize the discussion?
- Did you give adequate time to share written applications?
- Were the applications realistic, practical, and attainable?
- Did the discussion move along or drag?
- Did the discussion lead to further understanding of the discovered truths?
- Was there a good spirit within the group?

Evaluate Our Questions

Good, stimulating questions are powerful tools to the discussion leader. Questions prod thinking; thinking leads to reasoning, and reasoning to understanding. As a result of understanding, convictions and conclusions are formed which can be life-changing to the individual.

The questions asked by the group leader are therefore vital and necessary for the direction and effectiveness of the discussion. Every leader should be aware of the importance of the questions he asks, and take the time necessary to prepare them well. Good questions which have been carefully prepared and tested will stimulate and deepen the discussion. Poor questions, however, may result in a dull discussion, a monologue by the leader or a digression (sometimes radical) away from the subject to be discussed.

Because discussion questions are so important, a wise leader will take time to evaluate them carefully. The following checklist of five points can be helpful in such evaluation.

To whom is the question directed?

- To oneself --rhetorical
- To one member of the group --direct
- To the one who asked the previous question --reverse
- To someone, or to all, other than the previous questioner --relay
- To the group as a whole --general

Avoid rhetorical questions; they usually kill discussion at once.

Be careful with direct and reverse questions; the person asked may have nothing relevant to say.

Normally, general and relay questions stimulate the group the most.

What is the underlying purpose of the question?

- To accumulate facts
- To define, to clarify, to compare, to contrast, to develop
- To bring the group back to the subject, to change direction
- To arrive at conclusions, to summarize findings
- To involve or to stimulate application

What answer does the question expect or suggest?

Type of question

Leading	Answer	Value as a guiding question in leading discussion
Of course you all agree don't you?	Yes	None---it neither stimulates thought nor discussion.
Surely you don't think that do you?	No	

Limiting Question

What are the three great truths in this chapter?

Do you agree with that?

Open

Who is this all about?
Where did this happen?
When was this?
Why was it?
What was the outcome?
How can anyone benefit?

Wide-open

What do others think?
What does anyone think about that? What does anyone else think?

Answer

What the group thinks you think

Yes or No

People
Places
Times
Reasons
Results
Conditions,
etc.

Any relevant thoughts

Value as question

None--It is clear to all that you have an exact answer in mind. Instead of stimulating discussion, you have started a mind reading competition. It would be much better to leave out the "the" and the number in your question. Then it becomes an open question.

Some--It insists on a decision. But it must be followed by an open or wide-open question if you want to stimulate further discussion.

Much--It stimulates discovery, understanding or application according to how you word it.

The key words are who, where, when, why, what, how.

Very much--It stimulates maximum thought and discussion. It is best used after an open question has just been answered.

NOTES

How personally are the hearers involved by the question?

- What should other people do about this? --not at all
- What should 20th Century man do about this? --very little

- What should unbelievers or Christians do about this? --only if hearers are of the group named
- What should you do about this? --all, except the questioner
- What will we do about this? What shall we do about this? --fully committed

Notice how Jesus Christ helps His disciples to think objectively (without being personally involved) and then subjectively (being personally involved) about so important a matter as who He is (Mark 8:27-29).

verse 27--"Who do men say that I am?"

verse 29--"Who do you say that I am?"

What degree of urgency does the question suggest?

- What could we have done about this? --none
- What could we do about this? What can we do about this? --vague
- What shall we do about this? What should we do about this? --urgent
- What should we do about this as soon as possible? What should we do about this now? --most urgent
- What should we do about this whenever possible? --most urgent recurring

Evaluating the Discussion Group Members

Dr. Howard Hendricks says, "Each member of the group is faced with the right and the responsibility of being a mature participant. To accomplish this he must apply himself to the task of being an effective group member, constantly evaluating himself and his relationships with others."*

In the following amusing and informative material, Dr. Hendricks describes roles people play in a group situation. You will find it helpful in evaluating the members of your group.

Characteristics of Immaturity

Onlooker

Content to be a silent spectator. Nods, smiles and frowns. Other than this he is a passenger instead of a crew member.

Monopolizer

Brother Chatty rambles roughshod over the rest of the conversation with his verbal dexterity. Tenaciously clings to his right to say what he thinks--sometimes without thinking.

Belittler

This is Mr. Gloom. He takes the dim view. Minimizes the contributions of others. Usually has three good reasons why "it will never work."

Wisecracker

Feels called to a ministry of humor. Mr. Cherrio spends his time and talent as the group playboy. Indifferent to the subject at hand, he is always ready with the clever remark.

Manipulator

Brother Ulterior knows the correct approach to the problem, obviously. He manipulates the proceedings so his plan will be adopted.

Hitchhiker

Never had an original thought in his life. Unwilling to commit himself. Sits on the sidelines until the decision has jelled, then jumps on the bandwagon.

Pleader

Chronically afflicted with obsessions. Always pleading for some cause or certain actions. Feels led to share this burden frequently. One-track mind.

Sulker

Born in the objective case and lives in the kickative mood. The group won't accept his worthy contribution so he sulks.

Characteristics of Maturity

Proposer

Initiates ideas and action. Keeps things moving.

Encourager

Brings others into the discussion. Encourages others to contribute. Emphasizes the value of their suggestions and comments. Stimulates others to greater activity by approval and recognition.

Clarifier

The one who has the facility to step in when confusion, chaos and conflict dominate. He defines the problem concisely. He points out the issues clearly.

Analyzer

Examines the issues closely. Weighs the suggestions carefully. Never accepts anything without first "thinking it through."

Explorer

Always moving into new and different areas. Probing relentlessly. Never satisfied with the obvious or the traditional.

Mediator

Facilitates agreement or harmony between members; especially those who are "making phrases" at each other. Seeks to find mediating solutions acceptable to all.

Synthesizer

Is able to put the pieces together. Brings the different parts of the solution or plan together and synthesizes them.

Programmer

The one who is ready with the ways and means to put the proposal into effect. Adept at organization. Moves in the realm of action.

One way to use this material is to read this section to your discussion group and then have them react and respond to the various roles in the group. You may want them to do so privately.

*Used by permission Lead Out Nav. Press.

Choosing an Assistant

If your discussion group is growing and approaching eight to ten members, you may find it necessary to begin training an assistant to take over half of the group. This way your skill can be multiplied and you will be able to accommodate more people in the group or groups. An assistant is also valuable in making sure that each of the group members is helped individually in counselling situations as they arise.

In choosing a potential assistant, begin to prayerfully observe the group. One of them may seem to be more spiritually and emotionally mature than the others, with a better grasp of the Scriptures. He will be faithful in attendance and have his study well prepared.

NOTES

As God begins to single out that individual for you, you may approach him to inquire as to whether he would like to assist you in the group leadership. If he responds favorably, you can begin to pray together for the group members. After each session, ask your assistant to go through the checklists with you to discuss what happened and why. You will find that often he is better able to observe what is happening in the group because he is not involved in leading it. You may also want to go through these four sessions on Bible Discussion with him to allow him to learn the principles himself.

When your assistant is comfortable in helping you lead, you can allow him to take over certain sessions himself. Then you can evaluate him. If you must be gone for a session, you can ask him to take over. Then when you return, be sure to inquire as to how the study went and to discuss any areas he may have discovered that were weak in your absence.

Finally, as your group enlarges, he will be able to become an independent leader for half of the group and your outreach will be doubled.

It is tragic that many faithful Bible study members who have attended weekly group discussions for years have never been helped to lead their own groups. If they are transferred to another city or country where there is no discussion fellowship, they find themselves totally unable to even consider starting their own group.

It is a wise Bible discussion leader who will impart to his group members the basic skills of leading a group for themselves as they become mature.

Solutions to Common Problems

- How to control those who want to do all the talking.

This is difficult. Calling for contributions from others often helps--"What do others think?" Sometimes it is necessary to talk privately with the guilty one, to explain the necessity of group participation. Often you can only pray for the particular person.

- How to get back on the track when the discussion begins to wander.

It is difficult to get back on the track when the discussion has wandered off on a tangent. Therefore try not to go off the track. If you find that you have wandered from the subject, you may find it necessary

to suggest that although the discussion is interesting, it is not within the subject at hand. Tell the group that if there is extra time at the end of the hour, you can return to the other discussion. Then gently restate the original question and proceed. You may not find yourself very popular when you have to steer the group away from an interesting topic back to the study, so do it gently and politely.

- What to do when group members become less committed to the Bible study.

If a certain individual or individuals become spasmoidic in attendance or fail to have their homework done, you may find it necessary to review the objective and standards that the group set up when it first started. Reviewing the objectives and standards periodically renews vision and helps to motivate the members to commitment.

Absence from the group or failure to prepare may also indicate that an individual is having special personal needs or struggles which are putting him under unusual pressure. The sensitive and concerned leader will seek out the person for special "one to one" time and sharing.

Finally, the wise leader will realize that a dropoff in attendance and enthusiasm may point to a failure in his leadership. As mentioned earlier, if the study consistently ends late, individuals may be reluctant to attend at all for fear that the late discussion will conflict with other appointments. Draggy and unenthusiastic discussion may reveal hastily and poorly prepared launching questions. Whatever the symptom, look for the underlying cause. Don't give up, but seek to learn from these experiences and to serve those in your group.

- What to do when someone gives a wrong answer.

Never contradict a person's answer completely. He may be totally unscriptural in his thinking, but he has shared a portion of himself and his inner person with the group. If he is contradicted outrightly, he may feel rejected and tend to withdraw altogether. To handle such a situation, re-direct the same question back to the group.

"That's interesting. What do others think?"

"Can anyone think of some Scripture verses that can help us here?"

Others may be able to balance the answer by their sharing. When all have contributed who so desire, you can gently summarize the scriptural viewpoint and move on to the next question.

Conclusion

Bible study discussion is one of the most effective tools in follow-up and disciple-making. Through these groups young Christians can learn to know, understand and apply God's Word. The fellowship and encouragement offered by other Christians in the group also help to nurture the young believers.

To lead a discussion group effectively is one of the greatest assets a disciple-maker can possess. We therefore need to be conscious of its importance and constantly seek to improve our leadership skills. Aim to master the art of discussion-leading. It will take years of practice, but God can make you effective as you learn if you depend upon His wisdom and grace.

NOTES

Bible Study Discussion Outline Form

Lesson		Date
Time	Objective	
Introduction		
Prayer		
	Discussion Question	Answer
I		
	Discovery	
	Understanding	
	Correlation	
	Application	
Summarize		
II		
	Discovery	
	Understanding	
	Correlation	
	Application	
Summarize		

Time	III	Answer
	Discovery	
	Understanding	
	Correlation	
	Application	
	Summarize	
	IV	
	Discovery	
	Understanding	
	Correlation	
	Application	
	Summarize	
	Conclusion	
	Prayer	

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Bible explains what kind of relationship Christians can have with the Holy Spirit.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. What activities or characteristics of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in the following verses?

Acts 13:2 _____

I Corinthians 2:10 _____

I Corinthians 2:12-13 _____

I Corinthians 2:11 _____

Ephesians 4:30 _____

Do these verses indicate that the Holy Spirit is a real person (though not physical)? Explain.

In the Bible, the Holy Spirit has several names, including Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Spirit of Christ, Spirit of Jesus, and Spirit of God.

2. What indications are there in the following verses that the Holy Spirit is God?

Genesis 1:2 _____

Hebrews 9:14 _____

Psalms 139:7-8 _____

3. When Ananias and Sapphira forfeited their lives (Acts 5:1-10), to whom had they lied?

Verse 3 _____

Verse 4 _____

THE TRINITY

God exists as three persons (referred to as the Trinity)--yet He is one. The three persons of the Trinity are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three are one in substance, and function in perfect harmony.

The human mind cannot fully comprehend God, especially His revelation of Himself as the Trinity. Yet we see unity with diversity in all parts of God's creation, all of which to a limited degree illustrate God's marvelous nature: one God in three persons.

The Father is God invisible--John 1:18.

The Son is God revealed--John 1:14-18,
Hebrews 1:1-4

The Holy Spirit is God working in men--
John 16:8; I Corinthians 2:10-11 and 6:19-20.

(Other passages that teach about the Trinity are: Matthew 3:16-17 and 28:19; John 14:16; II Corinthians 13:14; and I Peter 1:2).

WHO HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

4. How is the Holy Spirit involved in every conversion?

John 3:5-6

Ephesians 1:13-14

Titus 3:5

5. What has happened to every member of the body of Christ?
I Corinthians 12:13

6. Read Romans 8:9-14. What statements indicate that every believer has received the Holy Spirit?

7. In spite of their imperfect lives, what does Paul remind the believers in Corinth? I Corinthians 3:16

8. Review your answers to question 12 in Book One, chapter 4. How have your convictions been strengthened regarding the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

9. Read John 16:7-15.

a. What is the Spirit of God doing today? Verses 8-11

b. What is He doing for believers? Verse 13

c. Who or what does He emphasize? Verses 14-15

10. Read Galatians 5:19-25. Notice the works (plural) of the flesh as contrasted with the fruit (singular) of the Spirit. Why do you think the word fruit is singular although several items are mentioned? (Compare with John 15:5).

Just as light diffuses into a rainbow of colors when it shines through a prism, so the pure life of Christ can be displayed in your life by an array of Christian virtues.

11. The victorious Christian life is the subject of Romans 8. How does the Holy Spirit help you live in victory?

Verse 2 _____

Verse 14 _____

Verse 16 _____

Verse 26 _____

12. What role did the Holy Spirit play in Paul's missionary work?

Acts 13:2-4 _____

Acts 16:6-7 _____

I Corinthians 2:4 _____

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

13. The foundational passage for the subject of spiritual gifts is I Corinthians 12-14. Answer the following questions from I Corinthians 12.

a. How many believers have received a gift (a spiritual ability) from the Holy Spirit? Verses 7, 11

b. Who decides which gifts are given to a believer? Verses 11,18

c. For what purpose are these gifts given? (Compare verse 7 with I Peter 4:10).

d. Why is there a variety of gifts in the body? Verse 14-19

e. Does God want everyone to have the same gifts? Verse 28-30

f. What gifts are mentioned in this chapter? Verse 8-10 and 28-30

14. What other gifts are mentioned in Romans 12:6-8 and in Ephesians 4-11?

15. What are one or two ways that you have been best able to help other Christians?

Perhaps what you have listed is a gift from the Holy Spirit.
Ask yourself:

- Am I fulfilled in this activity?
- Are others fulfilled by this activity?
- Does unity and spiritual growth result from this activity?

How might you further develop your ability to help other Christians?

Are you anxious to discover your spiritual gifts? God will show you this as you grow spiritually and lead a Christlike life. Remember you are to bear all the fruit of the Spirit, but not to possess all the gifts of the Spirit.

16. If someone urged you to seek a particular gift of the Holy Spirit, what scriptural guidelines from I Corinthians 12-14 could you use in determining your response?

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

17. Read Ephesians 5:18-21.

a. What is God's commandment concerning the Holy Spirit?
Verse 18

b. List several results of being filled with the Spirit.
Verses 19-21

18. What is being filled with the Holy Spirit compared to in Ephesians 5:18? How are they similar and how are they different?

SIMILAR

DIFFERENT

19. What are some other results of being filled with the Spirit?

Acts 4:31

Acts 11:24

Romans 5:5 _____

20. What are you warned against in your relationship to the Holy Spirit?

I Thessalonians 5:19 _____

Ephesians 4:30 _____

21. Look at the verses surrounding Ephesians 4:30.

a. What are some of the things that grieve the Holy Spirit?

b. Is there anything in your life that grieves the Holy Spirit?

c. What steps do you need to take?

Remember These Points:

Review the chapter subtopics and use them as an outline to write your own summary of the chapter here.

[illegible]



Recruiting a Prospective Disciple

There is strong competition today to gain people's allegiance. Many civic minded organizations are attracting people by the score. If it is not the Red Cross or the United Fund, then it is the lodge, the Boy Scouts, the women's club, or a thousand and one other committees, programs and organizations. As if this were not enough, we face the constant secularization of our society with its accompanying materialism. There is the theater, the country club, horse racing, television, football and a host of other sports.

Nowadays if a young man wants to move up the organizational ladder of a corporation, he has to pledge his total commitment to the company. Eight hours a day, five days a week, and good, and good, hard work are just not enough. Go-ahead corporations want the young man to eat, sleep, and breathe their vision or product.

Into this arena of competition step the bold claims of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). Today, as always, Jesus is calling for disciples, not just Sunday Christians. His men and women refuse to yield to the lure of the world's system. In the world, yes; of the world, never. This type of a person has only one Lord--Jesus Christ. He and He alone orders the life; He determines where time, money, and other resources are spent.

As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we are in the business of recruiting men and women to a life of discipleship. As we do this, there are some basic, though often forgotten principles, that are essential to follow if we are to recruit the kind of people God can use. Earlier, we discussed certain characteristics or qualities that have to be present in a person's life if he is to be usable in God's sight. Here we want to consider things that the recruiter must implement if he is to get quality people involved in God's work. Again, let me remind you that this is in no way an exhaustive list, but is simply meant to stimulate your thinking.

- Recruit to a vision, not to an organization.

An organization, however great it may be, is never highest in God's value system. God gives a vision. An organization must serve this vision. It can never be the vision. By organization, I mean any organized work, whether it be a church--Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian; a Christian organization--Young life, Youth for Christ, The Navigators, Campus Crusade, Inter Varsity; or a group within a church --the men's fellowship, the women's guild, the young people's gathering.

We do not decide to have an organization and then seek to staff it with a president, vice-president, secretary. On the contrary, we

involve ourselves in what we know to be the will of God, and if through that involvement we become numerically prosperous and need to organize, well and good.

The disciple must be careful never to preach faithfulness in order to make his organization more successful. How easy it is to fall into this trap. Our Sunday School attendance begins to lag, so we have a membership drive. From all outward appearances, this is to get people involved in God's work, but more often than not, it has to do with statistics and breaking records rather than majoring on people getting into the Word of God. If we emphasize meeting people's spiritual needs, the chances are that membership numbers will take care of themselves.

Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me" (John 12:32). John explains in the next verse that this was to signify the type of death the Christ should die. There is, nonetheless, a fundamental truth suggested here--when we, in our ministry, exalt the person of Jesus Christ, men will be drawn to Him.

I once had the privilege of observing a church in upper Michigan. Every year, the pastor, along with the elders, would ask the representatives from each group in the church to defend their right for existence on the basis of two criteria: (1) The legitimacy of their goals and objectives; and (2) the degree to which they achieved these goals and objectives.

If any group did not meet both of these criteria, the elders of the church would disband it. What a terrific idea! If we would ruthlessly apply this practice in all of our churches, it would doubtless contribute to a more vital and healthy fellowship.

The women in a local church decide to pray for the missionaries their church is sponsoring. Once a week they gather for that purpose. The first week they meet in Mrs. Jones' house, and Mrs. Jones prepares for them an assortment of cookies and tea and coffee. The next week they are at Mrs. Smith's house, and she, not wanting to be outdone by Mrs. Jones, does a slightly more elaborate job of preparing refreshments. As the weeks become months, the food preparation becomes increasingly more prominent. More and more time is spent around the table chatting, and less and less time is spent praying. The original purpose for the women's missionary guild was noble indeed, but their vision, which constituted the reason for their meeting, somehow went out of focus.

On numerous occasions in various dormitories and military barracks I have confronted young men with the claims of Jesus Christ. Inevitably, when I meet someone and tell him I would like to talk with him about Christ, his reply will be, "What denomination are you with?" Have we brainwashed the non-Christian world into believing that we are more interested in recruiting people to our particular denomination than we are to the person of Jesus Christ? It is so easy to fall into the trap of asking people to be faithful

to pet programs rather than to the will of God. I learned long ago that those we are trying to recruit can tell the difference between the two.

- Do not create the impression that people are doing you or God a favor by being faithful to the cause of Christ.

The Apostle John relates an incident that occurred in the ministry of our Lord Jesus. The people wanted to crown Him as their king, but Jesus, sensing that their motives were impure, countered with some honest but hard-hitting observations. John says, "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." At this point, Jesus did a rather startling thing. He turned to the Twelve and said to them, "Will ye also go away?" (John 6:66-67)

I do not believe that the Lord Jesus was feeling sorry for Himself. No, our Lord Jesus was once again underlining the cost involved in being His disciple.

If we neglect this important principle, we run the risk of recruiting unfaithful men. Deuteronomy 20:8 records God's prerequisites for the men who were to be involved in battle. "And the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they shall say, 'What man is there that is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart'."

Getting involved with God has always been on a volunteer basis. Irrespective of how great the need--and the need is great--Christ will not sacrifice quality in order to gain quantity. As His ambassadors, neither can we.

One day I was asked to preach in one of the churches in the town where I lived. The pastor was to be out of town. As I talked with one of the elders on the phone, I asked if he would like me to teach in the Sunday School as well as preach at the morning worship service. He assured me that this would not be necessary since they had their appointed Sunday School teachers who would do the job.

After the morning service I was standing by the door shaking hands with the members of the congregation as they left when suddenly the superintendent of the Sunday School bustled up to me. With a rather flustered look on his face, he stuffed some materials into my hand, saying, "Here, I would like you to teach the young adults class; Mr. Griffin is not at church today."

I pointed out to him that I had been assured that it would not be necessary for me to teach Sunday School, and for that reason I was not prepared. Turning to leave he mumbled, "Well, if you don't teach, no one else will; and besides, I am not that prepared for the lesson I have to take either!"

So there I stood with the Sunday School materials in my hand wondering how it was that such a thing could happen. I pondered it for some time afterward and finally decided that it was probably the

result of something that took place months previously when the superintendent was in the process of recruiting teachers. One by one, he would ask people to teach a class, and one by one they would turn him down with a statement to the effect that they did not feel qualified.

Now take the example of Mr. Elliott. He did not really believe that he was unqualified when he gave this excuse. If the superintendent had said, "Mr. Elliott, I realize that you are not a qualified teacher, but are rather incompetent in this field; however, because of our desperate plight, I wonder if you would teach a Sunday School class," Mr. Elliott would have left the church in a rage. No, the excuse he used was his way of saying that he did not want to pay the price of getting involved.

With everyone declining, the superintendent got desperate and began to plead with some of the people. One person eventually conceded, "Well, all right. As a favor to you, I will go ahead and teach."

Now I ask you, with this kind of an attitude, what sort of job is he going to do? His preparation will be haphazard and will probably take place during the commercials as he watches his favorite television programs on Saturday night. And if he does not feel like showing up or if he has some other commitments on Sunday, he does not hesitate to be absent.

Our Saviour feels honored and privileged to have us committed as His disciples, but God forbid that we should feel that we are doing Him a favor in being faithful. Similarly, if we cannot staff our programs with the right kind of people, then we should seriously think about terminating the program. I believe that there is one thing worse than not having any program at all, and that is having a program with the wrong type of leadership.

● Grow into business--don't go into business.

This principle teaches us that we should start small and build in depth rather than concentrate on becoming large and as a result end up being top heavy. When you try to go into business rather than grow into business, you spread your resources thin and dissipate your efforts (see Prov. 24:27).

Let's say that you and I decided that we wanted to go deer hunting together and our objective was to bag as many deer as we could. Early one morning we find ourselves at the edge of a large clearing where 30 to 40 deer are grazing. We have two guns with us, a 30.06 with a telescopic sight and a 20-gauge shotgun.

Excitedly I whisper to you, "Use the shotgun--that way we might hit almost every deer in the clearing."

"But we won't kill any of them that way," you whisper back. "Let's use the 30.06, for then we can at least get one, maybe even two."

"Yes, but if you use the 30.06, all the rest of them will get away."

Here, then, is our dilemma. Do we want the satisfaction of knowing that we hit every deer in the clearing even though it means that all of them will get away? Or, do we want the satisfaction of bringing home one or possibly two deer, knowing that in so doing we left the rest untouched. I am sure that we would be unanimous in our decision to use the 30.06 rather than the shotgun.

Our ministry should have a pulsating rhythm to it of thrust and converse. First, recruit a small band of men and then throttle back and build deeply into their lives. It is only after you have properly disciplined them that you should thrust out again into another program of recruitment. Do not seek to involve yourself with more people than you can adequately handle.

- Tailor the job to the person rather than the person to the job.

We must be extremely careful not to recruit people to use them. Our goal should be to help them, and people can usually tell the difference.

When the Lord Jesus met the rich, young ruler, He told Him to give away his wealth to the poor and then come and follow him. The Saviour was not trying to use the young man by asking him to lend support to the ministry, but rather was trying to meet his need--the first step being to divorce himself from his inordinate affection for wealth.

Prayerfully determine what the person you are helping needs and then help him in that area rather than finding out what he can do best and asking him to do that. The time will come when we will want to maximize his gifts and abilities, but in the initial stages of the discipling process, we must major in his needs. Our Lord Jesus is far more interested in what a person is than in what he can do. "It is for you to be--it is for God to do."

- Discipleship must take into consideration the development of the whole man.

Development implies training. Someone might well say, "I thought we were discussing recruitment at this point, not training." We are, but we must remember that in the Christian life, unlike other pursuits, recruitment and training go hand in hand. Let me illustrate.

When a young man is recruited into the Marine Corps, the first person he meets is a very polite, friendly officer who expounds to him all the virtues and advantages of the Corps. After the recruit has signed on the dotted line, he is sent to boot camp, and there meets the meanest, ugliest, most unpleasant man on the face of the earth, his drill instructor. The recruit's initial reaction is, "What in the world have I gotten myself into?" But by then it is too late. There is absolutely nothing the recruit can do about it. The drill instructor could not care less how the recruit feels about him, the training process, or the Marine Corps in general. He is involved in training only, not recruitment.

This is not so in the Christian life. The Bible teaches that our involvement in Christ's army is strictly on a volunteer basis--a man can leave anytime he wants. Recruitment, therefore, to discipleship must continue during the training process. We continue to recruit the would-be disciple to Christ by showing him that we are seeking to help him develop in every area of his life.

For the sake of simplicity, let me suggest that development can be categorized into three areas: teaching, training, and building. I will define teaching as the imparting of knowledge, training as the imparting of skill, and building as the imparting of character. The development of our disciple must include all three: teaching, training, and building.

Suppose we want to teach our man to do evangelism. We sit him down and show him the various techniques, such as the ones we saw in Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman. He learns how to open a conversation about Christ. He memorizes key verses on the various aspects of the Gospel. He may even master two or three illustrations that can be used when witnessing to someone. Having taught him these things, have we accomplished our job? No, for he has never gone out and talked to anyone about Christ.

So now we need to train him. As the two of us go out to do evangelism together, both of us are fearful, he more than I, so I promise that I will begin the conversation; all he needs to do is observe. We do this a number of times until gradually I begin to involve him in the conversation with me. As he becomes increasingly more comfortable and proficient, he takes more and more of the conversation himself. Finally he is doing all the talking, and I am only observing. He can now lead a person to Christ as well as I can--maybe better. Is my job of imparting evangelism to him now finished? No, not yet.

Suppose that after all this your man has no heart for evangelism? Suppose that in his theology he believes that God will save whom He will save and let perish whom He will let perish, and that, since in the final analysis evangelism is God's work, not man's, there is no need to get involved in evangelism. If this is the case, then he will cease to evangelize the day we part company.

One final factor is necessary for his development, the building process. Here we seek to change the man's sense of values, and thereby ultimately to affect his whole personality. You can see that the farther we go in the development process, the more difficult the task becomes. Building is far more difficult than either teaching or training. How do you build into a man's life? How do you go about influencing personality? Here are some suggestions.

- Do a Bible study on the subject. Help him see God's perspective on the matter.

- Create an environment in which the desired character trait is evident. If he stays in an environment in which evangelism is evident, then the chances are he will embrace it as a conviction of his own.

- Most important, pray it into his life.

Scripture says that Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). Here we see the four areas of our Saviour's development as a young man:

Wisdom--the intellect

Stature--the physical

In Favor with God--the spiritual

In Favor with Man--the social.

When we recruit men and women to become disciples of Jesus Christ, we should think of their development in these four areas. This does not mean that we have to be an expert in each of these areas in order to train a disciple. Our job is not to accomplish the whole task but to see that it gets done.

This is where the body of Christ complements you in the disciplining ministry. Draw on the experience and expertise of a variety of people. As you work with your Timothy, your job is simply to see that he gets all the help and attention that he needs--just as a parent does with his child.

- There must be a proper balance between love and rebuke.

There is probably as much said in the Bible about love as about any other one subject. God's disposition toward us is one of love, and He expects our disposition toward others to be the same. You will remember that the Lord Jesus called love one of the marks of discipleship, for He said, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one for another."

But this love must be blended with rebuke. Possibly one of the greatest weaknesses in the body of Christ today is that we have surrendered our responsibility to discipline one another. Solomon in all his wisdom was directly to the point on this subject when he said, "Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Proverbs 27:5-6).

A personal friend once shared with me that his application from Bible study was to pray that God would cause at least one person each week to rebuke him on some area of his life that needed attention. That's quite a challenge, isn't it?

"Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee; rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee" (Proverbs 9:8). Quite often, the reason people do not rebuke us is that they are afraid of our response. They are

afraid we will take it in a negative way, and they do not want to have their friendship or relationship with us jeopardized. So, when they see things amiss in our lives and want to help us, they are constrained to keep quiet because they suspect that we are "scorners" rather than "wise men."

When was the last time somebody came up to you and pointed out something wrong in your life? If it has not been for quite awhile, it is certainly not because your life is above reproach. Things need correction in your life just as they do in mine. The only way people will call these areas to our attention is if they realize that we are truly wise people who will recognize that any rebuke they administer is done in love.

People are drawn into discipleship by giant doses of love. But if love is to come across as biblical love, it must be blended with rebuke. The kind of people God can use are those who respond to such a blend; Jesus cannot use people who feel sorry for themselves when corrected.

- You recruit a man to discipleship by being his servant.

The mark of leadership is servanthood. Chesty Puller, considered by many as "Mr. Marine," stated once that the Marine Corps needed men who could lead, not command. A commander tells people what to do; a leader shows people what to do by personal example.

This is definitely one of the toughest aspects of the discipling process. All of us like to be pampered and waited upon, but few of us like to roll up our sleeves and wait on others. Yet, this is precisely how people are recruited to the cause of discipleship. Few things are as impressive as seeing a person voluntarily serve others. Men, when was the last time that you served your wife by helping to do the dishes, or did some other job that needed doing around the house? When was the last time you helped your children by making their beds or by tidying their rooms for them?

All of us who know God's Word like to be called servants, but none of us want to act like servants. As a Christian when you call me a servant, you pay me one of the highest compliments I can be paid. When you treat me like a servant, I feel insulted. We all want to be called the servants of Jesus Christ, yet we resist like crazy acting like servants of Jesus Christ.

- You reproduce after your own kind whether you like it or not.

This is one of the most sobering truths in the Bible. Many cannot and will not identify with the Apostle Paul when he says, "Be ye followers of me." We piously say to ourselves and our disciples, "Paul may have been able to say that, but I certainly could never say that. Don't follow me, follow Jesus Christ." The fact of the matter is your disciple will follow you whether you want him to or not.

When you begin to help a person in the Christian life, he will follow you just as naturally as a young child follows his parents, and more likely than not, he will become what you are, not what you say. I have seen this again and again in the Christian life. The leader may preach repeatedly that people ought to be involved in evangelism but unless he himself is involved in it, the chances are very remote that his people will be involved. Many illustrations in Scripture bear witness to the fact that you reproduce after your own kind. Abraham passed his wife off as his sister in order to save his skin (Genesis 20:2). His son Isaac did the same thing (Genesis 26:7). The Bible tells us that Eli, the high priest, did a poor job in raising his sons (1 Samuel 2:12-17). He reproduced this quality in the life of his protege, Samuel (1 Samuel 8:1-5).

It is imperative, therefore, that you major on being the kind of person you want your disciple to become. You can know for certain that you will reproduce what you are into his life. That is why this book began with the chapter, "The Kind of Person God Uses." In order for these qualities to be in the life of your disciple, they must first be in your life.

If you suspect for a moment that the essential qualities of a disciple are not in your own life, then this is where everything must start for you. Go back to chapter 1 and begin by implementing qualities of godliness into your own life.



SEVENTH MONTH

		FIRST YEAR		NEW TESTAMENT		SECOND YEAR	
DATE	OLD TESTAMENT			NEW TESTAMENT	OLD TESTAMENT		
JUL							
1	JOSHUA	5	LUKE	4:1-30	ECCL.	2	
2		6		4:31-44		3,4	
3		7		5:1-26		5,6	
4		8		5:27-39		7,8	
5		9		6:1-23		9	
6		10		6:24-38		10-12	
7		11,12		6:39-49	SONG SOL.	1-3	
8		13,14		7:1-17		4,5	
9		15		7:18-23		6-8	
10		16-18		7:24-35	ISAIAH	1	
11		19		7:36-50		2,3	
12		20,21		8:1-3		4-6	
13		22		8:4-25		7	
14		23		8:26-56		8	
15		24		9:1-9		9,10	
16	JUDGES	1		9:10-36		11,12	
17		2		9:37-62		13	
18		3		10:1-16		14,15	
19		4		10:17-42		16,17	
20		5		11:1-28		18,19	
21		6		11:29-54		20,21	
22		7		12:1-40		22	
23		8		12:41-59		23,24	
24		9		13:1-5		25-27	
25		10		13:6-35		28	
26		11		14:1-24		29	
27		12,13		14:25-35		30,31	
28		14,15		15		32	
29		16		16		33	
30		17,18		17:1-10		34-36	
31		19		17:11-37		37	

EIGHTH MONTH

		FIRST YEAR				SECOND YEAR	
DATE	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT		OLD TESTAMENT			
AUG							
1	JUDGES 20	LUKE	18:1-14	ISAIAH	38,39		
2	21		18:15-43		40		
3	RUTH 1		19:1-27		41		
4	2		19:28-48		42		
5	3,4		20:1-18		43		
6	I SAMUEL 1		20:19-47		44		
7	2		21:1-9		45-47		
8	3		21:10-38		48		
9	4		22:1-38		49		
10	5,6		22:39-71		50,51		
11	7,8		23:1-25		52-54		
12	9		23:26-56		55,56		
13	10		24:1-27		57,58		
14	11,12		24:28-53		59		
15	13	GALATIANS 1			60,61		
16	14		2:1-10		62-64		
17	15		2:11-21		65,66		
18	16		3	JEREMIAH 1			
19	17		4:1-11		2		
20	18		4:12-31		3		
21	19		5		4		
22	20		6		5		
23	21,22	EPHESIANS 1			6		
24	23		2		7		
25	24		3		8		
26	25		4:1-16		9,10		
27	26,27		4:17-32		11		
28	28,29		5:1-20		12,13		
29	30,31		5:21-33		14,15		
30	II SAMUEL 1		6		16		
31	2	PHILIPPIANS 1			17		

ETS 3/7

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____

Topic Discipleship

Lesson Commitment to Discipleship

Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "Commitment to Discipleship"		
Bible Study		
Do "Spiritual Warfare"		
Write a set of Discussion Questions.		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Bible Reading Chart		
Disciples Are Made Not Born--Chapter 7		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 1 person to win to Christ.		
Pray for your disciple.		
Meet with your disciple.		
Scripture Memory		
Proverbs 3:9-10		
II Corinthians 9:6-7		
Review previous verses.		

[illegible]

COMMITMENT TO DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is Lordship

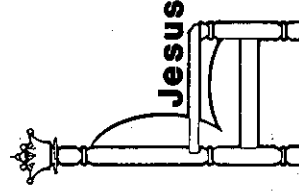
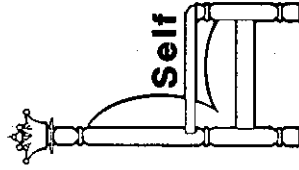
In Philipppians we are told that God has exalted Jesus as Lord. The day is coming when every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

Wherein God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philipppians 2:9-11

Discipleship is making Jesus the Lord of life. This is done by an act of my will--turning over the controls of my life to Him. When Jesus is in the driver's seat of my life, He will lead me into God's perfect plan for my life.

Before a man comes to Christ, Self is seated upon the throne of his life. However, when a person becomes a disciple, he climbs off the throne and invites Jesus to rule, direct, and guide in every area. Jesus now takes the throne and assumes control of the disciple--leading him into God's will.



When Paul wrote to the Romans about this matter, he said:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

When Paul wrote this to the Romans about sacrificing, they knew exactly what he was talking about. It meant offering up something that was alive, to present it dead unto God. In fact, the word Paul used here means "to slaughter an animal." However, Paul says it is to be a living sacrifice. That means that it is outwardly alive, but inwardly it is to be surrendered (dead to self) to do God's will.

Paul speaks of the same thing when he says in Galatians,

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

This means I am physically alive but Christ is in control, and I am following God's will in every area of my life. To be crucified means:

- The man on the cross is looking in only one direction.
- He is not turning back.
- He has no further plans of his own.

(A. W. Tozer)

In other words, my own self-life is ended and the life of Christ is all in all. This is true discipleship.

Prerequisites to Discipleship

Count the Cost

In one of Jesus' parables he reminds us to count the cost before we commit ourselves to a life of discipleship.

ship. He doesn't want us to say one thing and then do something else, but to be men and women of our word.

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he hath sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassador, and desireth conditions of peace.

Luke 14:27-32

Out of every 100 missionary candidates, only two ever make it to the mission field, and only one of the two returns for the second term. Ninety-eight of the one hundred candidates said "yes" too quickly without counting the cost involved in becoming a missionary. When conflicting "opportunities" or obstacles arose, these candidates were not willing to complete their commitment. Jesus said in His parable that when such things happen, those who are looking from the outside at Christianity begin to mock and scorn the cause of Christ because these Christians did not live up to their word. Satan also mocks their shaky commitment and reminds them that he is still controlling large areas of their lives. Surely Satan must also mock God Himself in such cases, laughing at the indecisiveness of those whom God calls His own.

Evaluate Carefully

God, therefore, is very careful to warn His children to think and evaluate thoroughly before deciding to become real disciples of Christ. Those who speak quickly and fail to live up to their word not only displease God, they also violate the Scriptures.

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no

pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldst not vow than that thou shouldst vow and not pay.

Ecclesiastes 5:1-5

Total Submission

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Luke 9:23

Daily I must take up my cross and say, "No" to my selfish desires, and give my life to God's plan and will for every area of living. We are often willing to turn over large portions of our lives to God, but Satan encourages us to hang on to some secret or pet sin. Because we are unwilling to give it up to God, our usefulness is limited. We are only partially submitted and that is not good enough.

If Jesus is not Lord of all,
He is not Lord at all.

Availability

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Acts 9:6

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Isaiah 6:8

Christians often think they are available to God when they really aren't because of financial obligations and debts. In this age of credit buying, many Christians are finding that instead of being the slaves of God, they are the slaves of their credit cards and the department stores. If God were to call them to go somewhere else for His sake, they would not be able to get untangled from their debts for months or even years. Again, the usefulness is limited because of the unavailability.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

II Timothy 2:4

No Turning Back

...no man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:62

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

II Timothy 4:10

When a person turns back, he pushes Jesus off his life's throne. He takes back the controls himself or may even turn them over to the devil.

Demas was one who had not only committed himself to the Great Commission, he had actually become a disciple and a missionary, serving faithfully with Paul in the Gospel. However in II Timothy, which was written at the end of Paul's life, we find Demas has given up and left the ministry. The reason was he loved this present world.

No matter how long one has been a disciple or a servant of God, there is always the danger he will be led out of God's will by the enemy. Satan has always operated from the premise that every man has a price for which he will sell out and turn back.

Finishing the race

The only way a person can finish the course in victory is to keep looking straight ahead at Jesus and at the rewards He is reserving in heaven for those who fully follow Him.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who

for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Finishers of the race

The great heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 understood this vital principle. Many of them died in faith before they could see God's promises fulfilled in this life. Yet they did not turn back, for their eyes were fixed in heaven.

All these whom we have mentioned maintained their faith but died without actually receiving God's promises, though they had seen them in the distance, had hailed them as true. They freely admitted that they lived on this earth as exiles and foreigners. Men who say that mean, of course, that their eyes are fixed upon their true home land. If they had meant the particular country they had left behind, they had ample opportunity to return. No, the fact is that they longed for a better country altogether, nothing less than a heavenly one. And because of this faith of theirs, God is not ashamed to be called their God for he has prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 11:13-16 (JBP)

One Master

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

God must have total control. We cannot serve two masters or have the best of both worlds. We spent a whole lesson on this because it is so important.

Faith or Trust

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalms 37:4-5

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

Discipleship means turning your life over to God and then trusting His sovereignty to provide for every situation.

Obedience

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:21

When God makes known His will for me I must set about to do it with all my heart and soul.

Areas of Commitment

Self

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

We have spent a lot of time on this subject in various other lessons so we won't cover the subject in depth in this lesson. However, I do want you to ask yourself several questions:

- Am I really dead?
- Can God do anything He pleases in and through my life?
- Am I exchanging my life for the fulfilling of the Great Commission?

Reputation

NOTES

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men...

Philippians 2:5-7

Many people work their whole life to establish a reputation that will enhance their self worth. They want the world to know that they are:

- Rich ● Powerful ● Intelligent ● Famous
- Beautiful ● Great ● Successful

But all of these qualities are so transient. They are only good during this life and often they disappear long before this life ends. Even more devastating is the fact that people who are concentrating on these temporal qualities of life often feel ashamed of being Christians since Christianity somehow does not enhance a sophisticated lifestyle and reputation.

Ask yourself:

- Am I willing to be openly identified as a child of God, or am I a secret Christian?
- Am I more concerned about what people think of me or what God thinks?

Possessions

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

This was the message Jesus tried to communicate to the rich young ruler. His possessions kept him from God's best for his life. Not only was he robbing himself in this life but also in the life to come.

We need to ask ourselves:

- Have I turned over my possessions to God?
- Is there anything which I have that I would be unwilling for God to take away if He should choose?

Money

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

I Timothy 6:10

From this passage we must understand that it is not money, but rather the love of money which is the root of all evil. Greed can cause people to destroy both themselves and those they love, and even after they have attained great wealth, they still are unsatisfied. Someone once asked a multi-millionaire which of his million dollar achievements had really satisfied him and made him fulfilled. He replied, "The next one!"

God is the only one who gives us the ability to obtain wealth. We must recognize this and not begin to think that we have become rich by our own power.

And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

God has promised to care for our physical needs, but He has not promised to make all of us rich. God does want us to learn to rest in Him and trust Him with our money whether it is a great fortune or only a small sum.

Paul reminded Timothy:

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

I Timothy 6:6-9

We need to ask ourselves:

- Does my money bring me closer to God or drive me away from Him?
- Do I set aside God's portion first or last when I receive my income?
- Do I return to God at least a tithe?

Education

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

It is a tragedy how many students don't have time for God in their busy schedules. Although they feel called by God to study academically, they somehow ignore God's call to study His Word and worship Him too. God will never call us to a place where we don't have time to put His kingdom first since He commanded us to do it.

We need to ask ourselves:

- Are you a student or a Christian first?
- Will your studies keep you from your walk with God or your ministry?
- Do you place the same priority on your study of the Scriptures as you do on your schoolwork?

Marriage

NOTES

And the Lord said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 2:18-24

Next to receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, the choice of a life partner is the most important decision one will ever make. Marriage can either multiply and enhance your effectiveness or it can keep you from being used as God intended. Marriage can be a little bit of heaven on earth or it can be a foretaste of hell. In either case, marriage is for keeps and cannot be dissolved in the eyes of God. It is therefore a very crucial decision which will affect your entire life, and Satan will do all within his power to see you select the wrong partner.

Ask yourself:

- Would I marry a non-Christian knowing that God commands Christians not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers?
 - Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
 - Am I seeking God's will as to whether or not He wants me to marry, and if so, am I willing to leave the choice of a partner to Him?
- Will I take back the Lordship of Christ in this area?

II Corinthians 6:14

Vocation

Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

II Timothy 1:9

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

Ephesians 4:1

When God calls a person to a certain profession, it is not primarily because of the status or wealth it holds, but because He wants the person to be a witness for Him in that job. Satan constantly tries to sidetrack people by getting them over-busy with their work, or by convincing them that their colleagues are too closed and cannot be reached. However, if God has truly led you into that profession, He will make it possible for you to be a witness. If you find you cannot, it would be better to leave and get another job than to stay where you are and be sterile for the cause of Christ.

We need to ask:

- Am I willing to let God choose my vocation?
- Will I use my vocation as a means to fulfill the Great Commission?
- Will my vocation be so demanding that I will have to put God second in life?

Friends

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17

True friends love you at all times and in all circumstances. One of the great blessings of the Christian life is the Christian friends the Lord gives. These friends not only love you with human, brotherly love, they can also be channels of God's love to you.

However, there are those who are not true friends at all. The wrong friends may use you or be a bad influence upon you. Just as God wants to give you a set of friends, Satan is also very eager to give you his set of friends.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise:
but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 13:20

How would you answer the following questions?

- Do my friends help or hinder my relationship with God?
- Do I put my friends above God in priority?

Leisure Time

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:16

Rest and recreation are very important parts of our lives. They are necessary if we are to function effectively and maintain our physical and mental health. However, just as disciples are required to commit all other parts of their lives to Christ, leisure time must be under His Lordship as well. Taking a vacation does not mean taking a vacation from God, but with God. In our leisure, as well as in our work, God must be our chief priority.

- Does God have His tithe of 2.4 hours every day of my life?
- Do I take holidays from God or with God?
- Do I consider using my leave-time from work for Christian renewal, such as a Christian camp or conference?
- When on vacation, do I still seek to build His Kingdom by witnessing to others?

Plans

NOTES

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Planning is meant to be a help to us in organizing our time, but to many people it becomes a source of frustration and defeat. When Christ is not Lord of our plans and allowed to overrule them at His pleasure, we become enslaved to them. We grow rigid and inflexible, pushing to get our plans accomplished rather than prayerfully allowing God to use or change our plans.

Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

James 4:13-15

Evaluate your current plans by asking:

- Are they mine or God's?
- Are they built around God's will?
- Are they built around the fulfilling of the Great Commission?
- Are they rigid and inflexible or available to God to change?

If we were to ask your closest friends to evaluate you in these various areas of your life, who would they say controls these areas of your life, you or God?

If Jesus is not Lord, surrender these areas to God in a special act of dedication. Let him have control over every area of life.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

To discover and apply the truth of God's word is to enter the field of spiritual warfare. A battle rages over the hearts and minds of men. But growth comes with conflicts, and God has promised that "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loves us" (Romans 8:37).

THE BATTLE

1. How is the Christian life described by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:12?

2. Read II Timothy 2:3-4. How would you describe the kind of life Paul wrote about?

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Knowing the enemy is as important for a Christian as for a military commander--both are engaged in battle.

3. In Revelation 12:9-10, what names are given to the enemy?

What does he do?

4. In the last instance where Satan's name is recorded in Scripture (Revelation 20:7-10), what happens to him?

5. How did Satan discredit God's word when he deceived Eve? Genesis 3:1-5

Satan makes it his continual business to cast doubt on God's word and to discredit God's Son.

6. What can be learned about Satan in the following verses?

Luke 8:12

John 8:44

II Corinthians 4:3-4

II Corinthians 11:3

II Corinthians 11:14

7. Read the account of Christ's confrontation with Satan in Luke 4:1-13.

a. What was Jesus' physical condition when the devil appeared?

b. What desires did Satan appeal to in the three temptations?

8. Write out I Peter 5:8-9 in your own words.

THE CONFLICT WITH SIN

9. How do the following verses describe sin?

Isaiah 1:2

Romans 14:23

I John 3:4

10. Sin is breaking God's law. Expand on this definition after looking at Jesus' summary of the law in Matthew 22:37-40.

11. Read James 4:1-4.

a. Where does hostility originate? Verses 1-3

b. What competes with your devotion to God? Verse 4

c. Does this passage help explain any conflicts you have? If so, explain.

12. What characterizes the world? Ephesians 2:2-3

13. Paul taught that to avoid conformity to the world, we must be renewed in mind (Romans 12:2). Compare this statement with Philipians 4:8, and write a short paragraph on what it means to be renewed in your mind.

14. What is promised to the man who successfully endures temptation? James 1:12

Some say, "I have my faults, but at the bottom I have a good heart." Alas! It is this that deceives you, for your heart is the worst part of you.

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

THE ASSURANCE OF VICTORY

15. According to Hebrews 2:14-15, what did Christ's death on the cross mean for Satan?

What did it mean for men?

16. What is the basis for victory from the following verses?

I John 2:14

I John 4:4

I John 5:4-5

17. Write out I Corinthians 15:57 in your own words as a personal prayer. Take a moment to thank God for your assurance of daily victory in Jesus Christ.

DAILY VICTORY

18. From Revelation 12:11, list three factors that give victory over Satan. Why do you think each one is important?

FACTOR
FOR VICTORY

WHY IS
THIS IMPORTANT

19. From Ephesians 6:14-18, list the equipment of the spiritual warrior. What practical steps will enable you to use these items in daily life?

EQUIPMENT

PRACTICAL STEPS

Which of these items do you believe is most lacking in your life?

What do you believe you should do about it?

20. What can you do each day to enjoy victory over sin?

Psalms 86:3

Psalms 96:2

Psalms 119:97

Luke 9:23

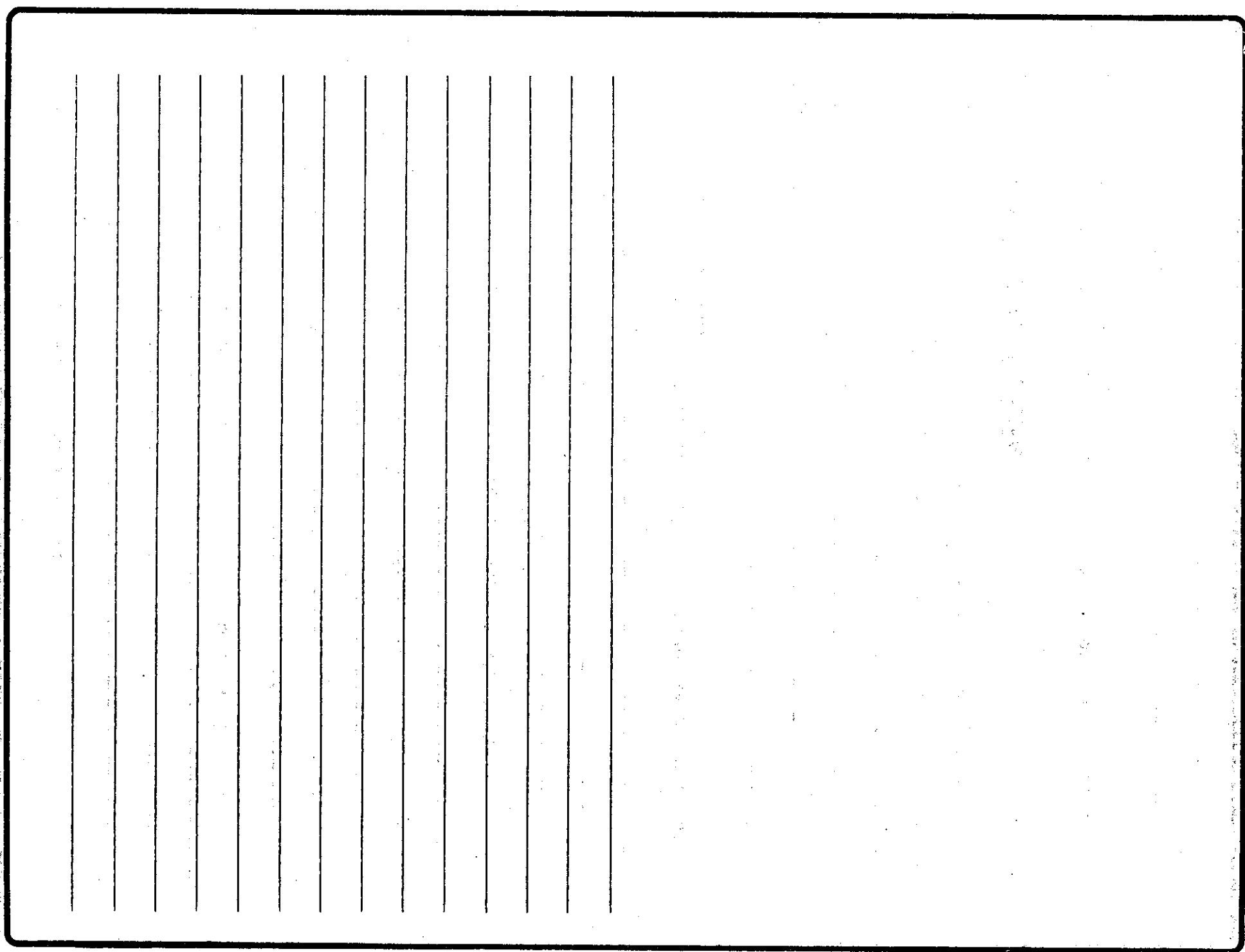
Hebrews 3:13

21. What should you do when you have sinned? Psalms 32:5

22. Read Psalms 103:9-12. Describe God's attitude toward all the sins you have committed.

Remember These Points:

Review the chapter subtopics and use them as an outline to write your own summary of the chapter.



Bible Study Discussion Outline Form

Lesson		Date
Time	Objective	
	Introduction	
	Prayer	
	Discussion Question	Answer
	I	
	Discovery	
	Understanding	
	Correlation	
	Application	
	Summarize	
	II	
	Discovery	
	Understanding	
	Correlation	
	Application	
	Summarize	

Time	III	Answer
	Discovery	
	Understanding	
	Correlation	
	Application	
	Summarize	
	IV	
	Discovery	
	Understanding	
	Correlation	
	Application	
	Summarize	
	Conclusion	
	Prayer	

How to Train a Disciple

Follow-up

Making disciples begins with the task of evangelism. If we work only with Christians in our disciple-making ministry, then the net gain to the kingdom of God is zero. Aggressive evangelism is the mark of the committed disciple, and it is primarily from the fruit of this evangelism that he chooses his "Timothy"--the man he seeks to disciple.

If the first step in the disciple-making process is evangelism, then the second is follow-up. It is one thing to engage the enemy in combat and set the captives free, but it is altogether another thing to spend the necessary time with a new convert to see that he grows and matures into the likeness of Jesus Christ. In physical reproduction the responsible parents' task only begins when the child is born. After the birth come the years of careful nurture and training to ensure that the child grows and develops to the point where he can marry and assume the responsibility for his own family.

Follow-up, then, is spiritual pediatrics. It has to do with the care and protection of the spiritual infant. It deals with the development of new babes in Christ from the time of their new birth until they grow and provide for themselves.

The Bible teaches us that God has a father's heart. We saw this in our study of Isaiah 40-66. Jesus Himself taught us to refer to God as "our Father." Follow-up then is relating to the young Christian the loving concern that our God has shown toward us. We are shocked to the point of unbelief when we hear of a baby being left alone without proper care, but for some reason, our conscience is dulled when we hear of new babes in Christ being neglected. Left alone, they slip into carnality.

Many are afraid to become involved in the task of follow-up because they feel inadequate. They do not think they know enough about the Christian life to assume the responsibility of becoming a spiritual parent. Or they feel that they have so far to go in the Christian life themselves that someone should be teaching them rather than they teaching someone else. All of these feelings of inadequacy are quite normal and probably will never leave. They merely paralyze the human (or physical) situation. I have never met parents who, while raising their children, felt they had all the answers.

Follow-up, then, is nothing more and nothing less than parental concern coupled with common sense. There are, however, some basic guidelines for helping a new Christian reach maturity. What are the responsibilities of parents toward their new-born children? Let us briefly analyze a few of the more obvious ones.

Ensure Proper Care and Protection, and Deal With Any Trouble Areas

My oldest child, Deborah Lynn, was born with hyaline membrane disease. A membrane formed around that part of the lung which mixes oxygen with the blood. In most cases, children born with this disease die. Our child was given a 10% chance of survival. You can imagine how grateful we were when we discovered that Deborah had the most eminently qualified pediatrician in the city taking care of her. He put her in an isolette and took every precaution to make sure she lived. By God's grace, she did, and today, Deborah Lynn is a healthy young lady.

The care and concern the doctor gave Deborah Lynn serves as a beautiful illustration of the diligent involvement required of us when dealing with new Christians. Assuming that you have the responsibility for a "new babe in Christ," here are some suggestions.

- Go over carefully with him the plan of salvation.

"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" (1 John 5:11-12).

Every person who has the Son has life. You can ask the new Christian, "Where is Jesus Christ tonight?" Wherever else this babe says Christ is, he should also say that Christ is in his heart. An illustration of a pencil inside a Bible can be used--the Bible representing Jesus Christ and the pencil, eternal life. If the believer has the Bible (Jesus Christ), then he also has the pencil (eternal life), for eternal life is to be found in the Son.

Unfortunately, many Christians spend years of their lives living in a fog of uncertainty. Because they do not understand what the Scriptures teach on this subject, they lack assurance of salvation. Proper growth and development can only stem from the new Christian knowing that he is a child of God for all eternity.

- Pray for him.

The overwhelming majority of New Testament prayers deal not with the unsaved, but with the growth and maturity of new Christians. Two great prayers of Paul in Ephesians, for example, deal with his concern for their growth and maturity (see Eph. 1:15-23, 3:14-20).

I find that prayer is the hardest work I can engage in as a Christian. At the same time, it is the most important part of follow-up. If you also find that prayer is hard work, let me suggest that you simply pray for your new Christian the same prayers that you find in the Bible, such as those in Ephesians. You can do a study on the New Testament prayers that would be applicable and then use them as part of your follow-up program.

Another thing I do is think through on the areas in which I am having difficulty; then intercede for my friend in these matters. The Bible says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man" (1 Cor. 10:13). All of us fight the same temptations and have the same basic needs.

- Visit him soon and frequently after his decision for Christ.

This is particularly important during the days immediately following his conversion experience. Satan regroups and marshals his counter-offensive, and the new Christian is particularly vulnerable because he does not understand the nature of spiritual warfare nor the great truths in the Bible that can help him through trials and temptations.

In the first 10 days of a child's life, his mother must be with him almost constantly. The older the child becomes, the less frequently she needs to see him. Again, what is true in the physical realm is also true in the spiritual.

One of the most significant ministries you can have with your new Christian is that of encouragement. Let him know that he is now a part of the family of God and that the two of you are brothers in Christ. One of the things that Satan will try to deceive him into believing is that the temptations and problems that he faces are unique to him. Encourage him with the fact that we all fight the same problems; and not only this but during these times of temptations, you want to stand together with him against them.

Ensure a Proper Diet

When little Deborah Lynn finally came home from the hospital, victorious over her disease, we had to bear the responsibility for feeding her regularly. We fed her not when we wanted to but when she wanted to be fed--and often this was at the most inconvenient times. One thing was certain, we did not ask her to manage for herself. It would have been cruel to say to her, "Sweetheart, if you want to eat, there is plenty of food in the refrigerator; help yourself."

The proper spiritual diet for a new Christian should include at least:

- A consistent quiet time.

In Mark 1:35 we read of one of the habits the Lord Jesus developed. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Each day should begin with a brief period of fellowship with the Lord, for thus the believer gets his spiritual nourishment for the day. The quiet time should include a time of prayer and some time in the Word. The simple acrostic ACTS is useful in helping a person get started in prayer.

Adoration--Begin with a time of worship, praying over the greatness of God. Encourage the new Christian to use some of the great prayers in the Bible such as that in 1 Chronicles 29:11-14.

Confession--This is a time of acknowledging our sinfulness and dependence upon the Lord. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). This verse is the Christian's bar of soap. Let us imagine that my little child, acting in disobedience, goes outside and plays in the mud. As she comes in crying and asking for forgiveness, not only do I forgive her, but I take her into the bathroom, wash her from head to foot, and wash her clothes, so that when we are through, it is as though she had never been outside. This is the promise the Lord Jesus makes to the believer in 1 John 1:9.

Thanksgiving--the long list of sins mentioned in Romans 1 begins with the phrase in verse 21, "neither were thankful." Early in the Christian life the believer must learn the importance of being thankful. This part of the prayer time consists of enumerating the many blessings bestowed upon us by our gracious God. Scripture says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

Supplication--We spend time praying for others--our family, friends, church, country. You can help the young Christian in this aspect of prayer, teaching him how to use prayer pages. Take a sheet of paper and draw a line down the middle, entitling the left-hand column "requests" and the right-hand column "answers." Beside each request list the date entered. When the prayer is answered, jot down how it was answered with the date. In a graphic way, this will show the new Christian the marvelous way that God answers prayer.

Of the many good helps available to the Christian for his quiet time, three favorites of mine are: The Quiet Time, published by Inter-Varsity Press, Appointment with God, and Seven Minutes with God, both published by The Navigators.

Help the young Christian to be consistent in having his quiet time by initially having it with him. For example, have a quiet time with him every morning during the first week of his new walk with the Lord. During the second week meet with him every other morning, and then once a week for the next month or two.

Encourage him to begin with a short period of time with the Lord rather than with a protracted time. This is the beauty of the little plan mentioned in Seven Minutes With God. It is better to have seven minutes with the Lord consistently every day and stay with it than to begin by having one hour with the Lord every morning, and then quit in discouragement.

● Bible reading.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2). Start the young Christian with a small portion, preferably from the New Testament or the Psalms and incorporate it in his quiet time.

One method that has worked with a great deal of success is to read a paragraph or two, and, as you meditate on it, circle or mark one verse that is particularly meaningful. This becomes the favorite verse for the morning. Do this for six mornings, each morning picking out a favorite verse. Then during the quiet time on the seventh morning, review the six favorite verses and pick out the one that is the favorite among the favorites. That verse can then be written on a small card and memorized.

● Bible study.

The most important goal of follow-up is to teach the young Christian how to feed himself from the Word of God. Expose him to men who can feed him, and thus teach him "the whole counsel of God," but remember this can never be a substitute for the person learning how to feed himself.

I remember in those early days of little Deborah's life what a joy it was to hold her and feed her. There she was, nestled in my arms--two eyes, a nose, and a bottle. As she became older, however, we encouraged her to learn to feed herself. So important was this to us as parents that we did not even mind when she used her fingers to eat. We knew that the process of teaching her how to eat graciously would be slow and arduous. But it was also essential.

In the initial stages of follow-up, you and your pastor will have to do most of the feeding of the new babe. For many new Christians, the task of learning how to feed themselves from the Word of God is laborious. It has a tendency to appear legalistic and unfruitful. For this reason, the new Christian will often be tempted to quit trying. Realizing this temptation, you will have to work closely with him, encouraging him to stay with it.

There are many good Bible study helps on the market, but, unfortunately, there are few that I know of that teach a person how to feed himself. The Navigators have a Bible study series, Design for Discipleship, the objective of which is to teach the young Christian what it means to become a disciple and to wean him from Bible study aids in the process so that eventually he can take the Bible and feed himself without any outside helps other than the Holy Spirit. Another excellent book on how to do Bible study is Independent Bible Study by Irving L. Jensen (Moody Press). I would recommend this for the mature Christian.

Whatever Bible study method is employed, it should include a period of time when the young Christian prepares the study on his own, and then a period of time when he meets together with a group of people who also have done the study and who share their results and learn from one another. In the early weeks of learning how to do Bible study, you will want to prepare the lesson with the new Christian. There is just no substitute for going through these growth processes step by step.

Ensure Love and Affection

There is one thing it is impossible to give people too much of, and that is love. People misunderstand what love is all about and imagine it to be synonymous with spoiling people. The two are in no way related. Sociologists and psychologists tell us that if a child is deprived of love in the early years of his life, it is questionable whether he will ever be able to understand what it truly means to love and be loved. One of the basic needs in life is to be loved and wanted. We need to apply the principle of TLC (Tender Loving Care) to our babes in Christ. Envelope the young Christian with love!

- Invite him over to your home for meals and make him feel a part of the family.

Bob Wheeler, a carpenter by trade, was the person who led me to Christ many years ago. One of the most significant things he did was to involve me in his family life. His home was my home. I always felt welcome. I cannot recall how many times I ate at his table, but I know I virtually ate him out of house and home! When I think of Bob, I think of 1 Corinthians 16:15, "Know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints." It became so meaningful to me that my wife and I adopted it as the verse we would claim for our home.

- Involve him in the warmth and fellowship of the church.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews warns, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

There is a certain chemistry that takes place in the fellowship of believers which produces an environment that is conducive for growth and stability. I can remember when Bob took me to church for the first time. His friends became my friends. The fellowship and encouragement they showed me was a major factor in my development as a Christian.

Church was where I had an opportunity to observe other believers and to adopt their life-style as mine. There was a great deal in my old life that had to be discarded, and a great deal of new life that had to be incorporated. That small church played a major role in my making that transition.

- Take him with you.

It is written of the Lord Jesus, "And He ordained 12, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach" (Mark 3:14). Travel together, take vacations together, play sports together, do things together. What will take place is described in Proverbs 27:17: "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

Ensure an Atmosphere of Acceptance

I remember when I was growing up that one of the things I appreciated about my father was the fact that I could always talk with him about any subject that was on my mind without fear of being misunderstood or reprimanded. The older I become the more precious this heritage becomes to me. It is something that I am working on with my own children.

Often there are things on our hearts that we would like to talk to someone about, but we are apprehensive simply because we are afraid of being misunderstood. When following up a Christian, it is essential that he feels free to share his doubts, fears, and personal problems no matter how intimate they may be, without feeling he will be condemned or rejected because of them.

Peter says "Charity (love) shall cover the multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). Probably no better counsel is to be found on how to overcome the feelings of inadequacy that all of us have, particularly in our interpersonal relationships. In meeting needs of my wife, in raising my children, in helping others to mature in Christ, this feeling of inadequacy is sometimes overwhelming. But somehow it all turns out well by adding this ingredient called "love."

The apprehension you will feel in assuming responsibility for helping a new Christian is quite natural. The application of these simple principles will help, but will not eliminate all apprehension. Stick close by the person and love him as you would love a member of your own family. God will do the rest.

