

Discipleship Manual



**A New Believer's Introduction
to the Christian Life**



Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
Commission on Evangelism

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INTRODUCTION

This manual was birthed from an assignment at the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in the Spring of 2007. All seminary students took part, working in small groups to write specific lessons relating to basic teachings of the Christian life. The resulting 10 lessons were edited, proof read, and tested in a variety of congregational settings. We are excited about its use in our AFLC churches.

Why should we write a Lutheran discipleship manual? Today, more than ever, the Church must be vigilant in training new believers in the Word of God. Since we are Lutherans by conviction, it is valuable we have a Lutheran Discipleship Manual in our toolbox! The book in your hands reveals our best attempt to put together a simple, doctrinally sound, resource for the new believer.

There are many words and concepts that will be unfamiliar to the new believer. To help you grow as a disciple, we have included a Glossary on page 50.

Solo Dei Gloria.



PREFACE

This discipleship manual has been written to help new believers (those who have recently been brought into the family of God) grow in the grace and knowledge of truth as disciples of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus gave the Great Commission, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Disciples are made by baptizing and teaching. Missionaries Paul and Barnabas made disciples as they preached the Gospel and the people responded by believing the Word of God. In an effort to see them grow in grace, Paul and Barnabas *“strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith”* (Acts 14:21-22).

Sometimes new Christians think that they need to achieve a certain level of Christian spirituality or become a “super-Christian” who perfectly does everything God demands. But, we ask, “What exactly is a disciple?” The basic meaning of the word “disciple” is “learner.” A learner, or student, soaks up everything he or she can from a teacher. A disciple of Jesus submits himself to the Lord to learn all he can from Him. Every word in the Bible will become precious to a disciple of Jesus. The Kingdom of God will become first priority (Matt. 6:33). The life of discipleship is a life of sanctification. A disciple is one who is saved by God’s grace and knows that he or she is perfect before God because of the finished work of Christ on the cross. Yet, at the same time, acknowledges that before man, he or she is not perfect and will never be absolutely perfect. It is a life of “pressing on” (Phil. 3:12).

How should this manual be used? Ideally, a mature Christian would lead a new believer or group of new believers through each lesson. Mature believers will be able to model the Christian life of discipleship for the new disciples as Paul explained in 1 Cor. 11:1, *“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”* Approximately one hour should be set aside for each meeting, at which the new believer will be given assignments to prepare for the next lesson. Please refer to the “Discipler’s Guide” section for more instructions. Both the leader and disciple should keep in mind 1 Tim. 1:5, *“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”*

We pray that this ten-lesson journey will be merely the *beginning* of a walk with Christ. If you get to the end of this manual and think that you have somehow “arrived,” you have missed the mark. We only wish to whet your appetite to the goodness of God in life as you begin to taste and see His grace powerfully at work in you. We don’t wish to bring anybody under the heavy yoke of the Law through this manual. We desire for all Christians to “delight in the Law” (Rom. 7:22) and to seek to walk according to the “Third Use” of the Law. *“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed and overflowing with gratitude”* (Col. 2:6-7).



LESSON 1

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

You know God has forgiven your sins. Yet you look at your life and wonder if you are indeed a child of God. Why do I struggle? Why do I always seem to sin no matter how hard I try not to? Do Christians struggle in life? Yes, they do. Sometimes, even more than the unbelievers. All of the struggles Christians face in this world come from three sources: the world, the flesh (Our sinful nature that craves evil), and the devil. A disciple of Jesus Christ is confident that God has saved him and rejoices in the grace of God in the midst of trials, tribulations, and temptations.

Study Questions

As human beings, it is our natural response to look at our outward actions and think that somehow we have a right relationship with God because we do (or don't do) certain things.

1. Read Luke 18:10-14. Compare and contrast the prayers of these two men. Which one was justified?

Why? _____

2. What did the man who beat his breast admit about himself? _____

3. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What do you learn about yourself from these verses? _____

4. Is a dead man able to do anything? Did you contribute anything towards your salvation? _____

5. How is a person saved from their sins? Find the answer in Ephesians 2:8-9. _____

Salvation does not depend on our efforts or works. We are not saved by trying to be good or by doing good deeds. In other words, we are saved based on the work of Christ on the cross (See 1 Peter 2:24). We are saved by grace. Do not get caught up in the trap of dwelling on questions such as, "Was I sorry enough for my sins?" "Do I believe strong enough for God to accept me?" These types of questions spawn doubt in hearts. Disciples of Jesus look *outside* themselves for assurance of salvation. When we look inside ourselves, we find imperfection. God requires perfection. Because God knew that we were not, by any means, able to pay for our sins by living a perfect life, He did it for us through His son Jesus Christ (See John 3:16).

God uses instruments to bring us His grace. These instruments are called "means of grace."



The primary means of grace is God’s Word.

Romans 1:16-17

Romans 10:17

John 5:24

John 8:31-32

God’s Word, then, is:

Inspired (2 Timothy 3:16-17) - breathed out by God

Inerrant (2 Timothy 2:15) - God’s Word is truth

Infallible (Matthew 5:17-18)

There is much more to be said about the truth of God’s Word: Why it must be true, why it is true in the original manuscripts, and why we can trust the transmission of those manuscripts through our English translations today. But that is for another class (Resource: Surprised by Faith, Dr. Don Bierle, Faithsearch International).

Secondary means of grace

Because God’s Word speaks of others means by which he grants us His grace, there are secondary means of grace as well. These secondary means tie a physical element to specific promises in God’s Word, thus connecting those promises to the one who partakes. Since secondary means of grace depend on God’s Word, they must be understood by studying that word.

Lutheran theology identifies two secondary means of grace, baptism and the Lord’s Supper. See the attached Scriptural references for selected teachings on these means.

6. Read Mark 16:16. What “means of grace” can you pick out from this verse? _____

7. Read Acts 2:37-38. The people that heard Peter’s sermon were “cut to the heart.” What did Peter tell them to do? What was the result? _____

Were you baptized as an infant? Praise God that He brought His grace to you! If not, talk to your pastor about setting up a time to be baptized.

Another means of grace that God uses is the Lord’s Supper.

8. Read Matthew 26:26-28 and write what you learn about the Lord’s Supper _____

9. God’s Word contains so many promises of His grace. Read Romans 10:9, 13. What does God promise in these verses? _____

10. Even when we sin as Christians, God is ready to forgive and cleanse. Read 1 John 1:9 and 2:1. Who forgives us? _____



Read 1 John 5:11-13.

11. What do believers in the Son of God have? _____

12. Who has eternal life and who doesn't? _____

13. What are "these things" in verse 13? Does it include the whole Bible? _____

14. How do the words of the Bible bring assurance of salvation? _____

15. What have you learned from this lesson? _____

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson #2

- 1) Read the book of Ephesians, one chapter a day.
- 2) Complete Lesson 2, *Life as a Disciple of Jesus Christ*, before the next appointment with your discipler.
- 3) Memorize Ephesians 2:8-10.
- 4) Go to church and take notes during the pastor's message, and bring them with you to your next appointment.
- 5) Remind yourself of the truths you have learned in this lesson. Rejoice in the grace of God!

Notes:



LESSON 2

LIFE AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

Have you come to trust Jesus as your Savior? If so, you have been forgiven of your sins! Christ has made you a new person, a person who is free from sin. Feels great, doesn't it? As great as it may have felt those first few days, you begin to realize that there are certain areas of your life that still have not really changed. Your mountain-top experience now feels more like a steady descent and most of your life is returning to "normal." As we learned in the last chapter, the struggles you had before are still present. You may still be suffering the consequences of your past. The question becomes, "What is going to happen next in my life?"

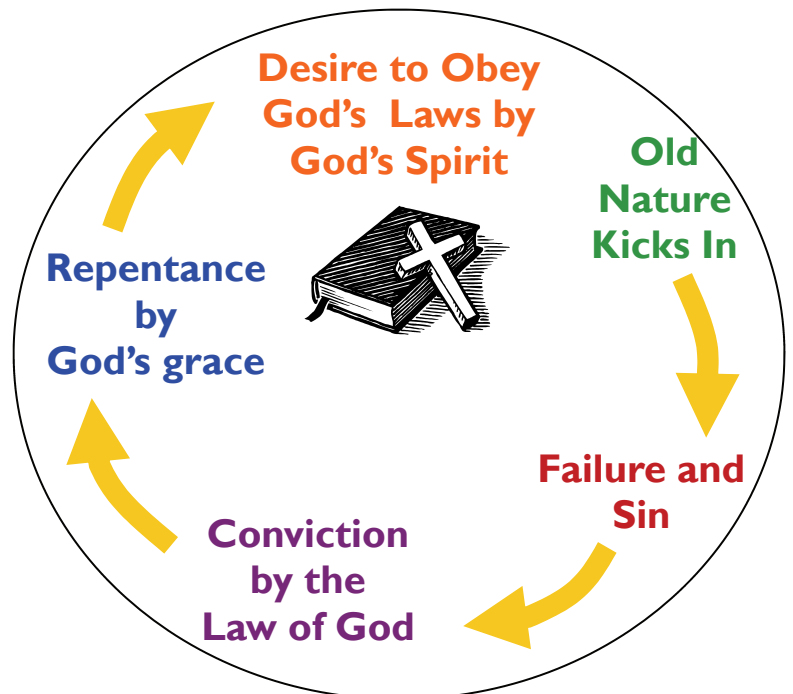
The call from Jesus to His disciples was to follow Him. Jesus said in Matthew 4:19, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." The answer to the question, "What next?" is that you, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, will follow Him and obey Him as you are empowered by His grace. 1 Peter 2:21 teaches that Jesus has left "you an example for you to follow in His steps." Disciples do not follow Christ, though, because they feel pressured to do so. A person is happy to realize that life as a disciple of Jesus Christ is simply the life that springs from grace. Your motivation to obey the Lord will be His grace, who He is, and what He has done for you.

Study Questions

1. The laws that God has given are meant for our own good. Read Matthew 7:24-27. Describe the two men in this passage. How were they different from each other? What was the result of their actions? ___

This "life on the Rock" can be illustrated by a cycle (see chart). Whenever you do not accomplish what is good, you sin. The old, sinful nature that you have encourages this sin. Sinning, however, does not mean that you automatically fall from God's grace and are lost again. As you know, sin is forgivable. Christ forgave all of your sins on the cross apart from anything you have done. God's Word and the Holy Spirit convict you of that sin, and you are led to repentance. When you repent of your sins, Christ takes away the guilt of those sins. A fresh desire to obey God then comes.

Eventually, the cycle repeats itself and will continue to repeat itself until Christ returns or you die. You will never reach perfection. You will always sin, but that doesn't make you any





less of a Christian or any less forgiven of those sins. Please don't despair! Even through this cycle of sinning, repentance, and forgiveness, the Lord is at work in you. He is bringing about growth in grace and knowledge of truth (See 2 Peter 3:18). Christians who have faced this struggle have grown to be mature disciples of Jesus because they have been driven to the end of themselves and have found the only true refuge, Jesus Christ.

Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ is a day by day struggle. This is true because you have two natures competing within yourself.

2. Read Romans 7:14-25 and see the description the Apostle Paul gives for the struggle of the two natures in Christians. How would you describe this struggle? How have you seen it in your life? _____

A good summary of this section is found in Romans 7:18, *"For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not."* Your new nature (your spiritual nature) wants to do all that is good and glorifies God. Your old nature (your sinful nature) wants to do everything that does not please God. Christians have a civil war within themselves every moment of every day.

3. Read Galatians 5:17 and describe the civil war that Christians face. What are the two sides? _____

4. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What are the different pieces of armor that God has provided for the battle? Who is the enemy in this passage? _____

Comparing your life to the lives of other Christians can become a trap. You will always be able to find someone who reads and quotes Scripture more than you, prays more than you, gives more than you, etc. Do not believe for one minute that merely religious activity is the evidence of being a Christian. There are many times when the disciples fought amongst themselves (See Luke 22:24; John 21:20-23), were filled with pride (See Mark 9:33-37), and even denied Jesus (See Luke 22:54-62). The disciples, just like you and all Christians, were still sinners saved by grace.

Because of this, Scripture continually urges Christians on to doing good works. Because you keep your sinful nature, you do not naturally desire to do good. However, your good works never are the reason you are saved. The reason you are saved is that God has given His grace to you.

5. Read Matthew 5:14-16. What is the purpose of good works according to these verses? _____



Further Scripture and Topics to Discuss:

1. What specific areas of sin do you still struggle with? Pray for forgiveness and trust God's promise to forgive. _____

2. Read Hebrews 11:1. What is faith? _____

3. Read Romans 8:15. When we have eternal life we have the spirit of _____ because we are brought into His family; not the spirit of _____ which makes us fear.
4. Read 1 John 1:6. If we have eternal life we want to have _____ with God; not walk in darkness.
5. Read Proverbs 28:13. How do we receive mercy? _____

6. Read John 9:25. What is your testimony? Can you say with this man that God has opened your eyes that were once blind to sin? _____

7. Read Romans 6:4. What kind of life has been given to us through baptism? _____

8. Read Titus 2:11-14.
 - ◆ What has appeared and what does it do? _____
9. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What are we created for? _____
 - ◆ "A people for His own possession, zealous for _____"
10. Read Matthew 7:21-23.
 - ◆ Will everyone who says they are going to heaven actually go? _____
 - ◆ Who will not? Why? _____

 - ◆ What will Jesus say to these people? _____

11. As a disciple of Jesus, you seek first the Kingdom of God. What is the Kingdom of God according to Romans 14:17? _____
12. Read Romans 12:1-2. What are we urged to do in these verses? _____



13. Read Ephesians 4:22-24. What are we told to “put off” and “put on?” _____

14. Read Galatians 3:3. As a disciple of Jesus, life in Christ is begun by the Holy Spirit in you. How should it continue? _____

15. Read Galatians 2:20. What comforting truth do we learn from this verse? What impact does this truth have on your outlook of the days ahead? _____

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson #3

- 1) Read through 1 John, one chapter a day.
- 2) Complete Lesson 3, *How to Read and Study the Bible*, before your next appointment with your discipler.
- 3) Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16.
- 4) Take notes during the pastor’s message next Sunday and talk to another believer about what he said.
- 5) Take a moment to think about the fact that God is speaking directly to you through the Bible. How does that affect your approach to reading the Bible?

NOTES:



LESSON 3

HOW TO READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE

Often when Christians learn that a person has recently become a Christian, they strongly encourage that person to “get in the Bible.” You may have heard this same advice, but you don’t know why and you aren’t sure how. Even in the first two lessons of this manual, you have already begun looking up Bible verses and learning from them. You have been told that Bible study is vital to your growth as a Christian, but you don’t know what to read or where to begin. Well, you aren’t alone. In this lesson we will tackle the basic questions of why, how, and what you should read in the Bible in an attempt to guide you as a disciple of Jesus Christ in this area. Jesus said in John 8:31, *“If you continue in My Word, you are truly disciples of mine.”*

Study Questions

1. Why should you read the Bible?

The obvious answer to this question is that you cannot possibly know what the Bible says unless you read it. However, instead of giving you “TEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD READ YOUR BIBLE,” let’s look in the Bible and see what it has to say.

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3 and Matthew 4:4

- Who is it that tells us we should read the Bible? _____

- According to these verses, what is the purpose of reading the Bible? _____

- What type of life is kept alive by reading the Bible? Is it talking about physical or spiritual life? What do you think and why? _____

Read Psalm 119:9-16

- According to these verses, what are some reasons for reading the Bible? _____

- How can you use these verses in preparation to read the Bible? _____



Read Romans 10:17. What comes from hearing the Word of God? _____

Read Joshua 1:7-8. How often should the Bible be in your thoughts? _____

After reading these verses, you now see that the command to read the Bible doesn't just come from other Christians, but from God. He wants us to read His Word because it is the only way that we will be able to have a strong spiritual life. In addition to that, it will help us understand and know what God wants us to do in this life.

2. How should you study the Bible?

Studying the Bible is done in much the same way as other books, and yet it is different. We read to gain knowledge and we often bring our own biases to what we read. This may be fine for other books, but this is not how we should approach reading the Bible. Why? The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

Who has inspired the writing of Scripture according to this passage? _____

What do these verses tell us of the purpose of Scripture? _____

If we know that God has directed the writing of **ALL** of the Bible, can we trust that it is true? Why do you think that? What are the consequences to believing that **ALL** the Bible is true? _____

Now that you know that you should read the Bible as being true, let's look at a formula that is helpful to use when you read the Bible:

- **Observation**—What does it say?
- **Interpretation**—What does it mean?
- **Application**—How does it apply to you?

Let's use this method in reading Isaiah 40:28-31. Write your answers on the lines provided.

Observations:



Interpretation:

Application:

There are many ways to read the Bible, but try this way for awhile and see what God opens up to your eyes as you read! Ask mature Christians how they read the Bible. Their years of experience will give you more insight.

3. What should you read? The answer to this question is that you should read the whole Bible, and in time hopefully you will. There are no right or wrong places to start reading in the Bible. However, there are some portions that may be more confusing to start with than others. To help you out with this we have provided you with a 40 day reading plan to help you get started along the way of developing a successful devotional life. This plan will help you get an overview of the Bible, but it is just the beginning of the wonders, wisdom, and insight that it contains. Before you read each day, take the time to find a quiet place and spend some time in prayer asking God to give you insight into what His Word says and how it applies to you.

Day 1	Genesis 1-2	The Creation Account
Day 2	Genesis 3	The Origin of Sin
Day 3	Genesis 15; 17-15	God's Covenant with Abraham
Day 4	Genesis 21:1-7; 22	God's Faithfulness and Abraham's Faith
Day 5	Exodus 3-4	God Calls Moses to Deliver His People
Day 6	Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Day 7	Joshua 1	Conquering the Promised Land
Day 8	1 Samuel 16-17	David and Goliath
Day 9	1 Kings 3; 8:1-9:9	King Solomon's Wisdom and the Temple
Day 10	1 Kings 18	The Prophet Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
Day 11	2 Kings 25	The Siege of Jerusalem and Exile of Judah
Day 12	Daniel 2-3	Daniel in Babylon and the Fiery Furnace
Day 13	Ezra 3	Rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem
Day 14	Isaiah 9, 53, 61	Isaiah's Prophecy of the Coming Messiah
Day 15	Luke 1-2	The Birth of Jesus



Day 16	John 1:1-18	Who Jesus is
Day 17	Matthew 4:14-44	Jesus Begins His Ministry
Day 18	Matthew 5-7	The Core of Jesus' Teachings
Day 19	John 3	God's Love for the World
Day 20	John 5	Jesus' Miracles and Authority
Day 21	John 11	Jesus' Power Over Death
Day 22	John 15	The Christian Life Defined
Day 23	John 17	Jesus' High Priestly Prayer
Day 24	Matthew 26-27	The Arrest and Crucifixion of Jesus
Day 25	John 20	The Resurrection of Jesus
Day 26	Luke 24	The Ascension of Jesus
Day 27	Acts 2	The Coming of the Holy Spirit
Day 28	Acts 9	The Conversion of Paul
Day 29	Acts 16	The Gospel Spreads to Europe
Day 30	Acts 26	Paul's Defense of the Christian Faith
Day 31	Romans 3	Justification by Faith Alone
Day 32	Romans 7-8	The Battle with Sin: Life in the Spirit
Day 33	1 Corinthians 13	The Way of Love
Day 34	1 Corinthians 15	The Power of the Resurrection
Day 35	Galatians 5	Freedom in Christ
Day 36	Ephesians 6	The Whole Armor of God
Day 37	Philippians 1:18-2:18	Christ's Example
Day 38	Colossians 3:1-17	Putting on the New Self
Day 39	James 1	Pure Religion
Day 40	Revelation 21-22	The New Heaven and Earth

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Here is another Bible Study to help you get acquainted with the person of Jesus and who He said that He is.

Day 1	John 1	Day 12	John 12
Day 2	John 2	Day 13	John 13
Day 3	John 3	Day 14	John 14
Day 4	John 4	Day 15	John 15
Day 5	John 5	Day 16	John 16
Day 6	John 6	Day 17	John 17
Day 7	John 7	Day 18	John 18
Day 8	John 8	Day 19	John 19
Day 9	John 9	Day 20	John 20
Day 10	John 10	Day 21	John 21
Day 11	John 11		

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson #4

- 1) Start one of the reading plans listed in Lesson #3.
- 2) Complete Lesson 4, *How to Pray*, before the next appointment with your discipler.
- 3) Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
- 4) Think about the tremendous blessing it is to know the Creator of the universe as Lord and Friend.
- 5) Spend time each day thinking about the awesome privilege we have of talking directly to God through prayer.

NOTES:



LESSON 4

HOW TO PRAY



You have just learned the importance of reading the Bible. That is the way we hear what God has to say to us. In any good relationship, though, there is communication both ways. God speaks to us through His Word. We speak to God through prayer. This circle of communication is important for spiritual growth as a Christian. In prayer we simply talk to God. You may have seen people pray before—folding their hands, bowing their heads, closing their eyes. You may have many questions about prayer. As new disciples of Jesus Christ, may your cry be the same as Jesus' first disciples: *“Lord, teach us to pray”* (Luke 11:1).

Study Questions

1. Why pray?

This is a good question. It seems somewhat silly at first to talk to God, who is invisible. What good does it accomplish? We all know of people who have prayed for something and have not gotten what they earnestly desired. Let us look to the Bible for answers.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

What does this simple verse tell us to do? _____

Think of a relationship that you have with someone you love very much. How often do you talk to that person? Now think about someone that you are barely friends with. How often do you talk to that person? As a general rule, we have a better relationship with those we talk to frequently than those we do not.

As a Christian, what is your relationship to God? (See 1 John 3:1, Galatians 4:6) _____

Since God is our Heavenly Father, we can approach Him with confidence. (See Hebrews 4:16). With a correct view of God, we will see ourselves for what we really are—sinners in need of grace. Knowledge of sin will create in our hearts a sense of helplessness.

How did Hannah illustrate helplessness in her prayer? (1 Samuel 1:9-18) _____



Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is the best example of what prayer is and why we should pray. Read these verses and write your observations about Jesus and what His “prayer life” was like.

(Matthew 14:23, 19:13, 26:36; Mark 6:46, 14:32; Luke 5:16, 6:12, 22:40-42) _____

We pray in the name of Jesus (on the basis of who He is and what He has done) and He will answer prayers according to His will. God is not the ultimate vending machine, giving us what we want when we press the right buttons.

Read John 15:7, 16, 16:23.

- Write down your thoughts on what Jesus says about prayer. _____

Let’s shift gears now. We come to God humbly in prayer because He desires us to, to let God into our situation, and to lay hold of the grace given to us in the Gospel.

2. How do I pray?

This is the next question we must ask. There are many good resources that give us hints about prayer. For starters, let us look quickly at a simple way to pray. It is called “ACTS.” Each letter represents a part of prayer.

A—Adoration: In this phase of prayer we praise God for who He is and what He has done. We lavish love on God who has loved and continues to love us so much.

- How does David adore God in 1 Chronicles 29:10-12? _____

C—Confession: As we see God clearly through His Word, we are once again reminded of our complete sinfulness. Through confession, we agree with God that our sin is wrong. We tell God we have wronged Him.

- What does the Bible say about confession in Psalm 32:5? _____

T—Thanksgiving: We remember and thank God for all things given to us.

- Let’s get back to David’s prayer in 1 Chronicles 29. In verse 13, what does he say? _____



S—Supplication: Here we bring specific requests to God—asking Him to intervene in a situation in our life, in the lives of others, etc.

- What was Moses' supplication in Numbers 12:13? _____

Jesus Christ, when asked by His disciples about prayer, gave us the words of the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a great example for us as we learn to pray. Please consult Luther's Small Catechism for further training on how to use the Lord's Prayer.

- Now read Matthew 6:5-13. What does Jesus say about prayer before He speaks the Lord's Prayer? _____

- Name all of the petitions (requests) mentioned in the Lord's Prayer. _____

- In Matthew 6:9-10, who is the prayer directed to? What is said to this one? _____

- In Matthew 6:11-13 the prayer shifts, How is this part of the prayer different than the first part? _____

3. What do I pray for?

We have now looked at why one should pray and how one should pray. Now we ask this question: "What should I pray for?" A simple answer would be anything and everything. As one grows in the Lord, reads more of the Bible, and learns the heart of God, as a result he or she will want to pray for things that God desires. A new Christian might pray for a million dollars or a fancy new car. Mature Christians lift everything up to the Lord in prayer and pray for things such as spiritual growth, that the Bible might be preached fervently, that the Gospel might spread to the end of the world, and that souls might be saved. These are things close to the heart of God. What are some things that people in the Bible prayed for? Let's dig into the Word.

What did Paul pray about for the Ephesian Christians in Ephesians 1:15-23? _____



What did the early church pray for in Acts 1:24-25? _____

Read 1 Kings 3:6-14. What was Solomon’s prayer? How did God answer Him? _____

We pray for all things—our family, our friends, our teachers, our employers (if you have a job), etc. I read something one time that really grabbed my attention: “To see someone is to pray for them.” As we grow in compassion for others, we will see the desire to pray for them and for whatever situation they may be facing. What about when we don’t know what to pray for?

- Read Romans 8:26 and write out the answer to this question. _____

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4 and give a short list of who we are to pray for. _____

What are some other things that the Bible tells us to pray for and about? (Read Psalm 122:6; James 1:5, 5:13) _____

I pray that this lesson will create in you a desire to pray to our Heavenly Father. He longs to hear your prayers. You have become righteous in Christ by His grace and through faith.

- What does James 5:16 teach us about prayers made by Christians? _____

God bless you as you begin to see Him in all things in prayer! I recommend that you search the Bible to see



other great examples of what and how people in the Bible prayed. Other great tools for learning how to pray are as follows: *Prayer* by Ole Hallesby; *A Simple Way to Pray* by Martin Luther.

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson #5

- 1) Continue using the reading plan from Lesson #3 that you started.
- 2) Complete Lesson 5, *Attributes of God*, before the next appointment with your discipler.
- 3) Memorize Philippians 4:6-7.
- 4) Set aside a specific time and place each day to pray and implement the things you have learned in this lesson during that time.
- 5) Stop to think about your life in Christ. Write down ways that you have seen God work in your life recently.

NOTES:



LESSON 5

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Disciples of Jesus learning how to read the Bible and pray will benefit from a study of the attributes of God. What are *attributes*? The attributes of God are those character traits in which God reveals himself to us. Without the revelation of Scripture, the Bible, we all would have no clue what God is like. But God has graciously chosen to reveal Himself through His Word. We will examine ten of God's attributes in this lesson. Keep in mind that many other attributes could be added to this list. Let this lesson be a starting point for you in getting to know God.

I. Sovereign

When looking up the word sovereign in the dictionary one finds the meaning to be, "supreme power or authority." Who is someone in your life that is sovereign over you? Does that person have all power over you, or just the part of your life that is ruled by that person? For example, your boss has authority over you when you are at work, but not in the rest of the things that you do.

God's sovereignty is much greater than that. God's sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation. To be sovereign God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free to do whatever He wills to do.

Examine the following Scripture passage to see what they say about God's sovereignty.

- Matthew 28:18 _____
- Ephesians 1:11 _____
- 1 Timothy 6:15 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does God have sovereignty over creation? _____

2. How does understanding God's sovereignty help you? _____

II. Eternal

In the space provided below, take a few moments to write a few important dates in your life. For example: your birthday, wedding, anniversaries, loss of loved one, etc.



The eternal attribute of God is that He has no start or end. This is to say that God created everything, but no one created God. He has always been and will always be.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about the eternity of God:

- Deuteronomy 33:27 _____
- 1 Timothy 1:17 _____
- Psalm 102:27 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. What does God being eternal mean for creation? _____

2. What does God being eternal mean for you? _____

III. Omniscient (All-Knowing)

As you go through life it would be nice to know all things. Life would be easier for you because you would always know what was going on. Is there someone in your life that seems to know all things? Yet, at times that person does not know the answer. There are many different kinds of specialists who focus in on one area of life. You have everything from medical doctors to financial planners. It takes humans years and years of school and learning to become a specialist in one area.

What does God know? God knows all things perfectly. If we could directly ask God what 438 times 579 was, He could give us the answer right away. There is nothing new in this world that God does not know about.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about God's omniscience:

- 1 John 3:20 _____
- Psalm 139:4 _____
- Psalm 94:11 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does your heart respond to the fact that you can go to God who knows all things? _____

2. Explain God's omniscience in your own words _____



IV. Omnipotent (All-Powerful)

Think of someone you know that is very strong. Does that person possess all the power in the world? Can he or she move cars by picking them up with their hands? Superman is faster than a speeding bullet and stronger than steel. There is one thing that is Superman’s weakness: kryptonite. When he is in the presence of kryptonite he loses his strength. That is not the case for God. God has all the power in the universe.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about God’s Power:

- Genesis 18:14 _____
- Job 42:2 _____
- Matthew 19:26 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How can the omnipotence of God change the way you live your life? _____

2. In what special ways does this attribute affect you? _____

3. What does God’s omnipotence mean for Satan? _____

V. Omnipresent (Everywhere-Present)

Take a moment and think about what it means for God to be always present. What comes to your mind? Let’s clarify the meaning of omnipresent. The word present means: here, close to everything, next to everyone. As you read through this manual, God is here. God’s omnipresence means for us that God is always around us. It also means that God sees everything that we do. This is a sobering thing to think about. We cannot hide anything from God.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about God’s omnipresence:

- Jeremiah 23:23-24 _____
- Psalm 139:7-10 _____
- Acts 17:24-27 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are these verses talking about? _____



2. How does this attribute affect your life? _____

3. How is this attribute of God a comfort to you? _____

VI. Immutable (Unchangeable)

God does not change in His existence, in His will, or in His purpose.

Examine the following passages and determine if God is referred to in an “unchangeable” way or in a “changeable” way:

- James 1:17 _____
- Numbers 23:19 _____
- 1 Samuel 15:29 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does the immutability of God affect the world? _____

2. How does the immutability of God affect you? _____

3. How sure are God’s promises in light of His immutability? _____

VII. Holy

The concept of the holiness of God is hard to grasp. Basically, when we say God is holy, we mean that God is great and that He is pure. Please read Isaiah 6 to get a better idea of God’s holiness. What caused the cherubim to say, “Holy, holy, holy?” God is holy in that He is the Author and Producer of all holiness and stands contrary to sin.

Examine the following passages and determine whether the Scripture is discussing God’s holiness, or if it is discussing God as the Producer of holiness.

- Deuteronomy 32:4 _____
- Psalm 92:15 _____
- 1 Peter 1:15 _____
- Leviticus 11:44-45 _____



It is the holiness of God that moves us to approach God with great reverence. It is also His holiness that gives us great confidence and boldness because of Christ's death on the cross where peace has been made between Holy God and sinful man.

Ephesians 3:11-12

"This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him."

Questions for Discussion:

1. Because God is holy and He demands us (who are not holy) to be holy, how are we made holy?

2. Why should we try to be holy if it has nothing to do with our salvation? _____

VIII. Just (Righteous)

Justice is the attribute of God in which He is perfectly just and righteous and in which He demands of men that which is righteous. God's eternal Law must be kept and it is God's justice that demands the keeping of the Law. Since God is God, He is not under the Law, like sinful man, but is Himself the perfect standard of justice. The justice of God is applied to men in two basic ways. The first way is the divine righteousness revealed in the Law. The second way is the divine righteousness revealed in the Gospel, which has been obtained for sinners through Christ's death for sinful man on the cross.

Examine the following Bible passages and determine whether they refer to the divine righteousness revealed in the Law or the Gospel.

- Isaiah 45:18-21 _____
- Genesis 18:20-22 _____
- John 3:16 _____
- 1 Corinthians 1:18 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. Can man keep the Law of God? _____

2. What demands that God's Law must be kept? _____

3. What are the two ways in which the justice of God is applied to men? _____



IX. Loving

Love is the attribute of God that shows us that God, in His goodness, is deeply attached to sinful mankind and anxious to restore men to communion with God. God is the Philanthropist. Simply put, divine love is God's goodness desiring communion with men. Scripture testifies of this love, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

Examine the following passages and record what each verse states regarding God's love.

- Psalm 103:17 _____
- 1 John 4:8,16 _____
- Titus 3:4 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How are God's love and immutability connected? _____

2. How is our love for our neighbor connected to God's love for us? _____

X. Truthful

Truthfulness is the attribute of God where He never stops in speaking the truth or keeping His promises. God's truthfulness makes us fear His wrath and trust in His promises. God's words will never pass away because His truthfulness is unchanging and will never be broken.

Read the following passages to answer the following questions.

- Hebrews 6:18
- Romans 10:11
- Romans 3:4

Questions for Discussion:

1. According to this study on God's truthfulness, what are the two things His truthfulness makes us do?



2. How is God's truthfulness connected to His immutability? Why is that important? _____

Conclusion:

Knowing God's attributes gives us a glimpse into who God is. This is only a glimpse because we do not know all things like He does. Through God's Word, a person begins to get an understanding of who God is and what He does. It is important to see how all the attributes can work together in forming a picture of the one and only true God.

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson # 6

- 1) Read John 15-21, one chapter a day.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *The Holy Spirit: His Work and Gifts* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize 1 Corinthians 2:14-15
- 4) Go to church and take notes during the pastor's message.
- 5) Make a list of the ways you saw the Holy Spirit active this week.



LESSON 6

THE HOLY SPIRIT: HIS WORK AND GIFTS



It is vital that a disciple of Jesus Christ understand the work and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Bible proclaims that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at the same time. The third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, has often been misunderstood, neglected, and even ignored by many teachers because many aspects of the Holy Spirit are so hard to understand.

Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? These are the questions we will seek to answer in this lesson. Martin Luther described the work of the Holy Spirit in this way: “The Holy Spirit has called me (talking about all Christians) through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith.”

Then you can boldly claim the promises of Galatians 5:18, *“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.”* And Romans 8:14, *“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*

Study Questions

1. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is God. Look up the following passages to see what these verses say about the deity of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Holy Spirit is given the names of God. What names are given to the Holy Spirit in the following passages?
 - 1 Corinthians 3:16 _____
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 _____
 - Hebrews 9:14 _____
 - Acts 5:3-4 _____
 - b. The Holy Spirit has the same attributes of God. What attribute does the Holy Spirit share with God? Look up the following verses to find these attributes:
 - John 16:13 _____
 - Ephesians 4:30 _____
 - Hebrews 9:14 _____
 - Psalm 139:7 _____
 - 1 Corinthians 2:11 _____



2. What does the Holy Spirit do? Look up the following verses and list the ways the work of the Holy Spirit is described.

- a. Read John 6:63 — It is the Holy Spirit that gives _____. What a wonderful promise of salvation! (See also Romans 8:11)
- b. Read Titus 3:5-6 — God saves us through the _____ of the Holy Spirit. These verses tell us that the Holy Spirit is active in bringing us to salvation in Christ.
- c. Read John 14:26 — The Holy Spirit is our _____. He teaches us and guides us regarding the Word of God. (See also John 16:13)
- d. Read John 16:8 — The Holy Spirit _____ us of our _____. This work is necessary for growth as a Christian.
- e. Read Romans 8:26 — The Holy Spirit helps us to _____. He gives us the words to say even when we don't know how to talk to God.
- f. Read Romans 8:16 — The Holy Spirit _____ that we are God's children. This gives us assurance of our salvation.
- g. Read Acts 1:8 — The Holy Spirit gives us the _____ to be witnesses of the work of Christ.
- h. Read Acts 4:31 — The Holy Spirit gives us _____ to share the Word of God.
- i. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21 — This verse says "...men moved by the _____ spoke from God." This passage as well as other verses (Hebrews 10:15-16, 1 Corinthians 2:10-13) tells us that the Holy Spirit was active in inspiring God's words, and today the Spirit helps to explain the Bible to us.

3. The Word of God promises that all believers have the Holy Spirit in them (Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 3:16). This presence of the Holy Spirit is shown by our actions. Galatians 5:22-24 lists the "fruit" of a life that is guided by the Holy Spirit. List the fruit of the Spirit.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



4. Finally, the Holy Spirit gives Christians special abilities called spiritual gifts. The Bible promises that all Christians receive these gifts. Each gift is important for the work of God's kingdom, and each gift is a blessing from God. The Bible relates these gifts to a human body. A human body consists of different parts such as legs, fingers, eyes and a head. Each body part has a special function, yet they all work together to accomplish tasks. In the same way the gifts given by the Holy Spirit work together to accomplish the tasks that God wants His children to do.

a. The spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us are listed in a few sections of the Bible. Read these passages and list the spiritual gifts.

- Read Romans 12:6-8 and list 7 spiritual gifts:

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____
- iv. _____
- v. _____
- vi. _____
- vii. _____

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 and list 9 spiritual gifts:

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____
- iv. _____
- v. _____
- vi. _____
- vii. _____
- viii. _____
- ix. _____

- Read Ephesians 4:11 and list 5 spiritual gifts:

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____



- iv. _____
- v. _____

- b. These gifts are not to be neglected. Rather, they are to be used faithfully and diligently so that others might be saved. (Read 1 Timothy 4:11-15)
- c. These wonderful gifts of the Spirit are to be used for the purpose of preparing God’s people for works of service and to promote unity and maturity (Ephesians 4:12-13). In 1 Peter 4:10-11, Peter gives us three ways these gifts should be used. List them below.
 - To s_____ others (verse 10)
 - To give God’s g_____ to others (verse 10)
 - To give p_____ to God (verse 11)

d. Read 1 Corinthians 12-14 for more information about the spiritual gifts.

The Apostles Receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost: Acts 2:1-4, 16-18:
 “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance...but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:
*‘And it shall be in the last days’ God says,
 ‘That I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind;
 And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
 And your young men shall see visions,
 And your old men shall dream dreams;
 Even on my bondslaves, both men and women,
 I will in those days pour forth my spirit
 And they shall prophesy.’”*

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson # 7

- 1) Begin to use the Bible reading guide from lesson two.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *Fellowship* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize Hebrews 10:24-25
- 4) Spend more time at church this week and get to know some people—stretch yourself! Don’t forget to take notes during the pastor’s message!
- 5) Learn to enjoy a Christian friend during the week. Pray with them and talk about Jesus with them.



LESSON 7

FELLOWSHIP



We have seen in the study of spiritual gifts that gifts are given for the building up of the church. When one becomes a Christian and thus a disciple, he or she is not meant to follow Christ alone. 1 Cor. 12:7, *“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”* It is in the midst of the church, the congregation of fellow believers, where we enjoy fellowship with God and with man. It is vitally important to be connected to such a fellowship.

Take a look at 1 John 1:1-4. These verses talk of the two-fold relationship of fellowship. The first aspect of this fellowship is the vertical relationship between God and Man. The second aspect of this fellowship is a horizontal relationship with our fellow believers. Let’s take a look at what the Bible says about these two aspects of fellowship.

Study Questions

THE VERTICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

1. God calls us into a fellowship and relationship with Him in Isaiah 45:22, *“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.”* Therefore, we are to seek to have a special relationship with Him.

2. In Psalm 73:24 we find a promise that God will counsel and guide us. What other promise can we find in this verse? _____

3. According to John 10:14-15, what are the two promises received through fellowship with God? _____

4. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-16. What does this passage say to you about God’s love for those who have fellowship with Him? _____



5. All those who have fellowship with God can look joyfully at the promise of Luke 23:43. What is that promise? _____

6. In Philippians 1:22-23, Paul is talking about being pulled between the flesh and his desire to be with Christ. Why is it far better to be with Christ? _____

7. 1 Peter 1:8 talks about faith. Can we have fellowship with God without faith? _____
What do you think happens if we believe, yet fail to seek and develop a relationship with God? _____

THE HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FELLOW BELIEVERS

1. According to Acts 2:42, in addition to the learning, praying and partaking in the Lord's Supper, what did the disciples do? _____

2. In Galatians 6:1-10, Paul admonishes the believers to do what three things? _____

3. Read Philippians 2:1-11. What does it say in regard to how we are to treat fellow believers, and how does this relate to fellowship? _____

4. What does Ecclesiastes 4:10, 12 say are advantages to fellowship with believers? _____

5. What does Proverbs 27:17 say about fellowship? _____

6. What four things does the author of Hebrews encourage us to do in Hebrews 10:23-25? _____



As it is clearly seen from the above verses, it is essential to the vitality of the Christian life to be in fellowship with other believers. This fellowship starts with attending a weekly worship service at your congregation and continues with a growing relationship with fellow congregational members outside of church activities. Fellowship with God and fellowship in the midst of the congregation are enjoyable experiences.

- 1 John 1:7
- Ephesians 4
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- 1 John 4:7-8
- Romans 12:5
- 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- Ephesians 3:6
- Ephesians 5:30

Suggested Follow-up

Verses:

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson # 8

- 1) Continue reading the Bible.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *Obedience* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize Acts 1:8.
- 4) Talk to people you know at church about Jesus.
- 5) Take notes during the pastor's sermon.

NOTES:



LESSON 8

OBEDIENCE

True Christian obedience is not a set of “do’s” and “don’ts”. It’s a lifestyle marked by continual focus on Jesus and the cross. Our obedience to God flows from what God has done for us. Ephesians 2:1-10 is a good reminder of what God has done. These verses state who we once were; we were dead in our trespasses and sins (v. 1). The good news is that God loved us even when we were dead in our trespasses (vv. 4b, 5). For it is by grace we were saved (v. 8). Finally, we see that we are His workmanship created for all good works (v. 10).

Furthermore, obedience is rooted in God’s love. Romans 5:8 declares, *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* We can love God by being obedient to Him, because He first loved us. No longer are we slaves to sin, but servants to Christ. Scripture is clear that believers are to be obedient to God. One such passage is Matthew 16:24, *“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’”* (This same verse is repeated in Mark 8:34 and Luke 9:23)

Undoubtedly, the word “cross” would have conjured up thoughts in the disciples minds of a violent, degrading death. In this verse Christ is demanding willful commitment from His disciples even unto death. The greater context of this verse comes from Matthew 16:21 where we learn that Jesus told His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and also be killed and raised from the dead three days later. Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead for our sake. It is for this reason only that we can even bear the cross, even unto death. Death has lost its sting and we can now joyfully pick up our cross and follow Jesus!

Study Questions

1. Read Matthew 16:21-26. How was Peter, a disciple of Jesus, setting his mind on man’s interest instead of God’s interest? _____

2. How did Jesus correct him? Has Jesus ever corrected you in a similar way? Explain. _____

3. What is our motivation for picking up our cross? _____

Warnings against not picking up our cross: (Law Statement)

- Luke 14:27 *“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”* (Same verse repeated in Matthew 10:38).



Other Scriptural references: (The following verses illustrate what it means to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. Basically, following Jesus means doing the will of God, i.e. presenting our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, and acceptable to God. Also it means abstaining from sexual immorality. In addition, it means loving God and people!)

- Romans 12:1-2 *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

4. What are some ways in which we conform to the world? _____

5. Why is Christian obedience important? _____

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 *“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”*

6. How do we know if we have done enough to please God? _____

7. If God has called us to live holy lives, how do we do that? _____

Matthew 22:36-39 *“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

Galatians 5:13-14 *“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

8. What does God command us to do in these verses? _____

9. Why is there no list of things we must do in this discussion of the greatest commandment? _____

10. What are some ways in which we can show love to our neighbors? _____



Disciples of Jesus Christ obey God out of a heart of thankfulness for what Jesus Christ has done for us. The motivation comes from knowing the Gospel. When somebody obeys God because they feel they *have to*, their obedience may feel similar to that of a slave. This is motivation by the Law. Ask yourself: “Why do I obey God?”

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson # 9

- 1) Continue reading the Bible and praying every day.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *Temptation* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13.
- 4) As you intentionally obey the words of Christ this week, remember who God is and what He has done for you.
- 5) Take notes during the pastor’s sermon.

NOTES:



LESSON 9

TEMPTATION

“You cannot prevent the birds from flying over your head. But let them only fly and do not let them build nests in the hair of your head. Let them be thoughts and remain such; but do not let them become conclusions.” Martin Luther ¹

Martin Luther was no stranger to temptation. It seems from his writings that Luther experienced more temptation as attacks from the world, flesh, and the Devil than most. Luther did not enjoy temptation, and yet he saw it as something from which he could grow. For many, temptation is not seen in this light. Luther believed that in order for the Christian to grow, one would face temptation and learn by the grace of God to resist and grow from it. Norwegian devotional writer O. Hallesby agreed with Luther when he wrote, *“Character cannot be formed without being tried in the flaming fires of temptation.”* ²

As we approach the topic of temptation, it is important to lay some ground work which will help in our understanding of the battle. We will look at four main issues surrounding temptation. We will first look at the nature of the Christian, and secondly, the nature of temptation. After these two foundational truths are established, we will learn how to resist temptation and then close with the Gospel promise of forgiveness.

Through this study, our hope and prayer is that you will gain a greater understanding of yourself and temptation. It is also our hope that you will learn what God has laid out for you so that, by His grace you can resist temptation. Most of all, our desire is that through the work of the Spirit of God through His Word, you will be brought to a place having peace with God through His gracious forgiveness.

THE NATURE OF THE CHRISTIAN

When dealing with temptation, it is important to lay the foundation. This is why one must look at the nature of the Christian. This is important because one’s understanding of their own nature will directly dictate how they view and handle temptation.

Study Questions

1. Based on Romans 3:9-23, Ephesians 2:1-3, and Colossians 2:13, what is the nature of man before conversion? How complete is the depravity? _____

¹ LW vol. 6 p. 133

² O. Hallesby. “Religious or Christian” p. 71



2. Based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4, and Ephesians 4:20-24, describe what happens when a sinner is born again. _____

3. Do a careful study of Romans 7. What is the major thing that Paul is struggling with? _____

4. According to Paul, what role does the sinful flesh have upon the Christian regarding the issue of temptation? (Galatians 5:17; Romans 7) _____

5. What is meant by the following phrase, "*the agony of temptation is evidence of life*"? _____

THE NATURE OF TEMPTATION

It is important for us to know the nature of temptation. Through this study we will notice the difference between testing and temptation. We will also look at the causes of temptation.

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between testing and temptation? _____

2. What are some reasons why God tests His people? (2 Cor. 12:7-9; 1 Peter 1:6-7) _____

3. According to Matthew 4:1, 2 Corinthians 11:3, and 1 Chronicles 21:1 who is the main source of all temptation? _____

4. Even though Satan tempts us, what role does our sinful nature play? (Romans 7; Galatians 5:17) _____



5. According to Romans 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, what is God's desired result of temptation for the believer? _____

FIGHTING TEMPTATION

Hallesby says that *"in the hour of temptation something very significant takes place within us, something very decisive in its importance, something vital to our whole being. The hours of temptation are brief, but fraught with destiny and filled with eternal import. The course of our life, not only the temporal, but the eternal as well, is determined in these fleeting moments."*³

Study Questions

1. According to Ephesians 6:12, against whom are we fighting the battle? _____

2. Discuss the armor of God. How does it relate to the Christian fighting temptation? _____

3. According to 1 Corinthians 10:13, what gracious promise has been given to the believer? _____

4. Read Hebrews 4:15-16. What do these verses tell us about temptation and Jesus _____

5. According to Matthew 4, how does Jesus respond to temptation? _____

6. Read James 1:2-4. What type of attitude should we have as we are being tempted or when we are in a trial? _____

TRUE FORGIVENESS

*"Temptation will gain the victory over us if we do not learn to turn to the Lord at once for help. The danger in connection with temptation is that it little by little distorts our perspective and weakens our moral judgment, as a result of which our view of the sin which is tempting us is altered little by little, under the quiet influence of the temptation."*⁴

³ Hallesby, 71



Study Questions

1. According to 1 John 1:5-10, why do we need to ask for forgiveness when we have sinned? _____

2. Consider Luke 15:11-32. Why does the father respond the way he does? _____

3. There will be times in your life after you have sinned that you will think, “God doesn’t want me.” This is a lie from Satan. The Bible is full of verses like Isaiah 30:18 *“Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him.”*
4. Psalm 34:15 says, *“The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears are open to their cry.”* Why does King David remind us that the Lord is attentive to us when we cry out? _____

Temptation will find a way into the lives of committed disciples of Jesus. This chapter has been a warning to you, new disciple, that temptation lies ahead! Strap on that armor of God, arm yourself with the Word and Spirit of God, and go do battle!

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson # 10

- 1) Continue to read your Bible and pray.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *Sharing Your Faith* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize John 14:21.
- 4) Focus on obeying the Word of God as you read it this week.
- 5) Set your heart on total commitment to knowing and obeying Jesus.

NOTES:

⁴ Ibid, 81



LESSON 10

SHARING YOUR FAITH

Evangelism, witnessing, and “sharing your faith” are all terms that Christians use to describe the work of proclaiming, or telling, the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ to the world. It is what the early Christians were empowered to do (Acts 1:8) and it was part of their mission to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). We have been given a wonderful gift in the grace of God. In this last lesson of the discipleship manual we will learn why we should share the faith and helpful hints on how to do it.

Study Questions

1. According to Luke 8:39, **WHAT** is evangelism? _____

- Do you have to be an evangelist to do evangelism? _____

- Who is qualified to evangelize? _____

- What message do you have to share ? _____

2. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, **WHO** should evangelize? _____

- Who is included in the phrase “in Christ”? _____

- What does it mean to be an ambassador? _____

- Are there other references calling us to share the gospel? _____

3. According to 1 Peter 3:13-17, **WHEN** should you evangelize? _____

- What is the place of good works in evangelism? _____



- What is the place of suffering in light of evangelism? _____

4. According to 1 Peter 3:13-17, **HOW** should you evangelize? _____

- In 1 Peter 3:13, what is meant by “what is good”? _____

- What is the purpose of prayer in evangelism? _____

- Keeping the proper distinction between Law and Gospel is important to remember when sharing your faith. Read Acts 2:22-40. How did the Apostle Peter use the Law when he preached?

- How and when did the Apostle Peter use the Gospel in his sermon? _____

- ◆ If you have further questions about the distinction between Law and Gospel, please ask your pastor.

5. According to the following verses, **WHY** should you evangelize?

- Revelation 20:11-15 _____

- Matthew 28:18-20 _____

- Mark 16:15-16 _____

- Romans 1:16-17 _____

- Acts 4:12 _____

6. As you seek to share your faith, it may be helpful to have a simple format in mind ready to use. Every



situation will be different. Each person will have specific questions and comments. Some people might not even want to listen to you! Don't get discouraged. Remember, it is the Holy Spirit at work through the Word of God as you share the Faith.

- Have your testimony ready. A testimony should include how God saved you and how He is working in your life now. Read Paul's testimony in the book of Acts for direction.
- Discern what status the person is currently in. For example, if the person you are sharing your faith with does not feel conviction of sin, he is not ready to hear the Gospel. He needs the Law. If the person is feeling terrible conviction of sin, he or she needs to hear the Gospel.
- Questions are great tools to use. Jesus used questions when speaking with people. Think with the person and ask good, thought-provoking questions to stimulate discussion. If you don't know an answer to a question, tell the person you don't know but will search for an answer.
- As you share your faith, pray for the salvation of the person.
- These are just a few tips to help you share your faith. There are many wonderful resources available that can help you evangelize.

SUGGESTED EVANGELISM RESOURCES:

- *God's Master Plan of Evangelism*—Robert E. Coleman
- *Out of the Salt Shaker into the World*—Rebecca Pippert
- *Share Jesus Without Fear*—William Fay
- *Tell it Often Tell it Well*—Mark McCloskey
- www.wayofthemaster.com
- *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*—CFW Walther

Assignments in response to Lesson # 10

- 1) Continue to read your Bible and pray.
- 2) Witness to a friend.
- 3) Write in a journal all that you have learned from the time spent with your Discippler.

NOTES:



Prayer Sheet

DATE	REQUEST	DATE	ANSWER



How to Share Your Testimony

1. Why Should I Share My Testimony?

- We are commanded to be ready to give an answer for the hope that we have (*1 Peter 3:15*).
- We are commanded to witness to others (*Mark 16:15, 2 Timothy 4:5*).
- We are commissioned to witness to others (*1 Thess. 2:4, 2 Cor. 5:19-20*).
- Christians are concerned about the souls of those who are lost (*Rom 9:3, Matt. 18:10-14*).
- Be sure of your own faith and that it is played out clearly before you share verbally.

“People would rather **SEE** a sermon than **HEAR** one.” *Matthew 5:16*

2. How to Write Your Christian Testimony

- Realize the **power** of your Christian testimony (*Rev. 12:11*).
- Study an example of a testimony from the Bible (*Acts 22, 26*)
- Start with a simple 3-point outline
 - Before you trusted Jesus
 - How God brought you to faith
 - What life has been like since conversion. Make this the focus of your testimony.

What the Savior has done in your life is important! Don't be fooled when Satan tells you that your testimony is insignificant. God will use you!

3. Important Tips to Remember

- Be specific: Include events, genuine feelings, and personal insights that will clarify your main points.
- Be current. Your testimony fresh with what Christ is currently doing in your life.
- Be honest. Don't exaggerate or dramatize your life for effect. The Holy Spirit will the simple truths of what God has done in your life to convict others of their sin and convince them of His love and grace.
- Stick to the point. Jesus' power is central to your testimony.
- Sound adult, not juvenile.
- Use Scripture at appropriate times.
- Say “I” and “Me” – not “You”
- Avoid “Christianese” – phrases that can alienate listeners and readers and keep them from identifying with your life. Examples of words to avoid include “Born Again,” “Saved,” or “Lost.”
- Practice your testimony. Use your testimony!



DISCIPLER'S GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

What a privilege it is for you, mature disciple, to lead a new disciple in the basics of the faith! Please approach this task with much care and prayer. The first lesson should be done with the disciple. Take time to work through the lesson. Talk about each point. Let the disciple know the importance of applying each truth to their life.

It is essential that prayer is the first and last thing you do each time you meet. It would be good to help the disciple to become very comfortable in praying in front of you. Transparency is very important as you pour your life into this new disciple of Jesus. Notice that this individual is not your disciple, remember that he or she is to be Jesus' disciple. 1 Corinthians 11:1 *"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."*

Application of the lesson must be a main topic of your discussion. This individual needs to be thinking about the truths each day so that they become ingrained in his or her life. There needs to be a time at the beginning of the next lesson to ask the disciple how the truth from the last lesson was applied each day since you last met.

You may notice that the lessons are different lengths. Please be flexible and sensitive to the needs of the disciple you are discipling.

Teach it - Apply it (*live it*) - Talk about it

LESSON 1—ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

- 1) Review Key Point: My (your) sins are forgiven!!!
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
 - Make sure the Law has done its work and that the disciple is truly converted.
 - Make sure the disciple has assurance of salvation!
- 3) Application: Help the disciple understand that their salvation is dependent on facts, not feelings.
- 4) Assignment —Bible reading and prayer.
- 5) Pray together.

LESSON 2—LIFE AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

- 1) Review Key Point: Disciples of Jesus Christ walk by faith.
- 2) Key Points of Lesson
 - Struggles are part of life.
 - Jesus will help you through every problem.
 - Inform the disciple about our enemies: the world, the Devil, and the flesh



- 3) Assignment —Complete the lesson on *How to Read/Study the Bible*
- 4) Pray together.

LESSON 3—HOW TO READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE

- 1) Review Key Point from Lesson 1: Salvation is based on the finished work of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection. Stress the fact of this statement.
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
 - There will be no relationship with a person unless there is communication—face-to-face, by talking on the phone, or through written letters.
 - Make sure the disciple understands that it is essential to communicate daily with God.
- 3) Assignment —Complete the lesson on *How to Pray*
- 4) Pray together.

LESSON 4—HOW TO PRAY

- 1) Review Key Point: The Word of God is literally God speaking to you.
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
 - Explain, “What is Prayer?”
 - Help the disciple realize that prayer is simple communication with their Savior (Jesus).
 - Talk about the fact that there is nothing too big or too small to pray about.
 - Prayer is the lifeline to Jesus.
- 3) Spend some time with your disciple outside of the Discipling time. Introduce them to other believers.
- 4) Assignment—Complete the lesson on *Attributes of God*
- 5) Pray together.

LESSON 5—ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- 1) Review Key Point from Lesson 4: Communication with our Savior is essential to keep a sweet relationship with Him.
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
 - The Word of God reveals the true God who is in control everything.
 - Ask the disciple to apply the truth of God’s attributes to his daily life.
- 3) Assignment —Complete the lesson on *The Holy Spirit: His Work and Gifts*.
- 4) Pray together.

LESSON 6—THE HOLY SPIRIT: HIS WORK AND GIFTS

- 1) Review Key Points from Lesson 5: Go through each of the attributes and help the disciple grasp the awesomeness of the God we serve.



- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
 - Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - What is His work in a believers' daily life?
- 3) Assignment for next time—The key to staying connected with the Body of Christ is fellowship. Have the disciple try to identify the Holy Spirit's work in his/her life during the week. Also complete the lesson on *Fellowship*.
- 4) Pray together.

LESSON 7—FELLOWSHIP

- 1) Review Key Points from Lesson 6: What did the Holy Spirit do in your life this past week?
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
 - Can you live a Christian life without being connected to a body of believers?
 - Please focus on the necessity of being connected.
- 3) Assignment—Get connected with a body of believers. Help your disciple find a worship place and Bible study with which they are comfortable. Also complete the lesson on *Obedience*.
- 4) Pray together.

LESSON 8—OBEDIENCE

- 1) Review Key Points from Lesson 7: Did the disciple find a fellowship group that he/she can stay connected with?
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
 - No one likes to obey anyone or any law. It is our nature to do things our own way!
 - Obedience is key to living an abundant Christian life. The Laws are there to protect us!
- 3) Assignment—Consider getting together again in a less teaching atmosphere to talk about obedience after applying it to every area of your lives. Maybe the disciple would love to continue studying another topic.
- 4) Assignment—Complete the lesson on *Temptation*. Help the disciple identify and write down the temptations they have this week—maybe you should do the same!
- 5) Pray together.

LESSON 9—TEMPTATION

- 1) Review from Lesson 8: Does the disciple struggle with obedience?
- 2) Key Points of Lesson:
 - No one is above temptation!
 - The closer one gets to Jesus, the more temptation will come.
 - Help the disciple be ready for the battle.
- 3) Assignment—Complete the lesson on *Sharing Your Faith*.



LESSON 10 —SHARING YOUR FAITH

2) Key Points of Lesson:

- Study Acts 1:8—Help the disciple understand that the Holy Spirit is empowering him or her to witness.
- Help the disciple find a tool to use for witnessing.
- Help the disciple to write out his or her testimony—work with them.

3) Review “How to Share your Testimony” on pg 44. Pay particular attention to the 3 key parts of a testimony: What your life was like before Christ, how and where Christ became real in your life, and what difference Christ has made in your life.

4) Encourage the disciple to witness to a friend.

5) Pray together.

CONTINUING ON—IDEAS FOR FOLLOW-UP:

- 1) Pick a practical, influential book to continue going through and discussing weekly. Cover one chapter at a time over dinner or coffee.
- 2) Encourage participation in a weekly church Bible study.
- 3) Find evangelism opportunities in the area for both you and your disciple to be apart of.





Glossary

Baptism- a means (instrument) through which God gives grace to individuals by the command of Jesus Christ and through the physical element of water. Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Peter 3:21

Communion- see Lord's Supper, also defined as "relationship with another"

Deity- the state of being god; most often used in association with teaching concerning Jesus

Depravity- the biblical teaching that every person is enslaved to sin

Disciple- believer and follower of Christ

Eternal Life- The divinely bestowed gift of blessedness in God's presence that endures without end. This relates especially to the quality of life in this age, and to both the quality and duration of life in the age to come. (Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Theology)

Forgiveness- God's restoration of relationship that entails the removal of objective guilt. (Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Theology)

Good Works- deeds or actions that are done in obedience to God's commands

Grace- God's generous mercy toward undeserving people. God's free and undeserved favor towards sinful humanity is demonstrated in Christ's work of redemption. It is unearned and undeserved gift. (The Lutheran Study Bible)

Law & Gospel- All Scripture is either Law or Gospel. That is, either it is God's Law speaking to us, telling us what to do and what not to do, or it is God's Gospel telling us what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

Lord's Supper- a means (instrument) through which God gives grace to individuals by the command of Jesus Christ and through the physical elements of bread and wine.

Mercy- not getting what one deserves; concrete expressions of compassion and love (New Dictionary of Biblical Theology)

Repentance- "the radical turning away from anything which hinders one's wholehearted devotion to God, and the corresponding turning to God in love and obedience" (New Dictionary of Biblical Theology, 726).

Righteous, Righteousness- 1) the position believers in Christ receive by grace
2) the practice of good deeds

Scripture- a holy book; in Christianity this term is synonymous with "Bible" or "The Word of God"

Sin- any thought, word, or action that fails to conform to God's Law.

Two Natures- "Man is composed of a twofold nature, a spiritual and a bodily. As regards the spiritual nature, which they name the soul, he is called the spiritual, inward, new man; as regards the bodily nature, which they name the flesh, he is called the fleshly, outward, old man." (Concerning Christian Liberty, by Martin Luther)