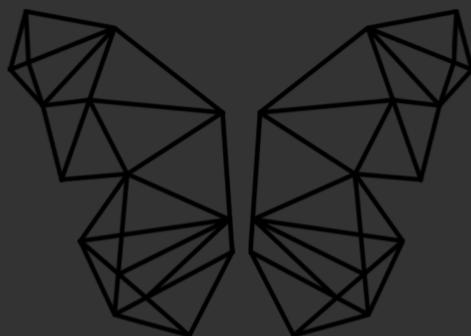


A LIVING



SACRIFICE

LEADER DISCIPLESHIP
MANUAL



365

CODY A. WALLACE



A LIVING SACRIFICE
LEADER DISCIPLESHIP
MANUAL

CODY A. WALLACE

Index Page

Introduction

- Session 1: How Can I Be a Living Sacrifice?** pg. 5
Verse: Romans 12:1, 2

Stage 1

- Session 2: What Is Salvation?** pg. 9
Verse: John 6:47
- Session 3: How Can I Get To Know God Better? Part 1** pg. 13
Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15
- Session 4: How Can I Get To Know God Better? Part 2** pg. 17
Verse: Psalm 5:3
- Session 5: Why Should I Be Baptized?** pg. 21
Verse: No Verse

Stage 2

- Session 6: What Is a Testimony?** pg. 25
Verse: Galatians 2:20
- Session 7: Trusting God and Being Faithful** pg. 29
Verse: Philippians 4:19
- Session 8: Overcoming Temptation, Lust and Sin** pg. 33
Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Session 9: How Can I Be More Like Christ?** pg. 37
Verse: Galatians 5:16, 17

Stage 3

- Session 10: One Body, One Service** pg. 43
Verse: 1John 3:18
- Session 11: How Should I Deal With Conflict?** pg. 47
Verse: Matthew 18:15
- Session 12: How to Distinguish False Teaching and Gospels** pg. 51
Verse: Psalm 119:11
- Session 13: Where Do I Go From Here?** pg. 55
Verse: 2 Peter 1
- Recommended Reading** pg. 59
- Works Cited** pg. 61
- Meeting Progress Sheet** pg. 63

Leaders Notes:

- **This manual is designed to take a believer from where they are in their spiritual walk to the next level in growth.**
- **There is a commitment and responsibility involved with choosing to undergo discipleship, both by the leader and disciple.**
- **You will note the last pages have a Progress Sheet. Please use it to help you keep track of both your progress and the progress of your disciple.**
- **This manual is relationship based. Leading a person through the manual is not just a time for instruction; it is a time to grow together.**
- **Remember we are called to lead by example and in love!**
- **Romans 12:15 “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”**
- **Please do not rush the process! Spend time growing together.**
- **The manual is a 13 week program, but it may take longer based on the needs of the individual disciple. Some weeks you may just need to be quiet and weep together!**

How Can I Be A Living Sacrifice?

Session 1

- **Leaders Note:** Start each lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual well-being of your disciple, i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading, and struggles with temptation.
- **Check to see if they have their memory verse done.**
- **Once you have done this, open your time leading in a prayer and at the end of the lesson encourage your disciple to pray.**

Are you at the point in your life where you want to take your Spiritual growth to the next level?

The problem for many believers is they have not taken the next step in their faith. Peter gives us an illustration of this.

1 Peter 2:2-3. “Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord”

Peter is saying that the Word of God is milk for a new believer. It is essential food that brings development. What does a baby need to grow? When you were a baby you drank milk to help you grow. But, if you didn't eventually stop taking the milk your growth would have been stunted, you would be under developed and lack brain capacity, because milk cannot sustain a growing body. As a believer we have our milk also. We took the milk of God to grow but now is the next part of growth. We need to get off the milk and chew solid food.

Why is it important to take the next step in your faith? (Allow Student to answer)

1 Corinthians 13:11. “When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.”

An important part of Spiritual growth is learning discernment and gaining wisdom. When you grow in the Lord your reasoning changes. Before as a child you thought only about one thing - yourself. The world revolved around you and your needs. It was I want food, I want attention, I want, I want, I want, me, me, me!

Why did you trust Jesus as Savior? Was it because you wanted a relationship with Him or was it because you didn't want to go to hell?

Now you will think further than you or your inner circle. As the verse says, “As a child I reasoned like a child”, as a maturing believer now it is time to see the bigger picture.

What is the bigger picture? The bigger picture is that we are the body of Christ. We must be living in peace together, loving one another, and working together. If we do our part by encouraging and loving one another, than we will succeed in reaching others for Christ. A mature believer doesn't have selfish ambitions in ministry. They want to know how to help and how to reach others. Seeing the bigger picture is seeing that God is the center of our life and your relationship with Jesus is what really matters! Seeing the bigger picture is looking at the world through God's eyes!

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

So how can you start maturing? As stated before, it's time to get off the milk, move to solid food and get involved. To get to the next level you must learn to give back by being a living sacrifice!

In your own words tell me what you think a living sacrifice is.

(Allow Student to answer)

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.”

The first step is to offer your life to Jesus! To willing say, “I am here for you and only you!” You have to make the decision to live for Jesus 100%. It is being a living sacrifice, meaning doing the things He would do, putting others first, loving people, and living as an example. Being a “Living Sacrifice” means not conforming to the world, not being like everyone else, but being the one called by God to live for Jesus. It is committing to follow Him in every area of your life.

Luke 9:23 “And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

You might believe in Jesus but that doesn't mean you are following Jesus!

The passage states, to follow Jesus you must deny yourself, take up your cross live for Jesus. It is a daily commitment and a daily battle.

1 Peter 1:13-15 “Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;”

We are being called to live for Jesus. We are being called to take control of our thoughts and actions and allow God to “Transform” them into something holy. One of the ugliest bugs is a caterpillar. A little, fat worm with feet! But that twelve eyed little thing transforms into a beautiful, colorful butterfly. God is wants to change our lives for Him and not stay as we are. Follow Jesus and be transformed into a beautiful, “Living Sacrifice.

Seems tough, doesn't it? It's hard not to be self seeking, self centered, and stubborn! But if you want to grow you need to do this and Christ can help you.

Have you asked Him for this help? Are you ready to now?

If this doesn't seem like something you want to do then let your leader know now and keep drinking the milk! But if you want a growing, rewarding relationship finish this manual and make the decision to live for Jesus.

Memory Verse: 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.”

➤ **Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.**

What is Salvation?

Session 2

- **Leaders Note:** Start each lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation. Check to see if they have their memory verse done.
- **Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.**

In order to follow Christ you must first understand what Jesus' love had done for you!

Believing and Trusting is the first stage of growth.

What is Salvation? Salvation is God's demonstration of love for us.

1 John 4:9, 10 "By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

The definition of salvation is being saved from our natural doom or fate. What is the doom people need to be saved from?

Hell! Eternal separation from God in hell!

God can not allow us to enter into heaven in our present condition. Heaven would become polluted and no longer remain perfect. Sin cannot dwell in the presence of God.

What would keep you out of heaven?

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Maybe you never killed anyone or robbed a bank, but you still have sinned! Plenty! No matter how hard we may try to be good, we still do wrong things- even things we know are harmful to our selves or others!

Why is this so?

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

"Wages" mean we have earned something- death! Death means separation and in this case it is separation from God!

But this separation does not have to remain permanent! According to the second part of this verse there is a free gift of life – a real relationship with God that He gives freely out of His love for us!

John 3:16-18 "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. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

What are the promises of salvation mentioned above? (Allow time for answer)

Jesus, the Son of God and Man, laid down His life and took our sin so we can have eternal life. As it says in John 3:18, all who believe in Jesus will not be condemned! Those who do not believe suffer the consequence of their choice: eternal separation from God in hell.

Who is promised salvation? (Allow time for answer)

Jesus wants everyone to trust Him! He wants all to believe and enter heaven as verse 17 says. God sent Jesus into the world so the world could be saved through Him!

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD. Our salvation depends upon one thing- Faith! Trusting in Jesus love and sacrifice for you! He died for every bad thing you have done, thought of doing, or will do! He laid down His life as a perfect sin offering, He was buried, and He rose again three days later! He is our Living Savior!

John 6:47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life."

What is necessary to acquire eternal life?

Trust – is everything!

What do the following things have to do with eternal life? (Give time to answer)

Lordship - giving Jesus complete control over you is the goal of Christian faith and not part of earning salvation!

Baptism – is part of growth and not part of earning salvation!

Good Works – is part of growth and not part of earning salvation!

Why do these things matter if they are not a part of your salvation?

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

Heaven is a free gift. These other things are part of what God wants to bring into our lives.

Think through this:

Imagine you are sick and a friend brings you some chicken soup and flowers. What would you do? Would you send them a thank you card?

Is the card a payment for the flowers and soup?

What would the card represent?

The same is true for us regarding Jesus. How can we express our thanks to God for what He has done for us?

Living for Him, doing right things, and being baptized are part of our “Thank You” letter written with our lives. They have nothing to do with gaining our eternal life, but show our deep gratitude and appreciation to God for what He has done for us!

How do I know I have eternal life? (Allow time for answer)

Can I ever lose my salvation?

1 John 5:10-13 “The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life”.

If you believe the testimony of Jesus; that He took the sin of mankind on the cross, died and rose again three days later, then as John says you can know for certain you have eternal life!

Have you trusted in Jesus? What do the promises above mean for you?

2 Timothy 2:13 “If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”

Romans 8:38, 39 “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

What can separate us from God’s love?

If nothing can separate us for the love of God, does that include our own failings? When we mess up, sin, or lose hope- God is still here and His presence will always remain because we are His children- forever! 1 John 3:1

John 10:27-30 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. "I and the Father are one."

What does Jesus promise to give His sheep?

You are safe in the hands of God, you can't fall out or be taken from Him, you are His and He gives you eternal life.

Now that you know what you believe it is important that you go out and share. But keep your good news clear and true! Be careful to not add anything to it, nor take away anything from it!

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

The gospel is clear- believe Jesus died, was buried and rose again! Good works, godly life, baptism and making Jesus lord of our lives, is just a way for us to say thank you.

Memory Verse:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.”

John 6:47

➤ **Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.**

Home Work:

➤ **Have them read Romans 3:23 and write how many times they have come short of God's glory (thought or action) in one day, Give them some examples.**

How Can I Get To Know God Better?

Communication by Listening

Session 3

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- **Check to see if they have their memory verse done. Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.**

When you first get into a relationship, friendship, dating or marriage, there is a time of excitement and wonder. Every second seems to be a joy. Then, time passes and the relationship is either stronger or at a stand still. Why? One word *effort!*

Relationships take effort, you must be willing to work at them and help them grow. Part of that is communication. In all relationships communication promotes growth or causes decay. If you have open and honest communication in a relationship there is growth. If there is dishonesty or a lack of communication there is decay.

Two main parts of communication are listening and talking. In this lesson we will focus more on listening in communication. Listening, by definition, is giving full attention to receiving a message in its entirety, understanding the points and the main ideas and analyzing them. Listening is often confused with hearing. Hearing is, receiving a message by recognition of a sound or word.

When you are driving in your car and you hear the siren of an ambulance behind you, you pull over to the right side of the road. Why? You heard and responded to the audible warning of an emergency.

The difference between listening and hearing is big! It is easy to “hear”- Skimming through a magazine or catching some music from a party next door. Listening however, involves your full attention and thought. In relationships, listening is what causes growth and to have a growing relationship with Jesus you must listen!

So how do we listen to God’s message? (Give time to answer)

The best place to start is in the Bible- God’s Word to mankind!

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”

The Word of God, the Bible, was written to be our guide as this verse says. The Bible in the Old Testament shows us the power of sin and defines what it is. Judgment for sin is certain, swift, and strong.

The New Testament shows us forgiveness of sin is possible because of the love of the Father. Peace, love, and the eternal relationship of Jesus result from faith in Christ.

To learn more about Jesus you must receive the message He has for you through His words. In order to grow in your faith you must read and think about His Word!

2Timothy 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.”

The Bible also guides us along life’s path. If we stay plugged into it the line of communication between God and our self will remain open.

Think of it:

The Bible is the listening end of the phone when you shut your Bible you are disconnected.

Psalm 119:11 “Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.”

It is like a cell phone meant to be taken every where with you.

Are you connected or are you in a dead zone?

How often do you read God’s Word? (Give time to answer)

Romans 15:4 “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

According to this verse the Bible is our guide through life! If you plan to follow Jesus then you must use the guide He has given, the Bible. It has everything we need. We just have to open it and use it.

There are two good ways to get into God’s Word: devotions and quiet times.

❖ “Devotions” is a time of devoted study. It’s when you study God’s Word for advice, answers, or just to study it.

It is time alone with God, communicating in prayer and reading without time restraints.

Do you have questions about life or the Bible? A good time to get your answers is in your devotion time.

Do you know what a concordance is?

Pick a topic you want to study or learn about and look it up in your concordance.

Write down all the verses and look them up! This may take hours, days or weeks, but that’s okay because devotions are not restricted to time!

❖ “Quiet Times”, however, are time alone with God in prayer and reading. It is usually a short time of reflecting on God’s Word.

It can be reading a small portion of scripture, *Our Daily Bread* or other material and taking time to dwell on it. A good time for this is in the morning. Devotions are good at night. It is important to do both.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Study! Being approved by God requires diligence. It takes diligence to understand God’s Word accurately. Think of it like this- your devotions are the meat and potatoes you need for growth, quiet times are the milk. You get nutrition from both, but you can’t last long on just milk. The more you read the more knowledge you will gain about Jesus and the closer your relationship will become. You will grow as a believer!

The more you study His Word the stronger and wiser you will become!

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

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

➤ **Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.**

Home Work:

➤ **Are there any questions you have about the Bible?
Ex. Tattoos, lust, lying, God?**

Look it up in your concordance and study the verses you find.

How Can I Get To Know God Better?

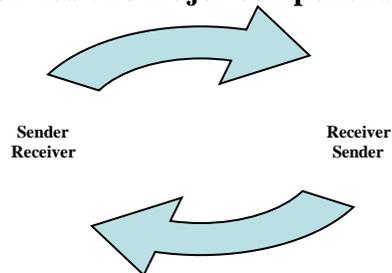
Communication Through: Prayer

Session 4

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- Check to see if they have their memory verse and homework done.
- Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.

As we learned last week, to grow in a relationship you need open and honest communication. The same is true for your relationship with God. To grow in a relationship with a person you must get to know them through listening. To get to know Jesus you must listen by reading the Bible. But communication doesn't stop there, the other part is talking. Whenever a person says they do not feel God's presence in their life or they don't get answers from Him, it is usually because they are not praying or reading their Bible and sometimes they are not doing both. It requires both to have a relationship!

Communication has two major components:



It's a circle that continues to go around and around, you listen to the message and then send one yourself.

Think of this:

Let's say you are in a dating relationship with someone. You have been dating the past three months but during that time have never spoken. Is the relationship stronger than when you first started dating? Will the relationship last? No! Why not? No communication!

The same is true for our relationship with Jesus. When we do not talk to one another the relationship cannot grow.

How do you send a message to God? (Give time to answer)

The way to talk with God is through prayer.

Matthew 21:22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Just like with reading your Bible the best way to start your day is with prayer.

Psalm 5:3 “In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order {my} {prayer} to You and {eagerly} watch.”

Starting your day talking to God helps you listen to what He has to say when you read His word. Also, you should pray all the time, your thoughts should be continually asking God for help, wisdom, and guidance in all that you do.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Your entire day you should thank Him for the good things that happen and ask for help when bad things happen. Prayer is a real conversation between you and God!

So how should we pray? There is no wrong or right way to pray. Just like a child when they first learn to speak is not very clear, but the parent understands what they are saying anyway. We don't know how to pray but God understands.

Romans 8:26, 27 “In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

So even when we don't know the words to say or how to start, God understands because the spirit tells Him. Your prayer time is a holy time a time when you have God's full attention. He's waiting for your message so share what is on your mind.

There are different types of prayers. There is the quick wisdom prayer, asking God to help with a situation, and the full attention prayer, you alone with God giving Him full attention. The quick wisdom is for the times when you can't spend 10 minutes on your knee's, it is for the time when you are in between classes at school and you need help now, so you quickly give it to God on the way to the next class. The full attention prayer is different it is a time when you are alone, no radio, games, or other distractions.

Matthew 6:5-8 “When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

God really wants to hear from you! Pray whatever is on your mind.

A useful tool to help you have a successful prayer life is to think of A.C.T.S.

This method incorporates 4 areas, which should be included in our praying.

- A.** = **Adoration - Giving praise, exaltation and honor to God.**
Psalm 100:4 “Enter His gates with thanksgiving {And} His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.”
- C.** = **Confession - Admitting my sin to God.**
1John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- T.** = **Thanks - Telling God “Thank You” (For the good and the bad).**
Ephesians 5:20 “always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;”
- S.** = **Supplication - Making requests for others and myself.**
Matthew 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

James 5:16 “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

1 Timothy 2:1-4 “First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Another prayer help may be to actually use your hand!

Let each finger represent something you need to do during prayer. But remember: God isn't worried about how your prayer is structured; He just wants to hear from you!



1

Some people say they do not feel God’s presence in their life. They feel as if He is up there and we are way down here. The truth is we are the ones that are distant. Open the lines of communication and see how close He starts to feel. Don’t make God your spare tire, going to Him only when trouble happens. Grow with Him, open the communication and you’ll be amazed at what you learn. Conversation is a two way street - you must listen, but you also must respond!

Memory Verse: Psalm 5:3

“In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order {my} {prayer} to You and {eagerly} watch.”

- **Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.**

¹ <https://www.navigators.org/us/resources/illustrations/items/prayerhand>

Why Should I Be Baptized?

Session 5

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation. Check to see if they have their memory verse and Home Work done. Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.

What is baptism for?

(Give time to answer)

Open your Bible to Matthew 3:13. While you're looking at that verse, I will paint you a background scene. The Pharisees are at the river Jordan listening to John preach and watching him baptize. They decided they were going to be baptized as well. Great, right? But it wasn't great because their hearts were not right with God and John could see that. John warns them that God has plans to clean house! He will weed out the bad from the good. What was the purpose of the ax?

As this is taking place Jesus shows up at the river. You can almost imagine John's expression meeting the Messiah, the one he had preached about for years is now in his presence! Jesus is asking John to baptize Him!

Matthew 3:13, 14 "Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

Here John is struggling with emotion at meeting the Savior, and in all humbleness he says I am not worthy to baptize you! Look at Jesus' answer.

Matthew 3:15 "But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him."

He says, "Permit it to happen". Why? There are three reasons Jesus was baptized:

- ❖ First, as Jesus says it was to fulfill righteousness, it was to show Jesus was set apart for God and approved by Him. That is why verse 16 takes place to show God's acceptance of Jesus' offering to live for Him. Just like Romans 12:1-2 says "...a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God . . ." Jesus was showing this sacrifice!

Matthew 3:16, 17 "After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

- ❖ Second Reason: It was so John could announce the arrival of the one he had been talking about.

- ❖ Third: It was his way of associating Himself with man and living an example.

So how are we to approach baptism?

(Give time to answer)

If you are a believer in Jesus [meaning you believe He died on the cross for your sin, and rose again and by trusting He did this for you, you receive eternal life] you need to approach baptism the same way Christ did.

- ❖ First, Jesus did it to show He was accepted by God! If you trust Jesus as your savior you have been accepted. Baptism shows others what you have believed.
- ❖ Second, it was to show that He was set apart for God! If you want live for Jesus you separate yourself to Him! Remember the first lesson about becoming a “living sacrifice”?
- ❖ Third, Jesus did it as an example to follow! You can be an example to others by saying I am following Christ; I am a follower of Jesus. Baptism is not a requirement for salvation. But, it is a step in your growth with Jesus, it is setting yourself apart from the world and it is showing others you want to serve Jesus.

How does baptism tie into being a “Living Sacrifice”?

Romans 6:3, 4 “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

You go under the water representing death of self and coming up as a new person in Jesus.

Homework:

Read Acts 8:26-38

“But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH. "IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION ? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED

FROM THE EARTH." The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him."

➤ *Leaders Explanation of this H.W.:*

As the Ethiopian eunuch was excited to learn about Jesus and the scripture, so should we. He finally found what he was looking for, Jesus. He was so excited He wanted to show He believed and wanted that new life of serving and following Him, so Phillip baptized him.

What does baptism mean for you?

What Is A Testimony?

Session 6

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- Check to see if they have their memory verse and Home Work done.
- Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.

In your own words tell me what you think a testimony is. (Give time to answer)

- ❖ Legally: Evidence that a witness gives to a court of law.
- ❖ Everyday: Something that supports a fact or a claim
- ❖ Christianity: a public profession of Christian faith or religious experience

Many believers think that their testimony is when they trusted Christ. In actuality, a testimony can last your entire Christian walk. A testimony is evidence, to the change as a result of Christ. Some people have no testimony of their own. The only testimony they have is Christ's.

1 John 5:10-12 “The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.”

That is a great testimony to have. What would give His testimony greater impact?

Do people see the effects of Jesus working in you?

Your testimony can be the transformation that takes place through the renewing of your mind.

Our testimony is the action, thought and speech that match up with what we claim. It is a testament, proof provided, to you calling yourself a believer or “Christian”.

There are two things we need to keep in mind about our testimony.

1. God is always listening to and watching us
2. People are always listening to and watching us

Because of this we need to make sure our testimony honors Jesus!

- ❖ **Testimony to parents:**

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

- ❖ **It is restated in the New Testament for us to remember.**

Ephesians 6:2 “HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),”

- ❖ **Testimony to believers and unbelievers:**

Matthew 5:43-45 “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ 44”But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

- ❖ **Testimony in speech:**

Colossians 3:8 “But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.”

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”

Have beauty in your speech so when you leave people feel uplifted!

Be a person of your word, follow through your commitments and be dependable!

Matthew 5:37 “37 ”But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.”

Do you have a good testimony/

At home?

At school?

At work?

With your friends?

With God?

(Give plenty of time to answer)

What can you improve?

(Give time to answer)

Think of the impact your actions have on others.

Read this from The Daily Bread by Radio Bible Class.

“Every morning Harry, a Christian, walked into his office singing a song from the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical *Oklahoma*: “Oh, what a beautiful morning; oh, what a beautiful day! I got a beautiful feeling, everything’s going my way!”

But one morning, he forgot to sing. Harry soon noticed that something was wrong at the office; everyone around him seemed on edge. When he finally asked a co-worker what was wrong, she replied, “You didn’t sing this morning, and we thought you were upset!”

Harry had become known for such a cheerful, positive spirit that his co-workers were sure something was wrong with him that morning. Harry hadn’t realized how closely people were watching him, and he resolved from then on *always* to come to work singing.

First Peter 2 reminds us that people are observing our lives (vv.11-12). To be good representatives of Jesus Christ, Peter teaches that we’re to be submissive to authority, to live an honorable life, to do good works, to honor all people, and to fear God (vv.12-17).

The testimony of our lives can give us opportunities to share the good news of Jesus. So we might want to ask ourselves, “What do people see in me?”

— [Anne Cetas](#)

Help me to sing a joyful song
For those bowed down with care,
A song of hope and freedom
For those in dark despair. —Andrews
Do others see Jesus in you?²

Remember people are watching you. They want to see you react under pressure, whether you are mad, sad, or happy. They want to see if you are different than them and if what you say about Jesus is real.

A testimony is not only saying you are a “Christian” it is living it out for others to see. The Jesus the world sees is the Jesus living in you! What kind of Jesus do you portray?

² Cetas, Anne. “Something’s Wrong With Harry” *Our Daily Bread* Vol. 53, numbers 9,10 and 11. 2008.

Memory Verse: Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

- **Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.**

Trusting God and Being Faithful

Session 7

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- Check to see if they have their memory verse and homework done.
- Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.

Do you trust Jesus? If so, how do you trust Him? Many people trust Jesus for their eternal salvation. They believe they can trust Jesus to get into heaven, but it is as far as their trust goes!

When you make the decision to follow Jesus it should be a different story. You should trust Him with all aspects of your life! Remember the verse in Luke from the first session?

Luke 9:23 “And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

Following means taking someone’s guidance and instruction; it is a total commitment, no hesitations or excuses. Look at the two men called to follow Jesus and compare them.

Luke 9:57, 58 “As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.””

Let us look at this first man. He tells Jesus he is going to follow Jesus wherever He goes. Jesus responds by giving Him a warning that following him is tough because you may have to do without when you put Jesus first.

Luke 9:59, 60 “And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.””

Look at this second man. Jesus calls him to follow and he says let me bury my father. Now a lot of us get confused when we read this because we think that Jesus is showing a lack of compassion to a man who just lost his father. But, in actuality, this person was saying, “Jesus, I will follow you once my dad dies and I get my inheritance.”

His dad was not dead, yet! The son was selfish and only thinking about his inheritance. Jesus then says to the first man go tell everyone about me. He could sense this man was

ready and willing to put Jesus and others first before his own needs, unlike the second fellow.

Think of it:

Let's say we are hiking in the Himalayas and I am your guide. I tell you to follow my every step and movement because I know where I am going. What would you do? Hopefully, you would listen and follow every move to a "t". In doing so, you would be trusting in my guidance. You are trusting that I know what I am doing, where I am going and that I am thinking of your safety as I am doing so.

This is true for our walk with Jesus. He says follow Me and we need to trust He is guiding us correctly. But to do that we must follow Him completely. No excuses, no procrastinating, just following Him to a "t".

Some examples of how Jesus wants us to follow Him are. *(Look these verses up together)*

- ❖ **Time – Show me where you spend all your time and I'll show you what you follow.**
- ❖ **Relationships – John 13:34,35; Romans 12:10-18**
- ❖ **Financial**
- ❖ **Family – Colossians 3:18-21; Ephesians 5:21-33**
- ❖ **Work - Colossians 3:23,24**
- ❖ **Other examples are areas we studied before in testimony.**

Look again at the Scriptures above. Are you allowing God to guide you in these areas?

Notice that no Scripture or statement is given for finances. There is a reason for that.

Matthew 6:21 "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Why do people hesitate investing in the market during a poor economy? Because they do not have faith in it! They do not trust their investment will be safe!

Why don't people give their money to God? Do they trust Him with it?

Sometimes people look at money they donate to a church as money being taken from them. It's money for movies, clothes, or food that they are "Losing". But that is selfish and infantile thinking. In actuality that money is an investment in God's kingdom. The money goes to further other's spiritual growth and reach people with the gospel.

Your money can be helping people spiritually! Can a movie do that? Can clothes do that?

Can food or gas?

We are not saying giving is without sacrifice. But instead of thinking of the things you are losing, think of the investment you are making.

Matthew 6 "19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27 "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? 28 "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! 31 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Do not worry about things, give to God first and He will provide your needs.

Consider the widows mite. (*Mark 12:41-44*) It took complete faith and trust to give all she had to God. But she had trust in His guidance for her life and faith that God would provide.

Tithes and Offerings are no longer required as they were under the Law. However, we need to be faithful in giving God our investment and trust He will provide for our needs.

Do you trust God's guidance in your life?

Are you being faithful in following Him in all aspects of your life?

Remember following Jesus is to be 100%, never a percentage less. Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius not a degree less. In the end we all will give an account for all aspects of our life: time, money, friends and family.

Matthew 25 14 "For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 "To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability;

and he went on his journey. 16 "Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. 17 "In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. 18 "But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 "Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 "The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' 21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 "Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.' 23 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 "And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. 25 'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.' 26 "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave"

What will God say about how you invested your time, money and life?

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19

“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

- Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.

Homework:

- Read the story of the widow's mite. (*Mark 12:41-44*) Why was she blessed for giving? Was it because she gave all she had? Why did Jesus see the other's giving as less, when they gave more than her? What can you learn from her?

Overcoming Temptation, Lust and Sin

Session 8

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- **Check to see if they have their memory verse and Home Work done.**
- **Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.**

Why is it important not to sin?

Romans 6:1, 2 “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

Yes we are forgiven. Past, present and future sins have been paid for by Jesus. However, we should not continue to sin because we represent Christ! As it states here, we should die to our old self and let Christ live in us. A living Sacrifice, following Jesus.

There is a battle that is raging all around us. It is a battle of good vs. evil! The victory has already been won but the enemy wants to bring down as many victims as he can.

Ephesians 6:10-12 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Satan wants to destroy your testimony and keep you from sharing the gospel with others. As this verse says we must arm ourselves with God’s Word. There is no power in man’s words but there is great power in the Word of God! The first way to resist sin is to be on the alert, listen to God’s word, and pay attention in every situation.

1 Peter 5:7, 8 “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

Are you making yourself vulnerable!

Satan wants to ruin your testimony by making you into a hypocrite. How can Satan attack you? He uses bait, he is the great deceiver. He dangles the temptation before you trying to make you take it.

James 1:13-17 “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”

Temptation is like bait to a fish and Satan casts it right in front of us! But, it is our decision to swallow it or reject it!

The next step in the progression of sin is lusting! It is entertaining a strong desire to obtain something. After the temptation and lusting comes the actual act of sin. This causes separation between ourselves and God. Sin breaks our connection with God and causes us to lose our joy in the Lord. We must deal with it or remain miserable!

Think of it:

Why is the sin process like fishing? When you go fishing how do you catch the fish? You put bait on the hook and cast it out in front of the fish. If the fish doesn't bite what do you do? Give up? No, you put new, more attractive baits on until the fish takes the bait!

The fisherman finds the right bait then it is the fish's choice to take the bait.

A fisherman does not physically go into the water and force the hook into the fish's mouth. Satan is the same way, he doesn't force you to sin. He puts out flashier temptations until you bite. Think of the baits he put in front of Jesus!

Can you resist the bait? Do you have to fall to temptation? There is always a way out, your temptations do not have to lead to sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

We are not helpless in this struggle; remember we have God on our side! We need to resist temptation by any means necessary!

Hebrews 12:4 “You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;”

Resist the temptation so you will not lust and fall into the sin. Remember, it is Satan that tempts you, but you're the one that sins! It is just as easy not to sin as it is to yield to Satan!

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Your weakness to sin does not have to ruin you. You can resist sin and overcome it through Jesus.

How can you resist your temptations?

Options for temptation:

1. Get away from the temptation!

2 Timothy 2:22 – Run - Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

2. Guard your heart and mind! Stop the sin before it takes root!

Psalm 119:11- Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You

You can combat temptation with Scripture; an example is Jesus in the desert with Satan. Remember what we learned in the first lesson a man of God feeds on the Word of God, knows it and uses it, so you can use it when you are tempted to help you resist.

Think of it:

The sin process is like a long chain each link is a temptation. Maybe some of these temptations have little allure to you, but there is probably a temptation in that chain that you do struggle with, it is your weak link!

Now, let's say you had to take that chain and hang from it off the top of the empire state building. What would you do?

You would probably want to strengthen the part of the chain that is weak and go over all the other links to make sure they are still strong, right? Why? Because you don't want that weak link to make you fall to your death.

Temptation has the power to make us fall, fall into sin. That is why you must strengthen your weakness through Jesus.

What temptations are leading you to sin? (Give time to answer)

What are you going to do to prevent falling into sin? (Give time to answer)

Keep in mind we are a work in progress. You will not be perfect until you are face to face with your Maker. We will always struggle with temptations, but as long as we daily give our struggles to Jesus we can have success in resisting sin through His power.

2 Corinthians 12:9 "And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

Remember, Christ died to save us because of our sin bondage, not because we had arrived at perfection!

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

- **Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.**

How Can I Be More Like Christ?

Session 9

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- **Check to see if they have their memory verse and Home Work done.**
- **Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.**
- **It is now you may want to recommend your disciple/student to start reading “So You Want to Be Like Christ!”**

How can you be more like Christ? This is what we like to call, “Letting go and letting God”. The more you mature in Christ the more you become like Him. We are the only reflection of Christ this world has to see.

How do people see Jesus in you?

2 Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

The change, “transformation”, taking place should make us look more and more like a mirror image of Christ. With each new day of dying to self and living for Him we should be shedding the cocoon of the old ugly former life.

What does our mirror of Jesus look like? Are we distorting Christ to make Him what we want Him to be and not who He truly is? Is it a distorted mirror like in a fun house that squishes or stretches the true image? Sometimes we mangle God’s Word to make it fit our own desires. So we need to make sure our reflection accurately portrays Jesus.

Jesus told us who He was.

John 14: 6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

Our reflection should point to the way, the truth and the life.

John 8:12 “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.””

How do we show the light?

Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Jesus calls us to reflect His light, to be the light. He calls us to shine in such a way that people see the effects of Jesus in our lives. They will see the things we do and know that it is because of Jesus.

How can we shine?

Romans 12:1 “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.”

This should be your goal as we learned in the first session. Give yourself back to Jesus because He gave Himself for you.

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

Because He died for us, to show our love for Him, we must die to our self, the flesh and its desires.

Romans 12:2 “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.”

Lastly, we are called not to be an example of this world, but to be an example to the world. That is where your testimony comes into play. A testimony that shows the effects of Jesus in your life is an example to all you know.

What was Jesus’ example here on earth?

Philippians 2:1-11 “Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the

likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Jesus’ main example on earth was His humbleness. He never put Himself above the Father or the needs of others.

Matthew 11:29 “29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.”

Here Jesus describes Himself as gentle and humble. He does not put Himself above the needs of others. True humility does not mean you degrade yourself, it is simply putting others God and others first!

How are we to act according to his verse? (Give time to answer)

How can you reflect the acts of gentleness and humility as demonstrated by Jesus?

Romans 12:15-18 “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”

One of the greatest examples of Jesus throughout the Scripture is His example of forgiveness and love.

Luke 23:33, 34 “When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.”

Even on the cross Jesus cared more for the lives of others and forgave.

How does Jesus forgive?

Psalm 103:12 “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

Christ forgave us totally; when we ask for forgiveness as it says He takes it as far from us as possible and never holds it against us again. How do we apply this?

Colossians 3:13 “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you

may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” NIV

If we are to act like Jesus and do the things He would do, how do we apply forgiveness?

(Give time to answer)

He forgives and rebuilds the relationship. So how are we to forgive? As Jesus, completely, never bringing it back up and restore the relationship.

How are we to love?

1 John 3:16-18 “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

Can you be more like Christ?

Genesis 1:26 “Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

We were made like Jesus, God and the Spirit, we had love and humility and all the virtues that come from those in abundance, until we fell in sin.

Fallen man became enslaved to sin and to Satan.

John 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

But trusting Jesus as Savior freed us from sin and made us children of God.

1 John 3:1 “See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.”

But these two battle, flesh vs. Spirit, but if you choose the Spirit's nature you will once again be able to live the life that Jesus, God and the Spirit created you for.

Galatians 5:16, 17 “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

Walking in the Spirit is living like Christ!

John 13:13-17 "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

Live His example, reflect Jesus. Be transformed more and more into His likeness, so your example for others will be a clear example of Christ.

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:16, 17

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

- **Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.**

Home Work:

- **Have them read, John 8:12, John 14:6, 7; Psalm 103:12 and Matthew 5:14-16.**
- **List how they can be like Jesus from these examples.**

One Body, One Service

Session 10

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- Check to see if they have their memory verse and Home Work done.
- Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.

How can you serve God and His church?

Ephesians 4:14-16 “As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

It is obvious by this passage that being active in the body of Christ causes growth for the believer doing the service, growth for the believers receiving the service and growth to the body, people trusting Jesus as Savior.

We can serve at home, at church at work or in the street. Service is seeing a need and acting on it!

1 John 3:16-18 “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?* Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (NIV)

See a need and take action to meet it!

What is a need, and how do we take action? As we see here a need may be financial, but a need may be emotional as well.

Romans 12:10-14 “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and

weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

God commands us to fulfill the needs of others, in doing so we are serving Him.

Think of it:

If your loved one is starving of course you will give them food. If your loved one is sad or upset, you will be sad or upset too. This is how the family of God should work, as this verse says we need to love one another. Practical service flows naturally in spiritual, emotional, and physical areas. We are serving others when we love others by our actions.

Observe a need (physical, financial, spiritual or emotional) and take action.

Galatians 5:13 ***“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.”***

Our service of love is what Jesus said should set us apart from everyone else.

John 13:34, 35 ***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”***

We are set apart from the world by our love. Our love is shown by our service or actions.

Let your love stand out through your service. But don't be a hypocrite with your love and only serve wanting a return and love those that love you, because that is not true love and is empty.

Luke 6:32-36 ***“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. “If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”***

Our love and actions, our services, are an extension of Gods love and it is His love working through us.

The actions we do to express our love is to be done as if we are doing them for Jesus so let them be done with joy, kindness, and grace.

Colossians 3:23, 24 “*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*”

It is one thing to say we love and say we care but it is another to see a need and take action. One is just a lip service and the other is service in action.

Colossians 3:12-15 “*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.*”

Put on the attributes, characteristics, of Jesus so you can take the actions of Jesus and truly be the family of God. The church needs dedicated members to offer their service to Jesus. We all must fulfill our part in the body. Have you found your place in the body?

Memory Verse:

“*18* Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”
1 John 3:18 (NIV)

Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.

How Should I Deal With Conflict?

Session 11

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- Check to see if they have their memory verse and Home Work done.
- Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.

Conflict is inevitable. Everyone sooner or later will get into an argument. Everyone sooner or later will be offended by someone else. Sooner or later you will have to confront someone for an injustice done to you or someone else. Christians need to know how to handle conflict in a Scriptural manner.

First, how are we to approach a conflict? Let us look to the Bible.

Matthew 7:1-5 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

What does this mean?

Don't go out “gun's a' blazing”. Take time to assess what has taken place. Are you being overly sensitive? Are you looking for a reason to dislike, or accuse this person? Judge fairly because the way you are judging them others will judge you the same way. Then, make sure your life is right in this area. Let's say, someone offends you by making you the brunt of a joke. Do you do the same thing to others? Have you done the same thing to this person? Make things right with the people you have offended. This verse is not telling us not to correct others it is just telling us that we need to first examine ourselves to see if we need to deal with our own problems.

Should you approach a person that has offended you? You may think, I am not good with conflict or I don't do well in those situations. To tell you honestly not many people like to deal with conflict. But, ignoring a situation is like ignoring that you have cancer and it will get worse!

Ephesians 4:25-27 “Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

This verse puts it so simply and beautifully, be honest with people, be real, let people know what you really feel. It is okay to get upset; anger is an attribute of God, it is important not to allow the anger to get control of you so you sin.

Psalm 4:4 “In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Selah”

Again keep control of your anger, keep your heart pure and the Spirit in charge. Make sure the sun does not set without you handling the situation.

How do you, after getting control of yourself and making sure your right with God, approach someone? What if they do not listen?

Matthew 18:15-17 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

It is important, as this verse says, to first show the person where they are at fault. Second, make sure you do it in private. “Don’t air dirty laundry”, others are watching to see how we interact with others, so remember your testimony! This is also done to protect the person you are talking with. You could ruin a person’s testimony because of a misunderstanding. If you do it this way you likely gain their respect! But if they do not listen, bring another believer with you to establish the facts of the situation. Don’t skip steps by telling people who have no part in the restoration process! This is gossip and it is a sin! The goal is to reconcile the relationship and do it in a loving manner.

So if you follow these steps for handling confrontation and everything goes smooth what do you do next? (Give time to answer)

Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

The goal in confrontation is restoring fellowship. Forgiveness needs to flow freely, as Jesus forgave. Remember the session on being like Christ? What example does Jesus show on forgiveness?

How does Christ forgive? (Give time to answer)

So is there a Biblical way to be angry? Is there a Biblical way to confront others? Is there a Biblical way to forgive? Yes, yes, and yes! We need to apply the scriptures in all three areas.

Memory Verse: Matthew 18:15

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”

➤ **Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.**

Homework:

Go and make amends with a person you have a conflict with.

Evaluate:

- **Are there some areas in your life that can use some “God Improvement”?**
- **Is there unresolved conflict in your life?**

If so, use the three core verses we went over to deal with it.

How to Distinguish False teaching and Gospels

Session 12

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- Check to see if they have their memory verse and Home Work done.
- Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.
- It is now that you may want to recommend “Basic Theology” as a reading. This book will help them with their tough questions and come to a better understanding of what they believe.

How can you distinguish false teaching?

Consider This:

When the FBI is training their men how to spot fake currency they do not sit them in a room full of counterfeit bills. Why? That would be foolish! Fake bills are becoming closer to the real thing! How could these agents ever learn all the phonies?

The FBI gives their trainees the real thing- bona-fide bills. They focus their attention to master the real thing!

Why? Because when you know the real thing, the false stands out naked!

2 Timothy 4:3 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,”

There are many false teachings and religions in the world today. There are cults that use the name “Christian” to deceive people into following their lies. It’s important for us as believers to be able to discern what is false teaching and what is not. It is a matter of “truth vs. lie”.

Ephesians 4:14,15 “As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ”

An immature believer can easily get confused in false teaching which will lead them astray. They are tossed back and forth with everything people tell them, but a mature Christian

can discern truth and see false teachings for what they are- lies!

False teachings, false doctrines, will cause us to disobey God and possibly lead others astray.

There are some false teachings that say you must pray to saints, but that is breaking God's Law:

Exodus 20:3-6 "You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

There are also teachings that limit pastors to study and teach the Bible!

Psalm 119:11 "Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You."

2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Another false doctrine teaches that it is a sin for a man to claim he knows he is going to heaven! (Sin of Presumption) But that clearly goes against God's Word:

John 6:47 "Truly, Truly I say unto you, he who believes has eternal life."

John 10:27, 28 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

Some claim to be prophets and speak in tongues. But are they following God's Word in these practices?

1 Corinthians 14:29 "So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe. Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment."

What was the consequence of a false prophet under the Law of God?

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 “But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’ When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

According to this if a prophecy spoken does not come true, the prophet is not of the Lord.

The main thing is to check what is being taught to the Truth, the Bible.

There are so many teachings that go against God’s Word and it is easy to fall for them if you are not on your guard.

So what can you do to guard yourself from these teachings? (Allow time to answer)

The way to keep from false teaching is to know the Word of God. As 2 Timothy 2:15 says to study diligently so we will not have to be ashamed in the examination!

Put to the test what you hear and if it does not match up to God’s Word- it is false! 1 John 4:1-6 shows us how to discern spiritual teaching.

1 John 4:1-5 “ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.”

According to these verses the truth was displayed when God sent Jesus, His only Son, to die for our sins. Truth is also manifested when we love everyone. Anything message that speaks contrary to this is a lie!

Think of all the religions that are false in the light of these verses! If they teach hate, violence, Jesus not being God’s Son, and Jesus not dying for our sins then they speak lies and are of this world!

What about false gospels? How do we distinguish what is true or not? Again we must use the Bible! One easy way to see if a gospel is false is by using 1 Corinthians 15.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

As verse 2 says if we do not believe Jesus died for our sin and rose again from the dead we have believed in nothing. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, then people are still lost, because Jesus’ resurrection conquered sin and death. If a ‘gospel’ adds or takes from the true gospel: that Jesus died for all sin, was buried and rose three days later, than it is not the gospel of Jesus and does not save.

There are many false teachings about the gospel. Some teach that Jesus never rose from the dead. Some teach that you need to work for salvation and others say you need to be baptized in their faith to have eternal life!

But the Bible is clear on the gospel! It is Jesus- His death, burial and resurrection, and His eternal life!

These are just a few verses to help you discern between true and false teaching. The important thing is to be daily in the Word and testing all you read.

Hebrews 5:13, 14 “For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

Repeating what we learned in session one, it is time to get off the milk!

In session four we discovered the need to study the meat of the word. Just like spotting phony money, if we study God’s Word it is easier for us to spot the false!

When you study God’s Word and know it, you can discern what a lie is!

Memory Verse: Psalm 119:11

“Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.”

➤ **Discuss the memory verse and ask the student to describe what it means to them.**

Where Do I Go From Here?

Session 13

- **Leaders Note:** Start every lesson with a brief discussion of the spiritual wellbeing of your disciple i.e. prayer life, Scripture reading and struggles with temptation.
- **Check to see if they have their memory verse done.**
- **Once you have done this open in a prayer, at the end of the lesson allow the disciple to pray.**

So now that you have completed these lessons, memorized important verses, started a routine of reading your Bible and praying, we hope you learned the deeper meaning of this manual.

The purpose of our journey through this study is to transform your mind from your old fleshly thinking into a new way of thinking like Christ!

The goal is to help you see that the Bible and being a follower of Christ applies in every aspect of your life and every day of the week! 24/7!

Colossians 3:17, 23, 24 “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”

So where do you go from here?

Are we finished growing as a learner now that our study has ended? Hopefully not!

This has been the beginning of a life-long relationship with Christ and a life-long process of change. Everyday we need to pray, read the Scriptures, and do what it teaches. We need to keep away from sin and false teaching.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-21 “Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.”

Our lives should be a continual living sacrifice, hence the name “living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1).

We should never stop living for Jesus and following Him. As I Thess. 5:19 says, “do not quench the Spirit;” do not let the fire go out!

Keep reading God's Word and be active in serving!

Hebrews 12:28, 29 “Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.”

Our gratitude is shown by living for Jesus. Because Jesus died to give us eternal life we need to die to ourselves and live for Him. “

God is a consuming fire! (Hebrews 12:29) If you allow Him to take hold of your life you will catch fire for Him and if you visit Him daily you will remain blazing for Him! It's an everyday bonfire!

Luke 9:23 “And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.’”

Following Jesus is a constant decision!

Do you want to know where to go from here?

2 Timothy 4 :1-8 “ I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: *preach the word*; be ready in season and out of season; *reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction*. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, *be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry*. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Paul tells us exactly what to do in these verses. First he tells us to preach the word, tell others the gospel. Then, help others to grow, teach, discipline, guide, encourage and instruct. But also be alert because false teachers will be out there saying things that will appeal to the senses. Endure temptations and again share the gospel! There is no retirement from following Christ. Paul was old and losing control of his body but he kept going because he was still here on earth, the race of life had not finished and he did not give up the job God gave Him to do. What was Paul's job? Paul's job was the same job we have, live for Christ. What do we do now? The same thing this manual has been going over:

**“To Know Christ and Make Him Known”
No Memory Verse!**

Home Work:

Read Hebrews 13. Take notes on all the things it tells followers to do and apply it to your life.

Hebrews 13

1 Let love of the brethren continue. **2** Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. **3** Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body. **4** Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge. **5** Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," **6** so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?" **7** Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. **8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. **9** Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. **10** We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. **11** For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. **12** Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. **13** So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. **14** For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come. **15** Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. **16** And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. **17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things. **19** And I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you the sooner. **20** Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, **21** equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. **22** But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. **23** Take notice that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you. **24** Greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. **25** Grace be with you all.

➤ **Leaders note: For final launch adjustments, agree to meet in a month.**

- **Meet for a follow up in three to four weeks.**
- **See how they are doing in their daily battle to put Jesus first.**
- **Also encourage them to find someone they can disciple.** (Family Members Are Not Recommended)
- **Once they find the person do one more follow up of encouragement.**
- **Note, this is not the end of discipleship with this person, you still should contact this person weekly or by-weekly, this is a time to let the person soar on their own and grow less dependant on you and more on Christ.**

Recommended Reading:

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Finished Works of Christ*

Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict*

Cambron, *Bible Doctrines*

Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*

Charles Swindoll, *So You Want To Be Like Christ?*

Works Sited:

¹Cetas, Anne. "Something's Wrong With Harry" *Our Daily Bread* Vol. 53, numbers 9,10 and 11. 2008.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, Copyright 1960,1962,1963,1968,1971,1972,1973,1975,1977,1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

**New King James Version.
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.**

**Navigators Hand of Prayer.
<https://www.navigators.org/us/resources/illustrations/items/prayerhand>**

