

**TITLE: Scripture: The Disciples' Anchor**

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**Book 5**

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## **PREFACE**

Welcome to the discipleship / leadership series. These little booklets were designed to give basic information concerning various topics about our Christian faith in Christ Jesus.

The purpose of this series is to stimulate thought and to foster a clearer understanding of discipleship and servant leadership. These booklets can be used as a discussion tool for personal study, family devotion, youth meetings or in cell groups. Our hope is that this information will stir the readers and encourage them to go deeper into personal research and study.

Our desire is that these booklets will be a blessing to the reader and a tool that can be shared with others as a gift of encouragement.

Please feel free to mail or e-mail us for more copies or to just write to us with any feedback concerning the content of these studies. We hope you enjoy this offering of knowledge and experience. We pray that Christ will draw you into an ever deeper personal relationship with Himself as you study.

Your servants in Christ,

Rev. Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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## INTRODUCTION

*"And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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."*

2 Timothy 3:15-17

When we study theology of Scripture we see how Scripture is God's Word, the authority that we are to follow and live by, that Scripture is truth, and how God inspired the Word for us as a divine tool for instruction and encouragement. The Old and New Testaments together are a testimony of God walking and working with Mankind. It is a history of His grace, mercy and love for us. It is a redemptive story that gives hope and freedom to mankind. It is the true foundation that we are to build all our lives upon and Scripture provides the road map and instruction manual for everything in life.

It is amazing how what we are anchored to in life comes out in our character, attitude and action. When our lives are held by anchors other than God's Word (such as culture, ideologies, etc.), we become hindered as disciples from following God fully. Therefore, we are going to study the centrality and importance of Scripture to our lives.

## FOCUS AND TARGET FOR TEACHER AND STUDENT

**TEACHER**: Communicates the reasons why Scripture is so central and vital to the Christian's life and walk with God, so that

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the students learn how to use it as their daily spiritual food and guidance in all areas of life.

**STUDENT:** The student will come to anchor his life in God's Word, as the authoritative basis for every area of experience by beginning a lifelong practice of its study and application to all he does.

## DEFINITION AND SYNONYM

*Understanding the meaning of words is the heart to understanding Scripture. Words are the bridge that can help us to understand more about ourselves and about God and the Bible. Please take time to meditate and reflect on the broad and narrow view of each word as defined, along with its synonyms.*

**Word:** One or more sounds expressing an idea, object, or action; used as a title of Jesus Christ. Synonyms: words are used for conversation, consultation, discussion, talk, declaration, expression, communication, oath, promise, vow.

**Scripture:** Holy Bible, Holy Writ, The Bible, The Book of Books, The Gospels, The Word, The Word of God, sacred writings from God.

## HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Bible is made of sixty-six books; thirty-nine are what is known as the Hebrew Scripture or the Old Testament. The New Testament has twenty-seven books written mainly in Greek. These books were written over thousands of years by a number of authors who were moved by the Holy Spirit to record facts and truths so that man could become acquainted and have a personal relationship with God Himself. The Bible as a whole was

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canonized by the church fathers around 300 AD. Today it is translated into hundreds of languages worldwide.

## **SCRIPTURE**

Study 2 Timothy 3:15-17, it is the key to a good biblical foundation and it is the next step to helping you as a disciple understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Please look up and read it in its entirety. Take into account the author who wrote it, who it was written to and the context in which it relates to the other verses and chapters around it.

## **STUDY**

Scripture is the foundation to life and ministry and Paul wanted Timothy to know that he had a heritage through his grandmother and mother that bore testimony to the importance of Scripture and how it impacts one's daily life. Scripture is inspired by God for a purpose – to help the disciple grow into a place of maturity. God uses Scripture in our lives for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. Why? So that we may be people of God adequate and equipped for every good work. God's Word is there to help the disciple walk a life of service for Christ Jesus.

## **BIBLICAL EXAMPLES**

The Bible is full of illustrations showing what God wants us to understand about the importance of Scripture for the disciple. Take time to look up in the Scripture these biographies and reflect on how God called these people to be His vessels for service. Notice how God calls everyday people to Himself and to His Kingdom.

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*David:* The Psalms to God express the words of David from his heart in a relationship of worship and dependence.

*Solomon:* Asked God for wisdom and the Lord poured Proverbs into his heart.

*Ezra:* Taught God's word to the people in Jerusalem and a revival broke out.

*Jesus:* Used the Word and was also the Word Himself.

*Peter:* Used God's Word to show how the gospel was for both Jews and Gentiles.

*Paul:* Carried the Good News of Christ's grace to the Gentiles.

## KEY OBJECT LESSON

**Roots:** When it comes to a tree we often do not see much of the root system. But we are told that the root system is the same or larger than the tree itself. The roots are what anchor the tree to the ground. Their job is to give stability and food to the rest of the plant. Life first starts in the root system, for without it the tree dies. It also gives firmness and stability during the time of storms. The Word of God is to be the same for the disciples. The Scriptures are to root us and feed us for our everyday pilgrimage.

## Transition

What follows are ten different pictures that are given to us in the Word about the importance of the Scripture in the daily walk of disciples.

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## 1. THE WORD AS INSPIRATION

Everything that God has made has come from God speaking it forth. From the first day of creation to the present day, God speaks into the hearts of men and women. His words have inspired countless numbers of people through the ages. The Bible is known as The Word or The Scriptures given to us by God, who moved upon people to write down what He had spoken into their hearts.

### DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

***Inspired:*** God-breathed; prompted by or emanating from a supernatural source. Synonyms: prompted, gave rise to, animated, breathed out, influenced.

### SCRIPTURE

*“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.”* 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### CONTEXT: 2 Timothy 3:1-15

- Paul wanted Timothy to know that they were in the last days and there were some difficult times ahead.
- Paul described what people will be like in the last days, that they will be lovers of themselves.
- Paul warns that people will be promoting their own ways and weighing people down with all kinds of sin.
- Paul encouraged to keep following his teaching, conduct, faith and perseverance.



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- Paul reminded Timothy of his own personal testimony concerning the Word of God.

## INSIGHTS

God's word speaks directly to the heart of man. It gives life to those who obey it and live by it. God's word brings us back into a personal relationship with Him. It also shows us the way out of a life of sinfulness and bondage. The Word has been described by many other names, but most importantly is that it has been and still is inspired by God. One author has said, *"In the production of Scripture both God and man were active participants. God was the source of the content of Scripture, so that what it says is what God has said. But the human author also actively spoke; he was more than a recorder. Yet what he said came from God. Although actively speaking, he was carried along by the Holy Spirit."* (p. 1823 of the New American Standard Study Bible footnotes)

The Old and New Testaments carry the stories of thousands of people, spanning thousands of years and relating to the reader the message of God's grace and love for mankind. It is a redemptive story that includes laws, commands, promises, poetry, letters and biographies. It is also full of prophecy that was spoken to His people and fulfilled by God. Scripture points to two climaxing events. One was the first coming of Christ as Messiah and Servant to a lost world, His crucifixion and resurrection from the dead. The second will be His coming back as King of kings to judge and then to set up His Kingdom here on earth.

The inspired Word of God is also truth and hope that we can live by. It has the power through the work of the Holy Spirit to break the cords of this world that bind, as well as defeat the enemy

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of this world. Satan and his entire host cannot stand up against the inspired and anointed Word of God.

Over history many have tried to destroy the Bible and those who proclaim it, but all they have succeeded in doing is fanning the flames of revivals for God. The harder people have tried to stamp out God's word, the more it has persisted and spread.

## RELEVANCE

The Scriptures are still relevant for today. They bridge time, culture, tradition and race. No matter who you are or where you live or what you struggle with, Scripture is inspired by God for us. The Word is there to remove fear and build faith. Where we feel weak and helpless it will make us strong and bold. It will take our dead heart that is full of sin and mould it into the likeness and the image of God. It is also a mirror that will show us our true reflection.

## REFLECTION

How are you letting the Word of God inspire and change your life? What truths does it speak to you on a daily basis? Do you trust in God's Word as the inspired word of God?

## RELATED SCRIPTURES FOR THE LESSON

**Exodus 34:27-28** ... **write** down these **words** ... he **wrote** on the tablets these words of the covenant

**Joshua 24:26** ... and Joshua **wrote** these words in the book of the law of God ...

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**1 Corinthians 14:37** ... the things which I **wrote** to you are the **Lord's commandment**.

**2 Peter 3:15-18** ... according to the wisdom given him, **wrote** to you... things hard to understand ... but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**2 Peter 1:20-21** ... but **moved** by the Holy Spirit **spoke** from God.

## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

1. **Word and Scripture:** Psalm 119:1-176
2. **Moses receiving the Commandments:** Exodus 31:18
3. **Laws and Commandment:** II Chronicles 23:18, Romans 2:12-16
4. **Laws of God written in hearts (Promises and Covenants):** Hebrews 8:10

## 2. SCRIPTURES AS FOUNDATION

One of Jesus' parables warns about how and where we should build our house. If we do not make sure that what we build on is a solid foundation, when the winds and waves come it will not stand (Luke 6:46-49). We always need to be foundation inspectors. It is important that we ask Christ through prayer to examine our hearts. Scripture is the blueprint by which we can measure our foundation and structure, as well as our spiritual foundation which supports our life.

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## DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

**Foundation**: a basis upon which something stands or is supported. Synonyms: base, basic, bedrock, bottom, groundwork, substructure, underpinnings.

**Rock**: solid mineral deposit, something like a rock in firmness. Synonyms: boulder, stone, anchor, bulwark, cornerstone, foundation, protection, support, tower of strength.

## SCRIPTURE

*Blessed are those ... who walk in the laws of the LORD! ... who keep his testimonies ... walk in his ways.* Psalm 119:

## CONTEXT: Psalm 119

- The psalmist had much to say about living by God's word.
- Readers were urged to follow all the words of God for blessing in their lives.
- He also warned of what would happen to those who do not do so.
- There are many words in Psalm 119 that describe all that God's Word does for us.

## INSIGHTS

The most important thing that we can do is to take time to pray and study the Scriptures. Learn the words and their meanings. Discover the living truths of the Bible, because these words will be foundation stones that will hold up any further Scriptural structure. The stones or pillars must be firmly planted on the bedrock of the

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Word. We should not focus on the structure until we are sure of how firm the foundation is.

A problem with foundations is that a period of time must pass before their true strength is known, after things have settled and a few storms have beaten upon them. Only then the truth is seen about the kind of footing the house sits upon will be revealed. It is also wise to check foundations regularly to see if they have cracked or shifted. The larger the structure, the greater the foundation needed below ground level. That is why Paul warns Timothy not to put a novice in a place of leadership; because when tough times come he will not have the foundation to withstand the trials and temptations.

A building is a place for warmth and protection, a place for fellowship and encouragement. It should be able to withstand challenges of the world. There are some very key parts that are critical to maintaining the structure. First is the foundation that everything else is built upon (God's word). Then come the walls that will protect and keep out the elements and the roof that helps protect and keep everything dry and in place (prayer, discipleship, etc).

## RELEVANCE

There are two things we need to be doing. One is checking our spiritual foundation for shifting or cracks. Second, if we are growing and expanding our Christian lives, how are we adding onto what we have already built? We must make sure of our doctrines and beliefs and that they line up with the Scriptures. We have to inspect for ourselves what we are building. This is critical for stability in our daily walk.

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## REFLECTION

Have you taken some time lately to check the building of your life to see that it is still sitting on the firm foundation of the Word?

## RELATED SCRIPTURES FOR THE LESSON

**Psalm 18:30** ... the **word** of the LORD proves true.

**Psalm 119:89** Forever, O LORD, Thy **word** is firmly fixed in the heavens.

**Isaiah 40:8** ... but the **word** of our God will stand forever.

**Romans 10:17** ... faith comes by hearing and hearing by the **word** of God.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All **scripture** is inspired by God and profitable...

**2 Peter 1:20-21** ... no prophecy of **scripture** is a matter of one's own interpretation ... but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

**Rock:** 1 Corinthians 10:4, Exodus 17:1-7

**Cornerstone:** Matthew 21:42, Ephesians 2: 19-21, 1 Peter 2:6-7

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## 3. THE WORD AS LIGHT

The darkness of the world cannot drive out light. Light always drives out darkness. The Word within our hearts makes us a lighthouse to a lost world, but the light has to be empowered before it can shine out.

### DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

***Light***: the illumination derived from a light source, dawn, daybreak, something that provides information or clarification, a state of awareness or understanding. Synonyms: blaze, brightness, brilliance, gleam, glow, illumination, radiance, shine, beacon, lamp, torch, insight, knowledge, understanding, guidance.

### SCRIPTURE

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a **light** to my path.*  
Psalm 119:105

### CONTEXT: Psalm 119:1-105

- Psalm 119 is full of descriptive verses concerning the word of God.
- The author wants to show that without the light of God's word he could only stumble about in darkness day by day.

### INSIGHTS

God does not want us to wander around in the darkness where we can stumble and fall, so He gave the Scriptures for us to walk in their light so we can see where we are going. As we walk

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in the light of God's Word, we learn to avoid sin and build character for eternity.

Sin acts like a shield or a hindrance that will block out the light. Confession of sin removes the scales from our eyes and enables us to see clearly. We need to pray that our spiritual eyes will be open to the Word of God so that we can receive the true understanding of what God's will for our lives may be.

Light is revealing because nothing can be hidden when the light is shining. Scripture's light is there to reveal to us the areas of our lives that are not aligned with God's will. The Word of God is a light, but it is also the pathway that we need to see clearly so we can walk on it.

Lighthouses are found by lakes, seas and oceans. They are there to bring warning to sailors of danger. They also become markers for direction. During challenging weather they shine a light that can be seen for miles, but they also sound a warning so that if you cannot see the lighthouse you can hear where it is. God's word is a light to give us direction as we travel the sea of life. It speaks to us so we can know the direction we should go.

A flashlight or a torch (as some call it) helps the individual to see his way. It can point out the dangers that lay ahead. It can help us to make sure that we have secure footing while we walk. Nevertheless, God's word as a flashlight should not be used to shine in other people's eyes. Even though it is light, if used in a wrong way it can cause people to stumble. The light of the Word should be used in such a way that it can help many along the way in their journey.



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## RELEVANCE

As God's word fills our lives with light, we become brighter lights to help others see the way to Christ. The Scripture is there for us each day to get the needed light for the journey that lies in front of us. We will not see spiritually unless we have the light of God's word illuminating our minds and hearts and leading us to change as needed.

## REFLECTIONS

Can you see, or do you feel that you are just walking around blind or in a fog? If so, will you spend time in God's Word to let the light back in? Pray that God will shed light on the word so you can see clearly more truth about who He is and how to live for Him.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

**Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp ... a **light** to my path.

**Psalm 119:103** ... your words give **light**; it imparts understanding to the simple.

**Proverbs 6:23** ... commandment is a lamp... teaching is **light**... reproofs for discipline.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** ... the **light** of the gospel of ... Christ

**2 Corinthians 4:6** For God ... has shone in our hearts ... the **light** of the knowledge of ... God

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## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

**Plague of Darkness:** Exodus 10:21-24

**Jesus as "I Am the Light":** Isaiah 60:1-3, John 1:7-9, 8:12: 9:5

**God as Light:** James 1:17; 1 John 1:5-7

## 4. THE WORD AS NOURISHMENT

The spiritual man needs food just as the physical man does, and the only way to feed the spiritual man is by studying and obeying the Word. The Scripture is spiritual nourishment and the Holy Spirit is the one who gives understanding.

### DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

**Nourishment:** food or other substances necessary for life and growth. Synonyms: food, sustenance, nutrition, provisions.

**Food:** material, of plant or animal origin, that contains or consists of essential nutrients. Synonyms: bread, chow, cuisine, diet, grub, nourishment, nutrition, refreshment.

**Meditation:** reflection upon; contemplation, especially of a spiritual nature. Synonyms: contemplation, thought, thinking, pondering, consideration, reflection, deliberation, study, concentration, prayer.

### SCRIPTURE

*In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. 1 Timothy 4:6*

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## CONTEXT: 1 Timothy 4:1-5

- Paul was trying to warn Timothy about people who were teaching false doctrine.
  - They departed from the faith via deceit and demons.
  - They were hypocrites and liars.
  - They were forbidding marriage.
- We are to be grateful for everything that has been created by God.
- Importance of the word of God and prayer in sanctification.

## INSIGHTS

Devotional time is so important to the believer because this is when we feed our spirit. As disciples, we cannot remain spiritually healthy if we do not feed upon the Word of God. We also need to eat a variety of different types of spiritual food. We cannot just eat the same food over and over if we are to get a balanced diet. We should set up time regularly each day to partake of God's Word and to take time to let that Word affect our thoughts and attitudes. King David taught about this in Psalm 1, that when we meditate on God's word we will be firmly planted.

Paul told Timothy the importance of keeping the word of God in first place in his life and of measuring all teaching against that standard. He warned of many false teachers proclaiming very false doctrine to the people. The true Word of God will nourish and build faith in the disciples of Christ. Our walk must be based on sound doctrine, ensuring that we base our doctrine on God's Word, not just on religious talk. Then we become able to walk that doctrine in our lives.

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The Bible is like a menu. There are various kinds of food for us to choose from: something light for a snack or a full main course with all the meat and trimmings. For people to have energy to live they must eat and drink often. It is the same when it comes to Scripture. We must work at choosing a diet that will strengthen and mature us so that we will be healthy to work and able to produce more fruit. We can make choices, but we should be praying for God's guidance and direction on what we should be eating, and follow a systematic plan that will help us learn about all of God's Word, not just part of it. We also need to set aside quality time to meditate on God's Word each day, to take time to reflect on what we have read.

## RELEVANCE

Just as we eat at least two to three times a day and most likely have snacks in between, we should do the same in our spiritual lives. We should be carrying around a little pocket Bible so that we can "eat and snack" throughout the day. We should also be spending moments of time in prayer throughout the day. This is what will build strength and will protect us from the attacks of the enemy.

## REFLECTION

Will you make a commitment today to get into the Word of God and then let it get into you? Will you plan appointed times each day but also be ready to use those extra few moments each day to draw near to God?

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## RELATED SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

**Job 23:12** I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my **portion of food**.

**Matthew 4:4** ... but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

**1 Peter 2:2** ... new born babies, longing for the **pure milk** of the Word.

**James 4:8** ... draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

Meditation and the Scriptures  
Spiritual Diet and Menu  
Bible Tradition and Culture

## 5. THE WORD AS WISDOM

The Word of God is a treasure of wisdom, knowledge and understanding. The Bible has answers to many of our daily questions and challenges. We must learn to see God's Word as a resource and a how-to manual for our lives. We need to have faith and trust in the Scriptures of God.

## DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

**Wisdom:** experience and knowledge together with the power of applying them critically or practically. Synonyms: prudence,

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sense, reason, clear thinking, good judgment, experience, carefulness, tact, balance, stability, caution.

**Knowledge:** awareness or familiarity gained by experience; specific information; facts or intelligence about something. Synonyms: learning, facts, instruction, enlightenment, light, doctrine, principles, awareness, insight, attainment, education, know-how.

**Understanding:** the ability to understand or think; intelligence, the power of apprehension; the power of abstract thought. Synonyms: intelligence, comprehension, conclusion, perception; to apprehend, grasp, figure out, identify, follow, master, learn, discern, be instructed in, see the light.

**Direction:** the act or process of directing; an order or instruction; guidance on how to reach a destination or do something. Synonyms: formal instruction, advice, notification, orders, assignment, plans.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*  
Colossians 3:16

## CONTEXT: Colossians 3:1-15

- Paul challenged the Colossian church and the individual disciples to put on a new self.
- They needed to have their minds set on spiritual things.
- This would require putting to death all earthly passions and

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attitudes.

- They needed to put on Godly character and behaviour.
- In Christ there should be no factions.
- They were to work at helping and bearing one another's burdens.
- As a body they were to walk in love and unity.

## INSIGHTS

There are four important things that the Word of God can give us: wisdom, knowledge, understanding and direction for our lives. We must see that the Word of God is a tool that helps us come into a deeper personal relationship with God. But this will mean seeing things in a different way than what the world offers. We can have knowledge about something, but that does not mean we understand it. What we need is to have wisdom from above, from God who desires to instruct us in such a way that we can have true comprehension; because when we understand, there can be a greater level of faith and peace in our hearts.

Wisdom is our teacher, and the things that we learn from Scripture are to be used to teach others. Wisdom is not just for the purpose of building up self, but for the community and for the body of Christ, the church. Our goal should be to learn all we can from God, then make it practical and real in our lives so we in turn can help and encourage others. We should not try to find peace through ignorance, but we need to seek and to knock on the doors of the Word of God so we can receive His blessing of understanding.

The purpose for all wisdom is to give insight and direction to the disciple of Christ. God is not trying to hide Himself from us. He desires to reveal all if we will look to Him and call upon His

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name. If we lack wisdom we are to ask of Him and He will give it to us generously (James 1:5). If we seek God's truth we will find, and if we knock, His Word will be opened to us. We need to see the Word of God as a door into knowledge, wisdom and understanding, and as we go through that door it will give us clear direction for our lives.

As a parable of Jesus states, when a person finds a pearl in the field he goes and sells all so he can become owner of that field and in turn owner of the pearl (Matthew 13:46). Christ and the Scriptures are worth all our efforts. We need to see the great value in seeking wisdom from God.

## **RELEVANCE**

Without getting into the Word of God daily we will find ourselves walking in darkness, confused and not sure of who we are and what our purpose is. We need to come to God boldly and ask Him for wisdom, knowledge and understanding. He desires in His heart to father us and shepherd us in our daily walk. Admitting that we do not know and understand everything is the first step to receiving greater wisdom from God. Take time to research and to study God's Word daily. Keep a diary and write down the thing that God shows you from His Word and how He personally directs your life. By the end of the month, you will see how much Christ loves you and cares for you.

## **REFLECTION**

What direction and insight are you receiving from God's Word over the last little while? What areas of wisdom are you asking God to give you at this time?



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## RELATED SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

**Psalm 111:10** ... the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

**Psalm 119:18** Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

**Psalm 119:98-99** Your commandments make me **wiser** than my enemies ... I have more **understanding** than all my teachers.

**Matthew 22:29** ... you are wrong because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God.

**Luke 24:44-45** ... then he (Jesus) said ... everything written about men in the law... the Prophets ... and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then He **opened their minds to understand** the Scriptures, ...

**2 Timothy 3:15-17** And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the **wisdom** that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

**Wisdom and Light of God's Word:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

**Believers as Sources of Wisdom:** Colossians 1:28, 2 Peter 3:15

**Wisdom Books:** Proverbs

**Godhead ( Father, Son, Spirit) as source of Wisdom:**

1 Corinthians 1:24, James 1:5

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## 6. THE WORD AS TRUTH AND FREEDOM

God's Word has many different goals for the disciple. One is to bring grace to us. The second is to present to us Godly truth that will stand the test of time. The third is to set the captive free from sin and bondage. The Word of God is the source from which all these needs can be met as we move forward in our spiritual freedom.

### DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

**Grace:** an excellence or power granted by God; an unmerited gift from God. Synonyms: favour, generosity, goodness, charity, clemency, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, pardon, relieve.

**Truth:** fidelity to a standard; that which is considered to be supreme reality and to have the ultimate meaning and value of existence. Synonyms: accuracy, actuality, exactness, fact, genuineness, precision, reality, truthfulness, devotion, faith, honesty, loyalty, principle.

**Freedom:** the condition of being free from restraints; the capacity to exercise choice. Synonyms: autonomy, deliverance, emancipation, independence, liberty, release, immunity, privilege, ability, opportunity, power, directness, openness, boldness, forwardness.

### KEY SCRIPTURE

*... if you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine: and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free. John 8:31-32*

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## CONTEXT: John 8:1-30

- A woman was caught in adultery and then set free.
- Jesus was teaching how He is the Light of the world.
- He moved on to the subject of judging people.
- He told the disciples that He was going away and the disciples became confused because they were not sure where He was going.
- Jesus taught how He and the Father are one.

## INSIGHTS

The disciples often found themselves confused when it came to Christ's teaching. He would teach them the truth, but their minds and hearts did not understand. As He prayed for them and showed them how He was the Messiah, the One prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures, they began to see the truth. Each day Christ testified more and more about the Father and His relationship to Him and the Word of God.

The true fruit of discipleship was that Christ could see the words of God active in their lives. Truth when taken into your heart will begin to change you from the inside out. Your thinking and your actions will change because of the truth of the Word of God.

History has given many testimonies to the fact that the Word of God can change people's hearts and lives. The Word has set some of the hardest criminals free from the burden of sin. The Word gives us true life full of grace and mercy. It builds faith and encouragement in the hearer. It gives us strength to stand. It gives us hope for the future.

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To the disciples, the word of truth is a foundation that God gives us by which we serve and encourage others. Each day we need to pray that God will teach us His way and give us the strength and ability to walk in it. Jesus tells us that He is the way of truth, the mind of truth and the life of truth for all who will receive Him. We also need to pray that we will accurately handle God's truth in our lives and in the lives of others through teaching and mentoring. We need to be careful how we minister that truth to others, because one day we will be held accountable. The truth that we teach and live by is the same truth that we also will be judged by. That is why we must clearly understand God's gracious redemptive work. The truth can and does set us free.

## **RELEVANCE**

This passage shows how the people wanted to stone a woman caught in adultery, but Jesus showed that the greater sin was their unbelief in God and His Word, what the truth of God teaches (John 8:3-11). As we work with people each day, how do we find ourselves evaluating those around us? Is it on the basis of truth, or on hearsay, or just on our own perception? We often make decisions about people and things too quickly and do not look to find out the full truth. Too many live in this world are bound by lies and have only shifting sand as their foundation. The Word of God is the only true truth that we can totally commit to and rely on. God's Word gives us liberty and freedom for our hearts and lives. Truth plus application means freedom in Christ.

## **REFLECTION**

How is the Word of God speaking truth into our heart? The Bible is like a mirror. When we look into it, are we seeing the real truth about ourselves, and if we do, what are we doing about it?

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## RELATED SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON:

**2 Samuel 22:23** This God -- his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves **true**;

**Jeremiah 23:28-29** ... my **word** speaks **truth**, like fire

**Psalms 43:3** O send out your light and your **truth**, let them lead me;

**Psalms 86:11** teach me your way, O Lord; I will walk in your **truth**,

**Psalms 119:142** ... your law is **true**.

**Psalms 119:151** ... O LORD ... your commandments are **true**.

**Psalms 119:160** The sum of your word is **truth** ...

**John 1:14** ... and the **Word** became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and **truth**.

**John 1:16-17** ... we have all received, and **grace** upon **grace**. For the law was given by Moses; **grace** and **truth** were realized through Jesus Christ.

**John 3:21** ... but he who practices the **truth** comes to Light ...

**John 14:6** ...I am the way, the **truth** and the life...

**II Timothy 2:15** ... accurately handling the **word of truth**.

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**Titus 1:1** ... their knowledge of the **truth** ... godliness... manifested in His Word ...

## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

1. Law courts
2. Testimony of two witnesses
3. Slavery and bondage

## 7. THE WORD AS DISCIPLINE

To be a true disciple of Christ one must walk in the disciplines of the Bible. The words “discipleship” and “discipline” both come from the same root. They mean the following of the teaching of another, to be mentored in their attitude, ways and action. Being a disciple of Christ takes work because it demands reproof, correction, training and equipping. The basis for this is the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in one’s life.

## DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

**Discipline:** training that is expected to produce a particular character or pattern of behaviour, especially that which is expected to produce moral or mental improvement. Synonyms: training, teaching, instruction, direction, order, authority, strictness, routine, drill, self-control.

**Reproof:** an expression of reproving; a rebuke. Synonyms: reproach, admonishment, disapproval.

**Correction:** that which is offered or substituted for a mistake, fault, or abnormality; an improvement. Synonyms: righting, amendment, repair, remedy.

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**Train:** to coach in or accustom to some mode of behaviour or performance; to make proficient with specialized instruction or practice; to focus or direct. Synonyms: to teach, coach, tutor, school, educate, practice, prepare.

**Equip:** to supply with material necessities such as tools, gear, provisions, or furnishing; to prepare in an intellectual, emotional, or spiritual way. Synonyms: provide, furnish, supply, issue, stock, provision, arm, endow, prepare, and qualify.

## KEY SCRIPTURES

*"And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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."* 2 Timothy 3:15-17

## CONTEXT: 2 Timothy 3:1-15

- Paul wanted Timothy to know that they were in the last days, and people would become increasingly sinful. He described their degeneration.
- People would have the appearance of godliness but not exhibit any of its power.
- Paul encouraged believers to keep following his teaching, conduct, faith and perseverance.
- Paul reminded Timothy of his own personal heritage concerning the Word of God.

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## INSIGHTS

Any accomplishment cannot be had without effort and work, without putting one's life under the disciplines of the Word of God. We often like the results of discipline, but we do not like the road of discipline that we must take to get there. The first important truth we need to accept is that these Scriptures are inspired by God for a purpose in our life and the life of the church. We have to accept them in faith as pure truth from God for the purpose of teaching, training, reproof and correction. The Word came to us over a period of thousands of years with at least thirty-nine authors focusing on a Redeemer and Messiah who would, and in the fullness of time did, come and walk amongst us here on earth. If we do not first start with God's word as truth, then the rest of our journey will head off in the wrong direction.

Paul reminded Timothy of the importance of Scripture in the life of his mother and grandmother, and that it now needed to be treasured in his own life. He needed to see the value of the Scripture and be a good steward of its use in his life and the lives of those he would teach it to.

We also need to see how Scripture is well-rounded for the job of equipping people for the work of service. We are to use it in all ways to minister to each other, for our goal is not of this world only. Scripture is also for completing and maturing us in Christ when we will reign with Him in heaven.

Discipline in this case is not used to tear down or to destroy. It is for building up character and encouragement of the disciples of Christ. We should not see it as a negative, but a positive. Disciples should build peace, faith, hope and love in our hearts as we see where we are wrong and change how we live.



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Athletes subject themselves to discipline for long periods of time to become better at their specific sport. The doctor disciplines himself so he can serve and help people to live. The disciple of Christ must discipline himself by the Holy Spirit's power to be changed so others can be helped to freedom from sin and bondage into the kingdom of heaven. This is where most disciples fail, because they start the race well but then do not discipline themselves for the long haul. Down the road they end up sitting on the sidelines or give up because they have not developed spiritual stamina and skills.

## **RELEVANCE**

The Word of God is a book of truth, but it is also a road map for understanding and life. It directs us step by step into deeper truth. It is there to give us life and hope. It is there to empower us with a purpose for living and existence. We need daily to ask Christ to speak into our hearts and to show us what kind of lesson He wants us to learn so that we can become better equipped disciples in His Hands. We need to ask Him to open up our eyes and ears so we can discern His correction, reproof, training and equipping in our lives. When we do this, we will begin to see things in our lives in a whole new way. The seemingly disjointed pieces will begin to show themselves as a beautiful picture being painted by the Master Artist Himself, Jesus Christ. We also need to know that we are going to be held responsible for how we hand this Word of God to the next generation. This is the most important ministry that we are commissioned to do.

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## REFLECTION

How am I “letting go and letting God” bring discipline into my life? Am I turning the struggles of life into challenges for growth so I might better serve others?

## RELATED SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

**Deuteronomy 11:1-2** ... keep his ... commandments always ... consider the **discipline** of the LORD ...

**Ephesians 6:4** children ... but bring them up in the **discipline** and instruction of the Lord.

**Colossians 2:5** ... I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good **discipline** and stability of your faith in Christ.

**Colossians 3:16** ... let the word of Christ dwell within ... with all wisdom teaching and **admonishing** one another with psalms

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** ... you receive ... the word of God's message... which also performs its work in you who believe.

**1 Timothy 4:6-8** ... on the other hand **discipline** yourself for the purpose of godliness ...

**2 Timothy 4:2** ... preach the word .... **reprove, rebuke, exhort** with great patience and instruction.

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## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

**Discipleship and Discipline:** Deuteronomy 11:1-32

**Preaching and Teaching in the Bible:** Book of Acts

**God's Discipline:** Job 5:17, Proverbs 3:11, 12:1, 15:32, 23:12

**Family Discipline:** (father, mother, grandparents, other children and friends) Hebrews 12:4-11

## 8. THE WORD AS SWORD

The sword is only as good as the sword handler. The more one is trained and equipped the more one will be able to use it for God's glory. We are told that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. The Bible is our sword both for defensive and offensive purposes. As disciples we need to see that we are in a spiritual battle for life and death here on earth.

### DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

**Sword:** a weapon with a long blade for cutting or thrusting; military power. Synonyms: blade, trusty steel.

**Battle:** a general military engagement or an extended contest or controversy. Synonyms: attack, combat, encounter, engagement, fight, fray, skirmish, war, clash, conflict, crusade, disagreement, strife, struggle, combat.

### KEY SCRIPTURE

*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any **two-edged sword**, and piercing as far as the division of the soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to judge the thought and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*

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## CONTEXT: Hebrews 3:12 to 4:16

- The writer urged people to be careful not to fail to enter God's rest.
- People failed to enter into God's rest because of disobedience, unbelief, hardness of heart.
- The believers who rest in Christ by faith do enter God's rest.
- Attention to God's Word has the power to pierce us to the very center of our being.
- Christ, our High Priest, gives us confidence before God.

## INSIGHTS

The Word of God is not used in this context for fighting physical battles but spiritual ones. One thing that is hard for men to do is to think of things in a spiritual realm. This sword is "the sword of the Spirit" which is the Word of God. We are in a battle each day and our enemy (the prince of this world), is out to steal and kill. Satan and his host will show no mercy or love because they desire to take life away from us.

The sword is used for both offence and defence in warfare, so we must understand its ability and what it can do in the swordsman's hand. Remember, the enemy also knows how to twist the Word to his advantage. The sword is also part of the complete spiritual armour which God wants us to put on each day (Ephesians 6:10-20).

A sword is a weapon to fight with for protection and battle against an enemy. It can also be used to hunt with and keep one safe from wild animals. Nevertheless, a sword is only as good as the sword handler. If one does not learn the proper use of the

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sword, one can be defeated very easily in a battle. We must know the Word of God if we are to be effective with it against the enemy's army. Understanding God's word will give us the strength to use His word against our spiritual enemies. There are too many swords rusting in the closet or on the shelf. There are too many soldiers going into battle with no understanding of how to use God's sword. This is why disciples and their churches are so weak. We must rise up, pick up the Bible as our sword, and begin to fulfill Christ's great commission to us to go out and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all that God has commanded us (Matthew 28:18-20).

## **RELEVANCE**

Either you learn how to use the sword of God's word or the enemy will turn it around and use it on you. Each day we need to pray and study the Word so we can know the enemy's tactics. We need to see his game plan, but we also must understand that God has defeated Satan through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Each day we need to battle in the spiritual realm for our family, friends, neighbours, city, country and world. If we do nothing, the enemy will bind and destroy wherever he can. We have to wake up to the fact that we are not fighting against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers in high places. We have little time left. As disciples we are not asked by God to think about fighting; but we are commanded to pick up the word of God and fight, not in our strength but under the power of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God commissions and empowers us for battle.

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## REFLECTION

How am I using the sword of the Lord daily? How am I training myself to become a good sword handler? Am I using the sword both in a defensive and offensive manner?

## RELATED SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

**Psalm 119:9** How can a young man keep his way pure? By **guarding** it according to your word.

**Psalm 119:133** Guide my steps by your word so I will not be overcome by any evil.

**Isaiah 49:2** ... he has made my mouth like a sharp **sword**...

**Ephesians 6:17** ... **sword** of the spirit, which is the **word** of God.

**I John 2:14** ... I have written to you young men because ... the word of God abides in you ... you have overcome the evil one.

## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

1. Full armour of God: Ephesians 6:10-17
2. Captain of the host of the Lord: Joshua 5:13-15
3. Spiritual warfare and battles: Ephesians 6:10-20)

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## 9. THE WORD AS HOPE

Many people live in the past or in the present, but the word of God allows us to see into the future. For too many people, things seem hopeless. They look at their lives and they see a dark tunnel of despair, but the Bible points us toward a better place called heaven. God is a God who keeps His promises and covenants with His people. The testimony of the Bible is a book of pure hope for the disciple of Christ.

### DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

**Hope:** an eager, confident expectation that sustains a person while he or she is waiting patiently for the future fulfillment. Synonyms: ambition, anticipation, belief, confidence, desire, dream.

### KEY SCRIPTURES

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

### CONTEXT: Romans 14:13 to 15:3

- Paul encouraged the Roman believers not to judge one another.
- He taught about what the kingdom of God is.
- Believers were encouraged to do those things to make peace and build up one another.
- They were to encourage and help the weak and do what they could to help their neighbour.

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## **INSIGHTS**

Hope is having a confident expectation based on thousands of years of the written word. The Holy Spirit used men to write down for us a vision of God who desires to have a personal relationship with us. No matter what we face or suffer through, this is not the end, but a stepping stone to a greater future.

Man has a great need to have hope, because it is in hope that we set our goals and vision for our lives. Hope is having confidence that we can walk this journey and come out the other side complete and whole in Christ. When things become hopeless, this is the time that people give up and lose the will to live. In this world, with all its wars and destruction, the negative news about climate change and all the medical challenges that people are going through, it sometimes is hard to hold on to hope about the future.

But God the Father and the Son paint a different future. Our goal is not to be what we accomplish here on earth, but to prepare ourselves for what Christ has promised for us in heaven. As we get more of the Word of God into our hearts, our level of hope and encouragement will begin to grow. God has given to mankind and to those who believe many precious promises that give to the reader great hope for one's life and for the future.

## **RELEVANCE**

Hope must start from God's Word and move to your heart. When it is firmly planted, it will begin to have a positive influence on your thinking which will in turn change your view on life. Finally, it will change your outward countenance and actions: it is like a chain reaction. We are not to look at our ability, but have hope in God's ability. We also have to remember that we are what



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we think, so whatever you are focused on will determine today the level of hope in your life. The Word of God is a storehouse of hope. We need to study it so it can become part of us.

## REFLECTION

Throughout the day ask yourself: what am I focusing most of my energy and thoughts on? Secondly, am I taking enough time each day to read and study the promises of God's word so that my heart will be full of hope?

## RELATED SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

**Psalms 119:42-43** ... I trust in your word ... for my **hope** is in your rules.

**Psalms 119:49** ... remember your word ... in which you have made me **hope** ... your promise gives me life.

**Acts 26:6** ... I stand here because of my **hope** in the promise made by God to our fathers ...

**Colossians 1:23** ... and not moved away from the **hope** of the Gospel that you have heard...

**Ephesians 1:18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the **hope** of His calling...

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## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

1. **Abraham the Father of Hope**
2. **Moses the Leader of Hope**
3. **Promise of God:** Psalm 39:7, Romans 15:13 and many others.
4. **The Gospel of Christ as the foundation to Hope:** Romans 5:5, Titus 3:7, I Peter 1:13

## 10. THE WORD AS TREASURE

We are asked by the Scripture to evaluate where our treasures are. Many have built up great treasure on earth not realizing that it will all pass away. Others are just focused on themselves as the ultimate treasure. But the Word of God tells us that the most precious treasure that one can obtain is the Word of God into one's heart.

### DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

**Treasure:** any collection of objects of value, a place where valuables are stored. Synonyms: cash, fortune, funds, riches, valuables, wealth, things, cherish, love.

**Possession:** control or occupancy of, self-control. Synonyms: control, ownership, assets, belongings, effects, estate, property, things, wealth.

### KEY SCRIPTURES

*Your word is a treasure in my heart that I might not sin against you.* Psalm 119:11

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## CONTEXT: Psalm 119:1-10

- We need to walk in the laws of the Lord.
- The importance of sticking to the testimonies of God.
- He will not be ashamed and he will give thanks for all that the Lord has done.
- The question asked by the writer: how can a young man keep his way pure?
- The answer comes back: by keeping our life according to the Word.
- He requests that His heart would not wander away from the Lord and His commandments.
- The author sees where the true treasure on earth is hidden.

## INSIGHTS

If we are in the last days it is time for the church to begin to evaluate where we are building our treasure chest. Christ warns us to invest in heaven, and the Word of God shows us where we should be investing our time and money. The greatest return will not be here on earth but will come in heaven. Our eyes have been blinded to the real truth about God and His Word.

We also need to see that because we have the wrong focus about God's word as a treasure, we then do not spend enough time in it. This in turn allows sin to begin to creep back in and take over. Only the Word of God can remove the areas of darkness in our lives. It is the Word of God that sheds light on who we are. We also need to be careful that we are not just hearers of the Word but that we are doers also (James 1:22-23). It is not good enough to think about doing good things, but we need to get up and move out and start investing our lives in His people.

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There is a fear that we as disciples have invested more into a religion than into Christ and His Word. There will be a day of reckoning. The idea of reckoning means taking an account of our lives: what we did with that which God gave us. Did we invest the fruit of His Spirit? Did we invest the gifts and talents that he has given us for the kingdom? Did we invest heavily into the treasure of His Word? We will not be able to blame others. It is up to each one of us what we do with the treasure that God has given us.

## RELEVANCE

What am I building and where are my treasures being stored? Jesus shows us that our treasure can be stored up in heaven when we invest and build in His ministries. Christ treasures us and values us very much, so we in turn should value and treasure His Word. The Word of God is a treasure that we need to be good stewards of here on earth. Prayer is like going to heaven and asking the Lord what we should do with what he has given to us through His Word.

## REFLECTION

Where am I accumulating my treasure? Does the goal of building up treasure here on earth hinder the building up of my treasures in heaven?

## RELATED SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

**Job 23:12** ... I have **treasured** the **words** of His mouth...

**Proverbs 2:1** ... my son, if you will receive my **words** and **treasure** my commandments within you.

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**Proverbs 7:1** ... my son, keep my **words** and **treasure** my commandments within you.

**Matthew 6:19-21** ... do not store up for yourself **treasures** on earth... but store up for yourselves **treasures** in heaven...

**Matthew 19:21** sell ... and give to the poor ... you will have **treasures** in heaven; and come follow Me.

**Luke 12:34** ... for where your **treasure** is, there your heart will be also.

**Colossians 2:3** in whom are hidden all the **treasures** of wisdom and knowledge.

**1 Timothy 6:19** ... storing up for themselves the **treasure** of a good foundation for the future...

**2 Timothy 1:14** ... guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the **treasure** which has been entrusted to you.

## RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

1. **Treasure in Earthen Vessels: 2 Corinthians 4:7**
2. **Parable that Jesus taught concerning Treasure**

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## **CONCLUSION**

These Scriptures emphasize what we need to do to be actively involved in God's Word. Discipleship ministry is not to make people comfortable in a building, but it is to get us out into the highways and byways where the bountiful harvest is. The Word of God is the way, and truth and it gives us the life that we are to live. It is key that we get the Word of God firmly planted into our hearts. We need to let the Word nurture us so that it can begin to bear fruit into our lives. The Word of God must be the rock that we stand on for ministry and for hope and peace.

## **APPLICATION**

We have to choose to get the sword out of its sheath and to use it. We need to discipline ourselves in the use of the sword. We cannot expect that others are going to do all the fighting for us. We need to go out as light and as salt into a lost world. We are commanded to make disciples, and this can only be done through equipping others with the Word of God. The Word is our strength and source of life.

## **MEDITATION**

**A. For further insight and understanding, please study these other supporting Scriptures:**

John 6:68	Romans 10:11
Hebrews 6:5	1 Peter 2:6-7
John 2:22	Ephesians 5:26
2Timothy 3:16	James 4:5

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## B. Study Questions:

1. List some of the key truths that you have learned from this discipleship step.
2. What are some actions that you sense the Holy Spirit is challenging you to change in your life?
3. What word in the definitions have you seen in a new and fresh way?
4. What is the key truth that you would like to share with someone else?

## MEMORIZATION

*So Jesus was saying to those Jews, who had believed Him, If you continue in **My word**, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*

John 8:32

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## PRAYER

*Dear Lord Jesus,*

*I pray that Your Word would become a lamp unto my feet and that Your Word would give my feet a sure foundation to walk upon. I know that Your Word is a sword in my hand, but I need the discipline of the Spirit to know how to rightly use it for Your glory. I pray that you help me to find time and to make the study of your word a priority in my life. Jesus, give me the wisdom and understanding of how to walk in Your ways.*

*Lord, I pray that You will burden my heart for Your Word. Help my eyes to see and my ears to hear what the Holy Spirit is trying to say to me this day. May I walk in the power and strength of your Word, oh Lord.*

*Sincerely your servant,*

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## **Project L.A.M.B.S. International**

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urged the disciples to follow Him. He laid down before us the teaching and the walk that we need to follow with Jesus as our supreme example. It is imperative for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

Dr. James Humphries has been ministering for over 40 years, and has experience in a variety of ministries including church planting, children's ministry, street ministry, youth ministry, camp ministry, pastoral work and directing and teaching in schools all over the world. In addition, he has taken part in traveling and ministering in the USA, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Thailand and across most of Canada. He completed his B.R.E. and his M.A. from Briercrest, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Providence Theological Seminary in the spring of 1999.

In January 1996, Dr. James Humphries resigned as pastor of a local church with a vision to reach further abroad with the Word of God and to use it to train labourers for Christ (Matthew 9:36-38). He shared this with Dr. David Smith and Dr. Chuck Nichols of Providence Theological Seminary and they greatly encouraged Dr. James Humphries and his wife Irene to develop what God was laying on their hearts.

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In March 1997, they traveled to Jamaica where they met several pastors who were very concerned about the need for training and disciplining their young people as leaders in their churches. Dr. James Humphries and Irene did not know this would be the starting point to an international ministry of discipleship training around the world known as Project L.A.M.B.S. International.

To date, Project L.A.M.B.S. has ministered in Canada, Myanmar, Ukraine, Africa, Jamaica, Mexico, Israel, Thailand, Japan, Dominican Republic, Naga Land and China. We offer over 30 different courses. Our graduates number over 1000, and are serving worldwide. Out of this group of graduates, we have equipped and trained directors, teachers and pastors who in turn are carrying out II Timothy 2:1-2 to an even larger group of people.

In 2002 it was discovered that Irene had cancer again. God gave Irene another three years and because of that she was still able to travel and teach in many different countries. Shortly after what was to be her last trip, Irene was hospitalized in February, 2005. A few weeks later she went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on March 9.

My second wife Hkaw Win was raised and trained mostly in the land of Myanmar. She has earned B.th, University Degree and a master of Divinity Degree in Myanmar. In April 2007 she finished a second Master's Degree at Providence Theological Seminary in Christian Education. After July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 she headed

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back to Myanmar to head up the Christian Education Department for the Myitkyina Kachin Baptist Association and oversaw various ministries to 62 churches. After her four-year term was completed, she has been traveling and working as an interpreter and doing translations concerning various kinds of discipleship books and materials.

Over the last ten years we have lived in the countries of Myanmar and Thailand preparing a variety of resources in the Burmese (Myanmar) and Kachin Languages. To date we have published over 20 different kinds of books. Our goal is to equip and establish people as Disciples of Christ. Please pray for God's leading and wisdom. Our walk with Christ has taken us down many challenging pathways but we have seen the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior in every area. His grace has been sufficient.

Founder and Director,

Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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## **Discipleship / Leadership Booklets**

1. My Call with Christ
2. Called to His Purpose
3. Abiding in the Vine
4. Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding
5. Scripture: The Disciples' Anchor
6. Baptism: The Disciples' Testimony
7. The Disciples' Church
8. Servant Leadership
9. Teacher / Learner, Learner / Teacher
10. Being Wise Builders
11. Shepherds of God's Sheep
12. End Times
13. Relationship Pilgrimage
14. Christ's Disciple
15. Disciple's Prayer Life
16. Communion
17. Ambassadors for Christ
18. Full Armour of God
19. Good News for Challenging and Changing Times
20. Christ our Mediator
21. Jesus our Deliverer
22. Mission and Missionaries
23. Full Gospel Discipleship
24. Romans Road of Discovery

## **Bible Tools**

1. Bible Information (18 different languages)
2. Bible Dictionary and Concordance (Kachin, Burmese)
3. Disciples' Principle of Faith (Kachin)
4. Called

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