

Kingdom Life

DISCIPLESHIP PATH

A Firm Foundation for Life

Teaching Notes

FOUNDATIONS

101	CHRIST IN YOU
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*“God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles
the glorious riches of this mystery, which is
Christ in you, the hope of glory”*

Paul the Apostle | *Colossians 1:27*

This copy belongs to: _____

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These companion teaching notes may be edited or modified to accommodate various teaching styles and methods, provided the original message, meaning, and intent of the work remain unaltered.

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Free downloads are available at www.KingdomLifeDiscipleshipPath.org

Introduction and Purpose

This Instructor Manual is given as an aid in teaching the Foundations materials. It is especially helpful for those who do not have the time every week to develop their own lesson plan. It is designed to assist in leading the group of participants through a weekly discussion of the materials. It includes the study questions, many of the scriptures, as well as other questions that can be asked to encourage discussion during the classes. There are also commentary statements that can be used to emphasize or summarize the main points. It is all organized in the form of a linear script that can be followed to help stay on track and get through all of the material in 60 to 90 minutes. Everyone has their own teaching style, so please consider this as a tool and general outline to help you cover the materials, not to confine you.

Teaching the holy scriptures is a great honor, but it is also a great responsibility. God has entrusted His word to us - to you and me as teachers. But as we teach, we must also be students – learners. As leaders, we must also be followers. And as Paul encouraged Timothy, we should always, **“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”** Our goal with this material has been to honestly present the whole counsel of God’s word on our salvation, without ignoring the “narrow road” passages that sometimes make people uncomfortable. These passages are essential in bringing us to repentance. We can be certain God did not put these passages in His word so we would ignore them, but to learn from them. And we are still learning.

People today have a lot of differing views about salvation and the Christian experience. You never know what people have heard or what they’ve been taught, and whether it lines up with the scriptures or not. So, as you teach through these lessons, you may encounter some scripture passages that do not fit within the theological views of some of your students. If this happens, you can say something like this: “People believe a lot of different things about salvation, but let’s go back to what Jesus says here and see what He is trying to teach us about it.” We always want to encourage the students to let the scriptures be their authority on matters of truth. This must always be done with respect, gentleness, and kindness. But it is important that we let these scriptures stand without apology. We should always remember that God has called us to present the whole counsel of His word, not to be editors of it. If we become editors, we become judges of the word, exalting ourselves above God.

So, as you go forth, please know that we are thankful for the work you do. We pray that you will have the mind of Christ, abounding in all wisdom and knowledge, that you will know His presence and be filled with His Spirit to overflowing, that you will be rooted and grounded in the fullness of His love, and that you will be kept safe at all times until He gathers us unto Himself. To Him be the glory and honor forever and ever, Amen.

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TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 101 WEEK ONE	OUR NEED FOR CHRIST
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Week 1 – “Our Need for Christ”

Teaching Notes v3.8.5

General Summary

The purpose of this lesson is to demonstrate to the student how desperately we need Christ for our salvation, and to lead them to repentance and faith in Him as our only hope.

1-1 "In the Beginning" - The story of Adam and Eve reveals the events through which sin entered the world, and how that first act of disobedience changed their inner nature and damaged their relationship with God and with each other.

1-2 "The Disease of Sin" - points out how sin has spread from Adam and Eve to infect the whole of humanity, resulting in separation from God, and ultimately death.

1-3 "A Foolish, Darkened Heart" - details the types of actions that proceed out of the sin nature, everything from envy to greed to immorality to murder, and that this lifestyle leads to judgment and wrath. It also identifies these actions as being demonic in origin.

1-4 "The Long Arm of the Law" - explains that the world needs laws to restrain the sinful nature of man through the threat of punishment because we are not naturally inclined to do what is right. Sometimes we do the very things that we know are wrong - proving that not only have we all sinned, but that we cannot stop sinning in our own strength because sin is in our base nature. One of the main things God's Law does is to point out our desperate need for Christ.

1-5 "We Were Helpless" - shows that even the best of us have sinned enough to be judged as guilty lawbreakers. Our only hope is that God will be merciful to us. In the helplessness of our guilt and sin, God still loves us and has made a way through Christ for our sins to be forgiven and for us to be empowered to live in righteousness.

Preparation Notes - When teaching these lessons, it is beneficial to use a white board or some other visual medium to display the answers the students offer during the discussions. When teaching online classes, the screen share of a word processor can be used. These visual aids are very helpful in promoting discussion, note-taking, and reinforcing the points made in the scriptures as you teach.

When you begin your Week 1 Class, your board or screen share could look something like this.

The Fruit of the Sinful Nature

As you conclude your Week 1 Class, your board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class.

The Fruit of the Sinful Nature
Wickedness, greed, evil, murder, strife deceit, malice, gossip, God-hating, insolence, arrogance, boastful, evil, disobedience, untrustworthy, unliving, unmerciful, bitterness, selfishness, jealousy, etc....

This board shows a variety of actions that proceed from the fallen nature of man. They are not necessarily equal in weight and severity, but all come from the same underlying spirit.

Week 1 – “Our Need for Christ” Instructor Notes

Lesson 1-1 – “In the Beginning”

- One of the first questions we must ask is, “Why do we need Christ?”
- Why was it necessary for Christ to come and die for us? To answer that question, we need to look back to what happened at the very beginning.
- Let us begin with Genesis 1:26-27. Workbook Page 5 Someone please read

GE 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." ²⁷ And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them... NASB

Q. When God created Adam, what condition was he created in?

Adam was created in God's image without sin, or a sin nature

- In fact, here is what it says in Genesis 2:25 it says: Instructor reads

GE 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- In the beginning, there was complete innocence, no shame, no contention, no fear, no selfishness, no disease, and no death. Just imagine that kind of world.
- Now let us read Genesis 2:15-17 Workbook Page 6 Someone please read.

GE 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die." NASB

Q. What was the one restriction God that God gave to Adam and Eve?

Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

Q. Why did God tell them not to do it?

Because the knowledge of evil in Adam would produce death in Adam.

- So, God gave them this restriction for their benefit?
- But He also gave them a choice to make – right?
- Now let us read Genesis 3:1-7 Page 6 Someone please read.

GE 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees

of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die." ⁴ And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!" ⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. NASB

Q. Who is the serpent?

Satan

Q. What was Satan's tactic in trying to deceive Eve into sinning?

He questioned God's word

He contradicted God's word

He questioned God's character, then disparaged God's character

- Those were his tactics to deceive her then, and he will use those same tactics to deceive us today if we are not wise to his methods.

Q. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, what immediately happened to them?

They became self-conscious, and they began to experience guilt and shame

- Now let us read Genesis 3:7-13 Starting on Page 6 Someone please read.

GE 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

GE 3:10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so, I hid."¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." NIV

- Here are your first study questions

1a. How did Adam and Eve's rebellion impact their relationship with God?

For the first time in their lives, they were hiding from God in fear.

1b. How did this affect their relationship with each other?

They became self-centered and started accusing and blaming each other.

- Can you see the contrast between the condition of their hearts before they experienced evil, and after - how different they were?
- Someone please read for us the Genesis 3:22-24 Workbook Page 7

GE 3:22 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever." ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. NIV

- Here is your 1c study question.

1c. What did God do in response to their sin - and why?

God forced them out of the Garden to keep them from eating from the Tree of Life and living eternally in their fallen sinful nature and condition.

- When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their natures were corrupted by sin, causing their bodies to slowly die - and death eventually took them.
- In Genesis 5:5 it says: Instructor reads

GE 5:5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died. NASB

- It took a long time, but it turned out just like God said.

Q. Why does any of this matter to us?

It matters because we inherited these same self-centered traits from Adam.

- In the same way that we have inherited their physical traits, we have also inherited their spiritual traits.

Lesson 1-2 – “The Disease of Sin”

- Let us read Romans 5:12. Page 8 Someone please read.

RO 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- NASB

Q. What does this teach us about how the fall of Adam and Eve has impacted our lives?

That we have all inherited the same sin sickness that they had

Q. What does this scripture reveal about the relationship between sin and death?

Sin leads to death, it causes death.

Q. What would have happened to Adam and Eve if they had never sinned?

They would most certainly be alive today.

- God created us for the purpose of life, not death.
- The scientific community has been trying for years to unlock the mystery of why we get old and die - because technically we should not get old and die.
- After the great flood, God made a statement about the lifespan of man
- Someone please read the Genesis 6:3 passage on page 9.

GE 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." NASB

Q. What does that teach us about the reason for the limited longevity of man?

God has set a limit to our lifespan

- Scientists have learned that as we age, for some "unknown" reason, our DNA slowly corrupts and degenerates, causing us to get old and die.
- The Bible teaches us that God has put a countdown timer in us, because He is not willing to allow people to live forever in their sinful state.
- Someone please read the Romans 3:23 passage on page 9

RO 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. NASB

- Here is your number 2a. study question

2a. What is the basic truth that we learn about ourselves in the Romans 3:23 passage?

None of us have lived a good enough life to receive eternal life on our own merits.

- That is the biggest problem of our lives - we have all sinned and fall short
- Someone please read the Isaiah 59:1-2. Page 10.

ISA 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short that it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that He does not hear. NASB

- Here is your 2b. study question.

2b. And what does the passage in Isaiah 59:1-2 reveal about how our sins affect our relationship with God? Sin causes separation from God

Lesson 1-3 – “A Foolish, Darkened Heart”

- In his letter to Rome, Paul talks in detail about how this sin nature has impacted humanity
- Someone please read the Romans 1:18 text, page 11 - only through verse 20.

RO 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. NASB

Q. What is one of the most significant ways that God has revealed His existence to the world?

Through all that He has created

- So, the sun, moon and stars all point to their Creator?
- The birds, fish, and animals all point to their Creator?
- Let's continue reading in verse 21. Instructor reads

RO 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools... NASB

Q. What happens when we refuse to be thankful and to give God His rightful place of honor in our lives?

Our hearts and minds begin to descend into spiritual darkness

- And in verse 28, Paul draws a picture of what this spiritual darkness looks like.
- Let's continue reading. Romans 1:28-32 on page 12. Instructor reads

RO 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; ³² and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. NASB

- Here is your number 3a. study question

3a. From Romans 1:28-32, list as many depraved deeds as you can find.

- Let's write all of these on the board - call them out

Write list on the board

Wickedness, greed, evil, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander, hating God, rebellious, arrogance, boastful, evil, disobedience, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful.

Q. In your opinion, which of these is the least bad? - maybe envy?

Q. And, which one of these would you consider to be the worst sin? - murder?

- Do you think that envy has ever led to murder? How about greed?
- The truth, is that they all come out of the same sinful nature spirit
- These actions on the board are what we naturally degenerate into when God gives a person or a nation over to a depraved mind.
- Now let's look at James 3:13-16. Page 12 Someone please read

JAS 3:13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. NASB

- Let's add these things to the board - call them out

Bitterness, selfishness, arrogance, jealousy

- Here is your number 3b. study question

3b. From James 3:13-16, what is the source of these motives and actions?

They are all demonic in origin.

- Jealousy is demonically inspired?
- Unforgiveness and bitterness are demonically inspired?
- Gossip and slander are demonically inspired?
- Envy and greed are demonically inspired?
- Each of these things on the board is to some degree the evidence of a depraved mind and a darkened heart.

Q. What happens in a society when these depraved deeds are allowed to run rampant? Total chaos

Q. So how do societies and governments attempt to keep these things in check? With rules, laws, regulations, and penalties.

Lesson 1-4 – “The Long Arm of the Law”

- Let's look at 1st Timothy 1:8-10. Page 14 Someone please read

^{1TI 1:8} But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰ and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching... NASB

- Here is your 4a. question.

4a. From the 1st Timothy 1:8-10 passage, what do we learn about the reason we need laws?

Laws are necessary to control and contain bad behavior.

Q. So, who is the law made for?

Not for the righteous, but for the lawlessness and rebellious.

Q. But if we all naturally did what was right, would we need laws?

Probably not, because if no one ever thought about stealing, or murder, or adultery, or any other sin - we wouldn't need laws prohibiting those things.

Q. So, why do we need to have so many laws?

We must have laws and threats of punishment to restrain fallen humanity from doing whatever they might want to do.

- Now let's look Romans 7:14-15 Page 15 Someone please read

^{RO 7:14} For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.
¹⁵ For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. NASB

- Can anyone relate to this? We do something, and we know when we are doing it that it is wrong, and that it is going to end badly, but we still do it anyway?
- Sometimes, there can be such a conflict within us, wanting to be better, but we still end up sabotaging ourselves?
- Then Paul continues in verse 16. Instructor reads

RO 7:16 But if I do the very thing I do not wish *to do*, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that it is good. ¹⁷ So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. ¹⁹ For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. ²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. ²¹ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good NASB

- Here is your 4b. question.

4b. What does Romans 7:14-21 reveal about our fallen human nature?

That we are slaves to sin, and we do not have the ability in our own strength to break free from it.

- Is that really true about us in our natural state? Is this a difficult thing to admit?
- Paul concluded that not only had he sinned, but that He couldn't stop sinning - he was a slave, sold into bondage to sin
- He realized he was trapped in a futile cycle of sin, guilt, repentance, - sin, guilt, repentance, - over and over and over again
- But he also said that there is hope in Christ to break that cycle
- Let's see the Romans 8:1-4 on workbook page 16. Someone please read.

RO 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. NASB

- And here is your 4c. study question.

4c. And what does Romans 8:1-4 teach us about how we can fulfill the law and live a life of righteousness?

By walking by the Spirit, we are empowered to overcome our sinful nature and live a righteous life

Lesson 1-5 – “We Were Helpless”

- But apart from Christ, we don't stand a chance
- Let's look at the Romans 5:6-8 passage Page 17 Instructor reads verse 6 only

RO 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. NASB

- Here is your question 5a.

5a. In what ways do our past sins and our sin nature render us helpless?

Our past sins condemn us as guilty lawbreakers, and our sin nature causes us to habitually sin.

- This is why we desperately need Christ - because there is no other hope for us.
- Someone please read verses 7 and 8 of the Romans passage on page 17.

RO 5:7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. NASB

- Here is your question 5b.

5b. From the Romans 5:6-8 passage, what does Jesus' death on the cross demonstrate?

It demonstrates and proves the depth of God's love for us

- If you ever have questions about God's love for you, just look to the cross.
- Because of His love and mercy, God has made a way of rescue for us.
- Please look at Acts 2:37-40. Page 18 Someone please read

AC 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." NIV

- Here is your number 5c. study question

5c. In Peter's message on the first Christian Pentecost in Acts 2:37-40, what did he tell the crowd that they should do to be saved?

Repent, be baptized, putting our faith in Christ, invite The Holy Spirit into our hearts as a gift.

- This is God's prescription for us - there is no other way for our sins to be forgiven, and no other way to overcome the sin nature, except through Jesus.
- This is where we start, and next week we will begin to see in a deeper way how God forgives us and sets us free from the sin nature.
- Amen and glory to God.

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 101 WEEK TWO	THE GIFT OF THE ATONEMENT
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Week 2 – “The Gift of the Atonement”

Teaching Notes v3.8.5

General Summary

The purpose of these lessons is to reveal how our sins have left us in a helpless and desperate situation. It also shows how God has come to our rescue through Christ as our atoning sacrifice.

2-1 "Our Debt" - explains that throughout our lives, our sins accumulate creating a sin debt that must be paid. All our deeds, whether good or bad, will be revealed and judged in the end.

2-2 "He Bore the Sin of Many" – shows that Christ died as an atoning sacrifice so that we might not be judged for our sins but have eternal life. This is an obvious demonstration of God's love for us.

2-3 "I Will Draw All Men" – demonstrates the simple truth that God does not play favorites, but that Jesus died so that everyone might have the opportunity to be saved.

2-4 "Justification by Faith" – explains that forgiveness of sins is given as a gift through faith in Christ and His blood sacrifice, and that forgiveness cannot be earned through good works.

2-5 "Shall We Continue in Sin?" - dispels the idea that forgiveness creates a loophole or license to sin, but that continuing in willful sin results in the atoning sacrifice being removed from our lives.

Preparation Notes

It would be helpful to divide the white board vertically into two halves. Prior to the class, list the deeds of the flesh from last week's lesson on the right side of the board for a review of last week's lesson and for future reference in this class. Later in the class, fill in the left side with the list of things that Jesus did for us in Isaiah 52-53.

When you begin your Week 2 Class, your board or screen share could look something like this.

Man's Sinful Nature	
	wickedness, greed, murder, strife, deceit, immorality, malice, gossip, rebellion, arrogance, envy, boastful, bitterness, unforgiveness, profane, vengeful, unloving, jealousy, divisive, selfish, manipulative, unmerciful, quick-temper, overbearing, etc...

As you conclude your Week 2 Class, your board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class.

Christ's Sacrifice for us	Man's Sinful Nature
He was despised and rejected He bore our diseases/sorrows He was smitten and afflicted He took our punishment By His wounds we are healed Was led as a lamb to slaughter Was cut off from life He suffered and was crushed He became a guilt offering, bearing the sins of the many, justifying the many...	wickedness, greed, murder, strife, deceit, immorality, malice, gossip, rebellion, arrogance, envy, boastful, bitterness, unforgiveness, profane, vengeful, unloving, jealousy, divisive, selfish, manipulative, unmerciful, quick-temper, overbearing, etc...

There is quite a bit of material to cover in this lesson, so you will need to keep things moving to cover it all.

Week 2 – “The Gift of the Atonement”- Teaching Notes

Lesson 2-1 – "Our Debt"

Review of Last Week

- Last week we talked about our need for Christ
- We talked about the fall of Adam and Eve, and how their innocence was turned into darkness, resulting in guilt, shame, and ultimately death.
- And in the same way we have inherited Adam's physical form, we have also inherited a sinful nature from him - that enslaves us and causes us to do these things listed on the board.
- Tonight, we are going to begin to look at what God does through Jesus to reverse the effects that Adam's fall had on us.
- First, let's look at something Jesus said in Matthew 6:9-14 - page 21 of your book
- Someone please read – both passages, all the way through verse 15.

MT 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray: " `Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. '

MT 6:14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. NIV

Q. As Jesus is talking here about forgiveness of sins, what does he compare our sin to? He compares it to debt

Q. When someone has gone to prison and served their time, what is our justification for releasing them? They have paid their debt to society.

- So, we see sin as creating a debt, and punishment as payment for that debt.

Q. In what way does sin create debt? Sin creates debt because sin causes damage

- If I were to go out and run my car into yours, I have instantly created a debt.
- All the sins listed on the board cause damage to someone in some way or another

Q. When we go out and spend, spend, spend, on a credit card, what eventually happens?

Eventually, the bill comes due, and payment must be made

Q. When people go out and sin, sin, sin, what eventually happens?

Same thing - eventually, the bill comes due, and payment must be made

- Now let us look at Revelation 20:11-15. Also, on page 22. Someone please read.

REV 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. ¹⁴ And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. NASB

Q. Would it be fair to say that this is the ultimate payment due date for our sins?

- The scriptures teach us there is a coming day of judgment when all the books will be opened, and every person will give an account for how they have lived.
- Look at the Luke 13:1-5 scripture. Page 22 Someone please read

LK 13:1 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-- do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." NRSV

- Here is your 1a. study question.

1a. What point do you think Jesus is trying to make to us in Luke 13:1-5?

We have all sinned enough to deserve to die for it.

- There are some really big sinners out there, and it is easy to look at others and judge ourselves as being not as bad as we think they are.
- But Jesus warns us not to justify ourselves based on those kinds of comparisons.
- We have all done enough damage to others and ourselves to be found guilty.
- Here is a hypothetical situation to help make this point

Q. Hypothetically, let's say that I have been robbing banks for the past 20 years, and then I quit for two years. Does the fact that I have not robbed any banks in the past two years make me any less guilty as a bank robber? Absolutely not

Q. And when I go before the judge, what will he do? Put me in jail

Q. But why, if I have quit robbing banks?

My past crimes have created a debt

- If by a miracle and the power of God, I never sinned even one more time again, I still have this problem.
- I have done a lot of damage in my past, amassing a huge cumulative sin debt.

Q. How can I pay my sin debt?

My own life is the only thing I can use to pay

- Look at the Isaiah 53:3-6 passage on page 23. Someone please read

ISA 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely, he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

ISA 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. NIV

- Here is your 1b. study question.

1b. From the Messianic prophecy in Isaiah 53:3-6, how has God chosen to deal with our sin debt? He transferred all the guilt to Jesus

1c. And what does this reveal about His heart toward us?

It reveals His great love and mercy, the high value He places on us

Lesson 2-2 – “He Bore the Sin of the Many”

- Hundreds of years before Jesus came, Isaiah prophesied of a coming Savior and what He would do for us.
- Let's look deeper into the Isaiah 52 and 53 prophecy. Page 24 Instructor reads

ISA 52:13 See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him--his appearance was so disfigured

beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness-- ¹⁵ so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

ISA 53:1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

ISA 53:4 Surely, he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

ISA 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

ISA 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

ISA 53:11 After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

NIV

- This is a long list` of the things Jesus did for us on the cross.
- Here is your 2a. study question

2a. From the Isaiah passage, what are some of the things that happened to Jesus when He was on the cross?

- Let's write these things on the board - call them out.

Write them on the board

He was beaten beyond recognition, despised, rejected, disrespected
He took up our sickness and carried our sorrows,
He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.
He took our punishment, to bring us peace, by his wounds we are healed.
Our iniquity was laid on Him, and for our transgressions, He was punished.
He was crushed and made to suffer, His life became a guilt offering,
He justified the many, through bearing their iniquities.
He poured out his life unto death, and He bore the sins of the many

- This is quite a list, isn't it?

Q. So, when Jesus was on the cross, what happened to our sin and iniquity?

Jesus took it on and bore it Himself

Q. What happened to our guilt? It was placed on Him

Q. What happened to our punishment? He willingly took it in our place

- Look at the Colossians 2:13-14 scripture. Page 25. Someone please read

COL 2:13 And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. NRSV

Q. Through Christ, what has happened to our sin debt?

It was placed on Jesus, and then He died, paying the price in full.

- God didn't just snap His finger to wipe away our sins, but instead, He transferred the guilt for those sins to Jesus. And when Jesus died, our guilt died with Him.

Q. Why couldn't God just wipe out the debt without Jesus having to die?

God is also a God of Justice, and justice requires the debt be paid

- Jesus voluntarily died on the cross and satisfied God's requirement for justice
- If there had been any other way for our sins to be forgiven, Jesus would not have had to die.

Q. Why would they do this for a bunch of rebellious, self-serving people?

It's all because He loves us, a demonstration of His love and mercy.

- After all that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross, we should never have to question whether God loves us or not - He has proven it.

- If life circumstances get crazy and we begin to wonder if God cares, we simply look to the cross as evidence of His love for us.
- The cross shows how much we are worth to God.
- Please look at the Colossians 1:19-23 passage. Page 26 Someone please read.

COL 1:19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

COL 1:21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. NIV

- Here is your 2b. study question

2b. And from the Colossians 1:19-23 passage, how has Jesus' atonement for our sins affected our relationship with God?

He has reconciled us to God through His shed blood.

Q. What is a proper way for us to respond to all of this?

Appreciation, thankfulness, love in return

- There is yet another facet of the atonement that we need to understand

Lesson 2-3 – “I Will Draw All Men”

- Look at the 1st Timothy 2:3-6 passage. Page 27. Someone please read.

1TI 2:3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *borne* at the proper time. NASB

- Here is your 3a. study question

3a. In the 1st Timothy 2:3-6 passage, what is revealed about the Father's heart toward all people?

God loves and desires that all people would be saved.

- Now will someone please read the 1st John 2:1-2. Page 28.

1JN 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and he

is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. NRSV

3b. In the 1st John 2:1-2 passage, what is revealed about the broadness of Jesus' atonement?

He died for the whole world. Salvation is available to everyone, not limited to just a few. Jesus died so everyone would have an opportunity to be saved.

- It is important that we make this point because there is a theory out there that says that Jesus didn't die for everyone, but only for a limited number of people.
- It also theorizes that the people who are ultimately lost, will go to judgment because God doesn't want them to be saved. This is a terrible error.
- When Jesus went to the cross, He represented all of humanity
- The guilt for all the sins of humanity for all time were heaped on Him.

Q. Since Jesus died for everyone, does this mean that everyone will be saved?

No, because we receive the promise through faith in Jesus.

- Look at the John 3:16-18 scripture. Back on page 27. Someone please read

JN 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. ¹⁸ "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. NASB

Q. What is the condition for receiving the blessing of the atonement?

We must believe and put our faith in Him - the work of God through Christ on the cross

- If God loves the whole world, then He loves you and me, too.
- If you and I have an opportunity to be saved, then so does everyone else.

Lesson 2-4 – "Justification by Faith"

- Let's now look at the Romans 5:17-19 passage Page 30. Someone please read

RO 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one (Adam), death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹ For as through the one man's disobedience the many

were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. NASB

Q. Paul talks here about being justified, what does it mean to justify something? To have a good reason for doing something

- Here is your 4a. study question

4a. What does it mean to be justified before God?

Since our sin debt has now been paid, there is no reason to deny us eternal life.

- Before Jesus died for us on the cross, there was no reason or justification for any of us to receive eternal life.
- However, when Jesus had atoned for our sins, God could justify life for us because the sin debt was paid in full – reversing the effect of Adam's sin.
- Paul also talked about this in Romans 3, and here is what he said. Page 31 – Instructor reads

RO 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

- Here is your 4b. study question

4b. And from the Romans 3:25-26 passage, what is required of us in order to be justified before God?

It is given as a gift through faith in Jesus' atoning blood

Q. What does it mean to put our faith in His blood? How do we do that?

It means that we recognize that there is no other way for our sins to be forgiven and we put our full reliance on His sacrifice for our forgiveness.

- Let's continue reading that passage - Instructor

He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle, on that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. NIV

- Here is your 4c. study question

4c. In the Ephesians 2 and Roman 3 passages, Paul mentions boasting. Why can there be no boasting in ourselves about our justification?

Because we didn't do anything, except to receive forgiveness by faith

- Our boasting must be in Jesus Christ, not in ourselves
- The gift of forgiveness of sins is appropriated into our lives through our humble and thankful faith in Him.

Lesson 2-5 – “Shall We Continue in Sin?”

- Even in the earliest days of the Church, some misunderstood justification by faith.
- They thought it created a sin loophole - a license to sin. This continues today.
- The reasoning goes – “If all our sins are forgiven, then why stop sinning?”
- But Paul himself refuted this idea in several places
- Let's look at the Romans 6:15-16 passage. Page 34. Someone please read

RO 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? NASB

Q. What does Paul say will happen if we continue to live in the old sinful nature?

It leads to in death

- There are serious consequences for us if we choose to continue in our sin.
- The writer of Hebrews most clearly explains the contrast between how the atonement works in our lives when we are obedient and repentant, and how it works when we continue in willful sin.
- This is the Hebrews 10:19-31 Page 34. Instructor reads

HEB 10:19 Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

- That is how the blood of Jesus works in our lives when we are repentant
- The next verses explain what happens when we are unrepentant - Instructor reads

HEB 10:26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." ³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. NASB

- That was not written for us to ignore it, but to get our attention.
- Here is your 5a. study question

5a. What does the Hebrews 10:26-31 passage teach us about what happens if we continue in willful sin?

The atoning sacrifice is removed from us and we should expect judgment and punishment - not mercy

- Because of our desperate condition, Christ suffered and died for us to free us from the slavery of our old sinful life.
- And when we show so little appreciation for that sacrifice that we willfully go back to the same sinful pigpen that Christ died to save us from, it is offensive to the Father.
- It is so offensive that the blood sacrifice can be removed from our lives.
- So, let's not deceive ourselves into believing that the atonement creates a loophole, a license to sin, or a diplomatic immunity to continue in sinful ways.
- Look at the 1st John 1:5-10 passage on page 35. Someone please read it.

1JN 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive

us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. NIV

- Here is your number 5b. study question

5b. And in 1st John 1:5-10, what does John teach here as the conditions for being cleansed of our sins?

Walk in the light, confess our sins, relying on Jesus as our atoning sacrifice

- There is no other way for our sins to be forgiven
- There is no other way for us to be justified before God
- Let's not be deceived about this, but truly turn from our sins, and let the love of God control us from the heart.
- Next week we will start seeing how God empowers us to walk in the light
- Amen, and glory to God

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 101 WEEK THREE	THE NEW COVENANT PROMISES
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Week 3 – “The Covenant Promises”

Teaching Notes v3.8.5

General Summary

The purpose of these lessons is to reveal to the student that in the New Covenant, God has promised to fundamentally change our hearts, which leads to a change in our behavior. He promises to inhabit us with His Holy Spirit and empower us to live a life of love, peace, and righteousness that we otherwise could not live.

3-1 "A New Covenant" - explains that Jesus came to establish the New Covenant, which is a contract that redefines the relationship between God and man.

3-2 "A Better Covenant" – shows that the New Covenant established through Jesus is a better covenant than the covenant that was mediated through Moses. It is better because the terms of the contract, otherwise known as the covenant promises, are better.

3-3 "The Better Promises" – details the promises of the New Covenant through which God commits to change our hearts and to empower through His Spirit to live in His strength for righteousness. This is compared to the Mosaic Law which is a list of rules for man to keep, but it does nothing to change the fallen nature of man which prevents us from fully or consistently keeping the law.

3-4 "Grace Through Faith" – leads to the understanding that all the covenant promises of God are appropriated into our lives through becoming convinced in our hearts that the promises are for us, and then asking for them in expectant faith.

3-5 "My Spirit in You" - talks specifically about how the Holy Spirit produces God's loving nature in us, and how walking in love sanctifies our behavior and fulfills the righteousness required by the law.

Preparation Notes

After a quick review of last week's lesson, erase the white board entirely as you will need that space for this week's material.

When you begin your Week 3 Class, your board or screen share could look something like this.

Christ's Sacrifice for us	Man's Sinful Nature
He was despised and rejected He bore our diseases/sorrows He was smitten and afflicted He took our punishment By His wounds we are healed Was led as a lamb to slaughter Was cut off from life He suffered and was crushed He became a guilt offering, bearing the sins of the many, justifying the many...	wickedness, greed, murder, strife, deceit, immorality, malice, gossip, rebellion, arrogance, envy, boastful, bitterness, unforgiveness, profane, vengeful, unloving, jealousy, divisive, selfish, manipulative, unmerciful, quick-temper, overbearing, etc...

As you conclude your Week 3 Class, your board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class.

God's New Covenant Promises for us
I will put my law within you and write it on your heart I will cleanse you with clean water I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you I will remove your heart of stone and give you a soft heart I will put my Spirit in you and empower you to obey me And then, you will be my people and I will be your God Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, etc...

There is quite a bit of material to cover in this lesson, so you will need to keep things moving to cover it all.

Week 3 – “The Covenant Promises” - Teaching Notes

Lesson 3-1 – “A New Covenant”

- Last week we talked about how our sins are forgiven through Jesus' atoning blood
- The guilt of our transgressions was transferred to Him as He died on the cross.
- He died for the sins of the whole world. But only those who place their faith in His atoning sacrifice are forgiven and justified before God.
- We also talked about how this does not create a sin loophole, resulting in a license to sin, but that the atoning sacrifice can be removed from our lives if we continue in willful sin.
- Tonight, we're going to begin to see what God does through the Holy Spirit to empower us to live in righteousness.
- Let's start by reading 1st Corinthians 11:23-26. Page 38 Someone please read.

^{1CO 11:23} For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. NASB

Q. When do we normally hear this scripture passage?

Communion, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper

- But there is something else in here, as well. Please read verse 25 again.

²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- Jesus is announcing to His disciples that a new covenant was being enacted.

Q. So, what is a covenant?

- Webster's dictionary defines covenant in this way.

"A covenant is a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action."

- A covenant, at its very basic level, is simply a binding contract or treaty between two or more parties

Q. What is the purpose of a contract?

The contract establishes a relationship, and defines how the relationship between the covenant partners is supposed to work. It defines their mutual rights and responsibilities.

- So, our relationship with God is based on a contract?
- Please look at the Genesis 17:2-7 passage on page 39. Instructor reads

GE 17:2 "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly." ³ And Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, ⁴ "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations." ⁵ "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ "And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. ⁷ "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you." NASB

Q. Who is God making covenant with here? Abraham

- The establishment of this covenant was the birthing moment for the Hebrew people and the nation of Israel
- Now let's look at Deuteronomy 4:10-14. Page 40 Someone please read it

DT 4:10 Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children." ¹¹ You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness.

DT 4:12 Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. ¹³ He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets. ¹⁴ And the LORD directed me at that time to teach you the decrees and laws you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. NRSV

- Here is your 1a. study question.

1a. From the Genesis 17 and Deuteronomy 4 passages, which covenants defined the relationship between God and the Hebrew people?

The Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants

- Here is your 1b. study question

1b. What was the covenant responsibility of the people?

Keep the law - the ten commandments

- Here is your 1c. study question

1c. And upon what was the Law of the covenant written?

On tablets of stone

- If they kept the Law, they would be blessed by God - this was the contract.
- And if they did not keep the law, they would be cursed
- So, the original covenant was established with Abraham, and the law was given through the Mosaic Covenant
- But we must ask ourselves a question.
- If they already had these covenants, why did Jesus need to establish a new one?
- There is a passage in Hebrews that explains why it was essential.

Lesson 3-2 – “A Better Covenant”

- Someone please read the Hebrews 8:6-7 passage. Page 41

HEB 8:6 But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted through better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one. NRSV

Q. According to this passage, why did there need to be a new covenant?

Because the first one had a fault.

- Please continue reading verses 8 and 9 so we can see what that fault was.

HEB 8:8 God finds fault with them when he says: "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; ⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors, on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in my covenant, and so I had no concern for them, says the Lord. NRSV

- Here is your 2a. question.

2a. According to the Hebrews 8:6-9 passages, what was the fault of the Mosaic Covenant?

The problem with the Mosaic covenant was not so much with the covenant or the law itself, but with the people who didn't continue in it to keep it.

- Please look at the Exodus 24:3 scripture Page 42 Instructor reads
- When God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, here is what the people said

EX 24: 3 Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!" NASB

- So, God gave them the ten commandments, and they promised to obey - how much simpler could this covenant/contract possibly be?

Q. But what happened? The people didn't obey

- In fact, they broke that covenant over and over and over again. All they had to do was to simply follow God's rules - but they didn't. And there is reason why.
- Someone please read the Romans 8:3 verse. Page 42

RO 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh... NASB

Q. What is the flesh? The flesh is our natural fallen human self.

- So, the weakness of the Law of Moses, is that it depends on us to keep it.
- Then Paul goes on to further explain it in verses 7-8. Someone please read Pg 42

RO 8:7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. NASB

- The problem with the Mosaic Law is that it establishes a set of rules and regulations that man in his fallen nature doesn't really want to keep.
- We might submit to authority for a while, but eventually our independent streak will rise to resist and say, "you're not the boss of me!" - Even to God Almighty.
- Please look on page 43 of your book. Someone please read Hebrews 8:6-7

HEB 8:6 But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. NASB

- In other words, it is a better covenant because this covenant is not dependent on the strength, will, and ability of man to keep it - like the Law of Moses was.
- Please look at the Jeremiah 31:31-33 passage on page 43. Someone please read.
- This New Covenant prophecy was given around 600 years before Jesus came.

JER 31:31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." NASB

- Here is your 2b. study question.

2b. In the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:31-34, God promised He would make a new covenant. In this new covenant, where did God promise He would write His law, and how is this different from the way the law was given through Moses as they were coming out of Egypt?

He promised He would write His law on their hearts and minds
In the Mosaic Covenant, the law was written on tablets of stone

- Let's write these Jeremiah new covenant promises on the board

Write these on the board - under the heading "God's New Covenant Promises for us"

I will put my law within them

I will write My law on their hearts

- These are things that God promises to do for those who enter this new covenant relationship with Him.
- Here is your 2c. study question.

2c. And why do you think this could be considered a better promise for you and me?

- Where was the law of Moses written? On tablets of stone?

The law of Moses was written on tablets of stone, the Law of Jesus is written on tablets of human hearts - is internal to us, not external.

Lesson 3-3 – "The Better Promises"

- There is another prophecy in Ezekiel 36. Workbook page 45 Someone read.

EZE 36:25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. ²⁸ "And you will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God." NASB

- Here is your 3a. study question.

3a. From the Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36 passages in this lesson, list all the covenant promises that God makes to those who enter this New Covenant relationship with Him. Look for the "I will" statements that God makes.

- What do you see in the passage that God says He will do? Call them out.

Add these the promises on the board

I will sprinkle you with clean water and cleanse you

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you

I will remove your hard heart of stone and give you a soft heart

I will put My Spirit in you and empower you to obey

You will be My people and I will be your God

Q. Who does God say is going to do these things?

He doesn't say that WE will do these things, but that HE will do them in us.

- Each of these is a covenant promise - the things that God has committed Himself to do in our lives - yours and mine.
- Here is your 3b. study question.

3b. And in what ways would these be considered "better" promises than those in the Mosaic Covenant?

In the Mosaic Covenant we had the law, but not the ability to keep it.
In the New Covenant, God changes us and gives us the power to keep it.

- God doesn't lower the standard of righteousness, He raises us up to meet it.

Lesson 3-4 – "Grace through Faith"

- Now that we have seen what God promises He will do in our lives in this New Covenant, let's look at how we receive and enter into it.
- Someone please read the Romans 1:16-17 passage. Page 48

RO 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." NIV

Q. What does this reveal about what we can do to receive the empowerment to live in righteousness? The power for righteous living through faith

- Someone please read the James 1:5-8 passage. Page 48

JAS 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. NIV

Q. What happens if we ask, but we're not really convinced in our hearts that He will do it? We won't receive anything

- So, the first step in receiving God's empowerment is to believe that God will do it in our lives. If we doubt that He will do it, then it will not happen.
- Someone please read the Ephesians 2:8-10. Page 48

EPH 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. NASB

Q. What is grace? Grace, is God doing something for us or in us

- Everyone write this down...
- "Grace" is God doing something for us that we could not do for ourselves, like forgiving our sins.
- "Grace" is God giving us a new heart and changing us into something that we otherwise could not be.
- "Grace" is God empowering us through the Holy Spirit to live a righteous life we could not otherwise live in our own strength.
- Someone please read the Luke 11:9-13. page 49

LK 11:9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" NIV

- Here is your 4a. study question

4a. From the Luke 11:9-12 passage, what does Jesus say about how we receive the blessings and empowerment of the Holy Spirit from God?

We ask in faith - and we keep asking (the scriptural context is "keep asking")

- Often, we do not receive simply because we do not ask
- And we do not ask because we do not really believe
- Let's look at the Romans 6:17-18 passage. Page 49 Someone please read

RO 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. NASB

- Here is your 4b. study question

4b. From Romans 6:17-18, how does our New Covenant relationship with God change our relationship with sin?

We used to be slaves to sin, but we're not anymore. We are now slaves of righteousness.

- Let that sink in a little bit, and chew on it.

Q. If we are no longer slaves to sin, then why do we continue to act like we are?

Because we do not believe

- Most Church people don't really believe the power of sin is broken, but it is.
- Very few Churches teach this today, but there it is right there in the scriptures.
- The authentic grace of God breaks the power of sin for those who believe.

Lesson 3-5 – “My Spirit in You”

- Let's look to see how God's Spirit works in our lives to produce His righteousness.
- Someone please read the Galatians 5:22-23 scripture Page 50

GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB

- Let's write these on the board - call them out
- So, when the Holy Spirit is in control of our lives, this "Spirit Fruit" is what we will experience and express?

Q. And what did Paul say about this fruit in verse 23?

No Law against these

- So then, this Holy Spirit Fruit lifestyle is a righteous lifestyle?
- Now, would someone read the 1st Corinthians 13 passage? Page 50

¹CO 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. NIV

- In this, Paul gives us a little deeper understanding into the "Spiritual Fruit".

Q. What does this reveal about the relationship between love and the other fruits?

Love is the core attribute of the Holy Spirit fruit

- All the other attributes such as patience, kindness, and forgiveness, all of these are rooted in love.
- If we are controlled by God's love, then we'll have the rest of the fruit, as well.
- Now let's look at the Romans 13 scripture. Page 51 Instructor reads

RO 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. NRSV

- Does everyone see that? Love is the fulfillment of the law.
- When we walk in love, we don't cheat or steal from people.
- When we walk in love, we don't want to kill people or steal their spouse.
- When we walk in love, we will not be jealous and gossip about people or slander them because we want them to succeed in Christ.
- When we walk in love, we naturally fulfill the righteous requirement of the law
- Now let's look at 1st John 4:7-8. Page 51 Someone please read.

¹JN 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. NASB

Q. Where does love come from? From God - not from us?

- So, when we experience and express God's love - that's Him doing it in us?
- So, when we walk in love, we're actually walking in God's righteousness as He imparts it to us.
- Look at this 1st John 4:11 passage. Page 51 Instructor reads

1JN 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. NASB

Q. What effect does John say that God's love has on us?

His love us has a perfecting influence on us

- We are perfected through experiencing and expressing God's love.
- When we walk in love, we fulfill the law, and we are no longer slaves to sin.
- And that is what was exactly what was spoken through the prophet Ezekiel –
Instructor reads

EZE 36:27 "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances." NASB

- Love is how God produces His own righteousness in us.
- Please look at the 2nd Peter 1:2-4 passage, page 52. Instructor reads

^{2PE 1:2} Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness,

- Here is your 5a. study question

5a. From the 2nd Peter 1:2-4 passage, what does Peter say God has given us through His divine power?

He has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness

- What is missing from everything?
- So, when it comes to life and godliness, is there anything that has not been granted to us?
- Peter continues... Instructor reads

through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. NASB

5b. What does Peter say we become partakers of through the covenant promises?

We become partakers of His own divine nature

5c. And what do we escape through these covenant promises?

We escape the corruption of the world

- It is through believing and embracing these promises that we become partakers of the divine nature.
- It is through believing and embracing these promises that we escape the corruption of this world.
- In the New Covenant, God's divine nature manifests righteousness in our lives through the expression of His love in us.

Amen, and glory to God

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 101 WEEK FOUR	THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
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Week 4 – “The Gift of the Holy Spirit”

Teaching Notes v3.8.5

General Summary

The purpose of these lessons is to help the student to learn how to recognize the Holy Spirit's presence and workings in their hearts. Not only this, but it also intends to help them to recognize the voice of the enemy attempting to take ground in their hearts so that they can resist him and make him flee.

4-1 "You Shall Receive Power" - leads the student to understand that God promises to empower us through the Holy Spirit to live a life of righteousness we could not otherwise live. The same Holy Spirit power that worked in Jesus and the Apostles is available to us.

4-2 "The Fruit of the Holy Spirit" – from the Apostle Paul shows how the Holy Spirit produces God's righteous, loving nature within us by producing the loving Fruit of the Holy Spirit in us. This lesson also points out the deeds of the flesh which are the selfish opposites of the Holy Spirit Fruit. The goal is to help the student to recognize the difference between the Holy Spirit experience and the sinful nature experience.

4-3 "The Fruit of Light" – this lesson presents additional passages from Paul, as well as other New Testament writers, presenting the same contrast of Spirit and flesh lifestyles. This show the student that these concepts are broadly taught throughout the New Testament, although under differing labels, such as “the Fruit of the Spirit”, “the Fruit of Light”, “the Wisdom from Above”, etc....

4-4 "The Spirit Opposes the Flesh" – shows that the Fruit of the Spirit and deeds of the flesh are by nature opposites of each other and cannot simultaneously co-exist in a person's heart and mind. This knowledge helps the student to recognize what is happening in their own hearts and make choices to embrace the love of the Holy Spirit and reject the selfishness of the sinful nature.

4-5 "Resist the Devil" - presents the fact that the sinful nature is in alignment with Satan's nature and objectives. We resist Satan by resisting the desires of the selfish sin nature and by embracing the loving spiritual fruit of the Holy Spirit. This is how we align ourselves daily with Jesus' spirit in a practical way.

Preparation Notes

For the purpose of review, you can start the class with the Covenant Promises from the last lesson, then erase them from the white board after the review. Then draw a vertical line top to bottom to divide the white board into two

equal sections. In this class, we will write the fruit of the spirit on the left side, and the deeds of the flesh on the right side in order to contrast the two lifestyles. When you begin your Week 4 Class, your board or screen share will look something like this.

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As you conclude your Week 4 Class, your board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class.

<u>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</u> love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control compassion, forgiveness, thankfulness, honesty, righteousness, generosity	<u>The Fallen Sinful Nature</u> Sexual Immorality, impurity, depravity, idolatry, hatred, manipulation, disunity, envy, jealousy, fits of temper, rage, arguing, selfishness, division, drunkenness, bitterness, anger, malice, unforgiveness, greed, profanity, dirty jokes, sexual innuendo, gossip, murder, pornography, revenge
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Once again, there is quite a bit of material to cover in this lesson, so you will need to keep things moving to cover it all.

Week 4 – “The Gift of the Holy Spirit” - Teaching Notes

Lesson 4-1 – “You Shall Receive Power”

- Last week we talked about the promises that God makes to those who enter into the New Covenant relationship with Him.

Review Covenant Promises

- Tonight, we'll talk about the role of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling many of those promises in us and how we have a part in that process
- In John 14, Jesus makes an incredible, almost unbelievable statement
- Would someone please read that for us? - John 14:12-13 page 54

JN 14:12 "Truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father. ¹³ "And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. NASB

- Consider for a moment the implications of those statements.
- How would you like to fully tap into those promises?

Q. In this passage, what does Jesus revealed about His vision for the Church?

He wants the Church to function in the same power and ability that He did

- A couple of verses later, Jesus tells us how His vision is going to be accomplished.
- Someone please read John 14:16-17 also on page 54

JN 14:16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. NASB

Q. What is the difference between the Holy Spirit being "with us" and the Holy Spirit being "in us"?

Before Jesus died and was resurrected, the Holy Spirit was "with" people to empower them to do miracles, to prophesy, and to accomplish great things.

But now, the Holy Spirit dwells in us to change us into the image of Jesus.

- During the time Jesus was here on the earth, the Holy Spirit was with His disciples to do miracles. But the Holy Spirit was not in them to truly change them.

- It is possible there are people even today that God is empowering by the Holy Spirit for His own purposes, yet the Holy Spirit is only with them, not in them.
- Now, will someone please read John 16:5-7 page 54

JN 16:5 "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶ "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. NASB

- Here is your 1a. study question.

1a. From the John 14:12-17 and 16:5-7 passages, why was it better for us that Jesus returned to the Father in Heaven?

If Jesus didn't go back to the Father, the Holy Spirit would not come to live within us.

- Acts chapter 2 documents the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was first poured out and Jesus' disciples were baptized with the Holy Spirit.
- The crowd was perplexed by all of this, and here is part of what Peter told them.
- Please look at Acts 2:32-33 Page 56 Someone please read it.

AC 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. NASB

- Here is your 1b. study question.

1b. From Acts 2:32-33, where is Jesus now and what has He received from the Father?

Jesus is in the heavenly realm seated at the right hand of the Father, having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from Him.

Q. On this first Christian Pentecost, what did Jesus do?

He poured out the Holy Spirit to His disciples

Q. And what do you think Jesus is doing today?

He is still continually pouring out the Holy Spirit on those who follow Him.

- Someone please read Acts 2:38-39 Page 56 .

AC 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins: and you shall receive the gift of the Holy

Spirit. ³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself." NASB

- Here is your 1c. study question

1c. Who is the promise of the Holy Spirit for?

For us and for our children

- Let's say that together - The promise of the Holy Spirit is for me and for my family

Lesson 4-2 – "The Fruit of the Holy Spirit"

- Now that we have talked about the promise of the Holy Spirit and the history, let's talk about the Holy Spirit experience.
- Would someone please read the Galatians 5:22-23 scripture? page 57

GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB

- Let's write these on the left side of the board - call them out.

Write these on the board under the heading of "Fruit of the Holy Spirit"

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

- In Galatians chapter 5, the Apostle Paul also includes another list that he calls the "acts of the sinful nature", otherwise known as the "deeds of the flesh".
- Would someone please read these in Galatians 5:19-21? Page 58

GAL 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. NIV

- Let's write these on the other side of the board - call them out.

Sexual Immorality, impurity, depravity, idolatry, manipulation, hatred, disunity, jealousy, fits of temper, selfishness, arguing, division, envy, drunkenness, orgies, etc...

- Here is your number 2 study question.

2. From the Galatians 5:22-23 and 5:19-21 passages, how can we know at any time whether we are walking in the Holy Spirit or by the fallen human nature?

We know by what is filling our hearts at any given time – either the Holy Spirit Fruit, or the sinful nature

Q. When you look at these two lists, how many of these are of the realm of our intellect, and how many in the realm of our emotion?

For the most part, both sides are in the realm of emotion.

- So, most of what we are talking about here are things that we feel in our hearts.
- Please do not fall into the emotionless love idea - the emotion in our heart is key

Q. When you look at the left side of the board, what do these feel like?

To me, it feels like being clean on the inside

Q. When you look at the wrong side of the board, what do these feel like?

To me, it feels like being tangled up and dirty on the inside

Q. Why do you think anyone would want to live in this flesh side of the board?

There is a payoff - it makes a person feel powerful

- This flesh life is all about controlling other people, so I can get what I want
- The Spirit side is all about loving others, and the flesh side is about serving myself

Lesson 4-3 – “The Fruit of Light”

- Throughout the New Testament scriptures, there are a number of passages that present this same contrast of lifestyles just like we’ve seen in Galatians 5.
- Different authors use different labels, but the basic concepts are the same.
- James calls it “The Wisdom from Above”, Peter calls it “A Purified Soul”, John simply calls it “Light”.
- In Ephesians, there is another passage in which Paul calls it the “Fruit of Light”.
- Let’s read through that passage now – page 60 – Instructor reads

EPH 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ^{5:1} Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

EPH 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather

thanksgiving.⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

EPH 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. NIV

- This leads to our number 3a. study question

3a. From all the passages in this lesson, what are the attributes of a heart that is being controlled by the Holy Spirit?

- We already have some of these on the board from Galatians, but let's add these found in Ephesians. Call them out.

Add these to the left side of the board

Compassion, forgiveness, thankfulness, righteousness, honesty, generosity

- And now to the number 3b. question.

3b. From all the passages in this lesson, what are the attributes of a heart that is being controlled by the fallen sinful human nature?

Add these to the other side (the wrong side) of the board

Bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, malice, unforgiveness, greed, profanity, dirty jokes, sexual innuendo, gossip, murder, pornography, revenge

- Some of these are pretty wicked things like idolatry, sexual immorality, murder...
- And some are what some would call "acceptable" sins - like envy, jealousy, gossip.
- But they all come from the same underlying spirit

Lesson 4-4 – “The Spirit Opposes the Flesh”

- Let's look at the Galatians 5:17 scripture. page 63 Someone please read

GAL 5:17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other... NRSV

Q. What do you think it means that these are opposed to each another?

The Fruit of the Spirit and the Deeds of the Flesh are opposites

- Every Holy Spirit attribute on this board has an opposing sin-nature attribute.

Q. What would be an opposite of bitterness? - forgiveness

Q. What would be an opposite of greed? - generosity

Q. What is the opposite of envy and jealousy? - thankfulness

- These heart emotions and attitudes are opposites of each other, and they cannot coexist in our hearts at the same time.

- Let's look at the 1st Corinthians 13 passage. Page 64 Someone please read

1CO 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.⁸ Love never fails. NIV

- Here is your number 4a study question.

4a. From the 1st Corinthians 13 passage, what is the core attribute of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit?

Love is the core attribute of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- All of the others - patience, kindness, forgiveness, generosity, are rooted in love
- The sinful nature also has a core attribute
- Would someone please read the James 3:16 passage on page 64

JAS 3:16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. NASB

- And here is your number 4b study question

4b. What does the James 3:16 passage teach us about the core attribute of the fallen sinful nature?

The core attribute of the sin nature is selfish ambition.

Q. So, what is the opposite of love?

Selfishness is the opposite of love

- Many people would say “hate”, but hatred is just a facet of self-centeredness.
- Everything that you see on this wrong side of the board is rooted in selfishness
- It is all about how "self" can get what it wants
- Let's look at the Colossians 3:5-10 passage Page 64 Someone please read.

COL 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. NIV

- Now that we have received the Holy Spirit, we can choose which side of the board will control us
- Here is your 4c study question

4c. In Colossians 3:5-10, we are instructed to put to death whatever belongs to our fallen earthly nature. How do we go about ridding ourselves of these things and putting on our renewed self?

We put greed to death in our lives by choosing to have a generous heart instead. We put jealousy and envy to death by expressing a heart-felt thankfulness. We put filthy language to death by speaking blessings instead. We put bitterness to death by choosing to forgive from our hearts We put selfishness and anger to death by choosing to walk in love instead.

- Whatever sinful nature emotion we are experiencing, we can put it to death by choosing to embrace the Holy Spirit fruit that opposes it.
- This is how we put on the new self, while simultaneously putting the old sinful nature to death.
- Let's look at the Galatians 5:16 passage Page 65 Someone please read

GAL 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. NASB

Q. What point is Paul making to us here?

If we will live in the fruit of the Spirit, we will not be controlled by the sinful nature of the body - we have a choice in the matter

- When our hearts are being controlled by the Spirit, we are not subject to the sinful nature – we can walk in Christ's righteousness.

Lesson 4-5 – “Resist the Devil”

- There is a passage in James 3 that gives some important insight into the sinful flesh nature.
- Would someone please read the James 3 passage - just verses 13-14? Page 66

JAS 3:13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. NASB

Q. If we realize that we're being controlled by the sinful nature, and we want to be free of it, what is the first thing we must do?

Just like anything else, we must be willing to be honest about it – admit it.

- We'll never be free from jealousy, greed, lust or anything else if we're not willing to admit it and call it what it is.
- But then in the next verse, James tells us something very important about this sin-nature side of the board
- Would someone please read verse 15

JAS 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. NASB

- This leads to our 5a. study question.

5a. From the James 3:13-18 passage, what is the source of selfishness?
Selfishness is demonically inspired.

Q. This sin-nature side of the board, where does all of this come from?

It is all demonically inspired

- So, jealousy is demonic?
- Selfishness is demonic?
- Pornography is demonic?
- Unforgiveness is demonic?

Q. If all this is demonic in origin, what happens when we give ourselves permission to do these things?

We allow Satan to take ground in our hearts.

- When we entertain these things, we are inviting Satan to be our mentor
- Someone please read the 1st Peter 5:6-11 passage - Page 67

^{1PE 5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

^{1PE 5:10} And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. NRSV

- Here is your 5b. study question.

5b. From the 1st Peter 5:6-11 passage, what is Satan's intention toward us?

His intention is to destroy our lives

Q. What happens in a marriage relationship when both people are walking in the selfish sinful nature? Strife, chaos, bickering, etc....

Q. And what happens in a marriage relationship when both people are walking in the Holy Spirit fruit? Loving and peaceful

- Can you see how Satan uses the sinful nature to destroy all our relationships?
- Can you see how God uses the Holy Spirit Fruit to heal our relationships?
- Here is your 5c. study question.

5c. And in dealing with Satan, what are we supposed to do?

Keep alert, resist the devil, and stand strong in the faith

Q. And how do we resist Satan?

We resist the devil by resisting the deeds of the flesh and embracing the Fruit of the Spirit

- When we embrace the spiritual fruit, we are embracing God Himself.
- Amen and glory to God.

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 101 WEEK FIVE	ABIDING IN CHRIST
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Week 5 – “Abiding in Christ”

Teaching Notes v3.8.5

General Summary

The purpose of this lesson is to explore our relationship with Christ, to show how we are spiritually grafted into Christ, and how Christ works within us to impart His own righteous nature to us that breaks the grip of sin on our lives.

5-1 "Grafted into the Vine" - shows the mystery of our spiritual union with Christ and the fact that we gain access to every spiritual blessing through being grafted into Him. Through being engrafted to Christ, we are made complete because He is complete.

5-2 "A New Commandment" - reveals that Jesus has commanded us to love one another, and that this is the true test of discipleship. It also points to the spiritual connection that we have with God when we allow His love to control our hearts.

5-3 "No Longer Slaves" - explains from the teachings of Paul in Romans 6, that in Christ we are no longer slaves to sin, and that sin no longer reigns over us. Through the resurrection of Jesus to the right hand of the Father, we have a new life through which we become slaves to righteousness - if we truly believe what Christ has done for us.

5-4 "The Vinedresser" - speaks of the work of God in our lives to prune off the things in our lives that hinder us from bearing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit - including the sinful nature and dead religion.

5-5 "To Be Found in Him" - encourages us to faithfully abide in Christ that we might be found abiding in Him when He returns. To do this we must abandon our past, abide in His love, and set our eyes on the prize of eternal life.

Preparation Notes

For the purpose of review, you can start the class with the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and the Fallen Sinful Nature from the week 4, then erase the Fallen Sinful Nature from the white board after the review.

When you begin your Week 5 Class, your board or screen share will look something like this.

<u>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</u> love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control compassion, forgiveness, thankfulness, honesty, righteousness, humility, generosity, unity, etc...	
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As you conclude your Week 5 Class, your board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class.

<u>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</u> love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control compassion, forgiveness, thankfulness, honesty, righteousness, humility, generosity, unity, etc...	<u>Hidden Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge</u> The knowledge of His will All spiritual wisdom All spiritual understanding Ability to walk worthy Ability to bear good fruit The knowledge of God His power and might His steadfastness A share in His inheritance
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Week 5 – “Abiding in Christ” Teaching Notes

Lesson 5-1 – “Grafted into the Vine”

Review the "Fruit of the Holy Spirit" and the "deeds of the flesh" from last week.

Leave the Fruit of the Spirit on the board, but erase the Sinful Nature section.

- Tonight, we're going to go even deeper into the mystery of our union with Christ.
- On the night before Jesus was crucified, He gave us a visual illustration of how certain things work in our Christian experience.
- Would someone please read the John 15 passage? Page 70

JN 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. ³ "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. NASB

- In this passage, Jesus gives us a physical picture of a spiritual reality of our relationship with Him

Q. What analogy does Jesus use to describe our relationship with Him?

He is the vine and we are branches of the vine

- This is one of the great mysteries of our Christian experience
- When we come to faith in Christ, we are spiritually grafted into Him and His spiritual lifeblood begins to flow into us.

Q. What happens to the branch of a tree if it is separated from the tree?

It withers and dies

Q. Why does it die and dry up?

Because it is disconnected from the life-giving sap

- In the same way, we as branches are dependent on Jesus as our vine for our spiritual life and sustenance
- He does not give us life independent of Himself - He becomes our life source

Q. Is it possible for a branch to bear fruit if it is disconnected from the vine?

No, the branch that is disconnected has no spiritual life flowing to it

- We are totally dependent on Him for our spiritual life, nourishment, and fruit-bearing ability
- It is His spiritual life that flows into us that gives us the ability to bear the Fruit of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, etc...).
- Someone please read the Colossians 2:2-3 passage. page 71

COL 2:2 ...that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. NIV

Q. So, when we are grafted into Christ, other than spiritual fruit, what else do we gain access to?

His hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge

Write "Hidden Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge" on the board

- *Let's look at some of the things to which we gain access in our union with Christ.*
- Someone please read the Colossians 1:9-12 passage. page 71

COL 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. NIV

- *This leads to our 1a. study question*

1a. From Colossians 1:9-12, list all the "Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge" you can find in this passage that come through our being grafted into Christ.

- Let's add these things to the board next to the Holy Spirit Fruit - call them out.

The knowledge of His will
All spiritual understanding
Ability to bear good fruit
His power and might
A share in His inheritance

All spiritual wisdom
Ability to walk worthy
The knowledge of God
His steadfastness

- *Through being grafted into Christ, we have gained access to His spiritual fruit.*
- *But we also have gained access to these other "Treasures", as well.*
- *In Ephesians 1:3, Paul affirms this same truth. Someone please read. Page 71*

EPH 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ... NASB

Q. How many spiritual blessings have we been blessed with in Christ?
All of them

Q. So how many spiritual blessings is He withholding from us? None

- Everything that Christ has is available to us because we are grafted into Him.
- And in Colossians 2:8-10, Paul makes an amazing statement about what happens when we are grafted into Christ.
- Someone please read the Colossians 2:8-10 passage - page 71

COL 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority... NASB

Q. What does he say about us there?

In Him, we have been made complete

- When we come to Jesus with saving faith, He completes us - makes us whole.
- But He doesn't do this by simply adding our missing parts.
- Christ completes us by grafting our incomplete self into His complete self. And because He is complete, we become complete.
- We are, and always will be, dependent on Christ for our spiritual wholeness
- But it is possible for us to be grafted into Christ, and still not experience the fruitfulness that is available to us.
- Let's read that John 15 passage again on page 72. Instructor reads

JN 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ⁹ "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. NASB

- Here is your 1b. study question.

1b. And from the John 15:4-10 passage, what does Jesus teach us we should do to experience the free flow of His spiritual empowerment into our lives?

The spiritual empowerment flows to those who abide in Him.

- Apart from abiding Him, we can do nothing, so let's look at what it means to abide in Him

Lesson 5-2 – “A New Commandment”

- Look at the John 13:33-35 passage. Page 73 Someone please read

JN 13:33 "Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You shall seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, I now say to you also, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." NASB

Q. In this passage, what does Jesus command us to do?

He commands us to love one another

Q. And if we are obedient to Him, what will we do?

We will love one another

Q. According to Jesus, what is the proof to the world that we are truly one of His disciples? We will love people

- There are a number of places where we are commanded to love one another, and there is a specific reason why Jesus is so adamant about this.
- Please look at the 1st John 4:7-8 passage Page 73 Instructor reads

1JN 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. NASB

- Here is your 2a. study question

2a. From the 1st John 4:7-8 passage, how can we know God and be born of Him?

A loving lifestyle is the evidence that we know God and that we have become one of his children.

Q. When we walk in love, where is that love coming from? From God

- So, when we experience love in our hearts and express it to others, we are experiencing and expressing God Himself – because He is the source of that love.
- Someone please read the 1st John 4:12-13 passage page 74

1JN 4:12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him and Him in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. NASB

- Here is our 2b. study question

2b. From the 1st John 4:12-13 passage, how can we know if we are abiding in Christ or not, and in what way does our abiding in Christ change us?

We know if we are walking in love, we are abiding in Christ

- This is the reason why Jesus gave us His commandment to love one another – because this is how we inwardly experience God, and how we express God to others.

Q. And in what way does our abiding in Christ change us?

Walking in His love has a perfecting influence on us.

- Let's look at that Romans 13 passage on page 74. Someone please read

RO 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. NIV

Q. What is the relationship between love and holiness?

Love produces God's holiness in us

- We can walk in holiness to the degree that we walk in love.
- It is not our strength, but when we abide in love, God abides in us.
- And His love changes the way we feel about people and how we treat them
- When our hearts are controlled by love, we are being controlled by God's heart.

Lesson 5-3 – "No Longer Slaves"

- Let's move on to the Romans 6:1 passage. page 76 Instructor reads vs. 1-2 only

RO 6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? NIV

- And here is the Romans 6:5-7. page 76. Instructor reads

RO 6:5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- ⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. NIV

- This leads to our 3a. study question

3a. From the Romans 6 passages in this lesson, what point do you believe Paul is making about how our relationship to sin changes once we come to Christ?

That we don't have to keep on sinning. We may sin, but don't have to. We have been freed from sin and we are no longer slaves to it.

Q. Have we been freed from sin?

Sure, we have, it says it right there in verse 7

Q. Are we still slaves to sin? No, it says it right there in verse 6

Q. If we are no longer slaves to sin, then why do we act as if we were?

Maybe because we don't believe.

And maybe because we have been taught not to believe.

- This may contradict what you have previously heard or have been taught.
- But if we have truly been grafted into Christ, the power of sin is broken in our lives and there is no reason why we must be dominated by sin any longer
- Paul continues in verse 11 Page 77 Instructor reads

RO 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.
¹³ Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. NIV

Q. Is sin still master over us? Only if we allow sin to be our master.

- Jesus sets us free from our slavery to sin - but only if we believe
- If Jesus is truly our master, then sin cannot be
- Someone please read the Romans 6:17 passage? Page 78

RO 6:17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. NRSV

- Could this possibly be any clearer?
- In the true teaching of the Gospel, we are set free from the power of sin.
- Someone please read 1st Peter 2:24. Page 78

1PE 2: ²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. NASB

- Here is your 3b. study question.

3b. From the 1st Peter 2:24 passage, what does Peter say was the reason Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross?

That we might die to sin and live to righteousness

Lesson 5-4 – “The Vinedresser”

- Now, we're going to talk about everyone's favorite subject - pruning
- Have any of you ever been pruned? Was it fun?
- Would someone please read the John 15 passage - Page 79 verses 1-2 only?

JN 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. NASB

Q. In a vineyard, what is the vinedresser's job, what is their purpose?

The vinedresser cares for the health of the vine and branches so that they become as fruitful as possible

Q. What purpose does a pruning serve in the life of a grapevine?

Pruning removes the dead and diseased parts of the plant
Pruning trims healthy branches to spur new growth, producing more fruit

- So pruning is a good thing, and good for us?

4a. From the John 15:1-5 passage, what is God's purpose in pruning us, and what are some of the things that God might want to prune from our lives to accomplish His purposes?

His purpose is to make us bear more fruit - love, joy, peace, etc...

And He will prune out anything that prevents our bearing fruit, including -

1. The deeds of the flesh
2. People who want to influence us in bad ways
3. Dead religion, false teachings, etc...
4. Things that hinder us from growing in faith

- God is always working to prune these kinds of things out of our lives.
- It is to our advantage to cooperate with Him and leave those things behind.
- Would someone please read the Hebrews 12:7-11 passage Page 81

HEB 12:7 Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸ If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. ⁹ Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. NRSV

- Here is your 4b. study question.

4b. From the Hebrews 12:7-11 passage, when we go through pruning and discipline from the Lord, what is the purpose and outcome of that discipline?

He disciplines us that we might share in His holiness and bear the peaceful fruit of righteousness

- As much as it may pain us to let go of things, pruning is for our long-term good.

Lesson 5-5 – "To be found in Him"

- Please look at the Philippians 3:13-14 passage Page 83 someone read

PHP 3:13 ...but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. NASB

- Here is your 5a. study question.

5a. In the Philippians 3:13-14 passage, Paul talks about forgetting the past. Why is it so important that we learn to leave our past behind and lean into our future?

Because if we get stuck in our past, we will not be able to move forward with God.

- There are things that we must put behind us - mistakes, failures, even successes
- Our bondage to sin - we must put it behind us and set our eyes on the prize.

Q. What is the goal and prize that Paul said he was seeking to attain?

The “upward call”, which is the resurrection from the dead

- And to gain that hope in the future, we must leave our past life behind
- Someone please read the Philippians 3:9-11 passage Page 83

PHP 3:9 that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. NIV

- *Here is your 5b. study question.*

5b. From the Philippians 3:9-11 passage, what does it mean to be “found in Christ”?

It speaks to the condition which we are in when Christ returns.
We want to be found faithfully abiding in Him - in His love.

- When He returns, we do not want to be found being unfaithful to Him. Amen?
- In the next class, we will talk about how eternal security works for those who abide in Him

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 101 WEEK SIX
	THE SECURITY OF THE ABIDER

Week 6 – “The Security of the Abider”

Teaching Notes v3.8.5

General Summary

This lesson explores the warnings in the scriptures associated with abandoning our faith and going back to our old sin-nature lifestyle. And it also answers the question of where our place of eternal security truly is.

6-1 "The Barren Branches" - warnings from the basic teaching of Jesus in John 15:1-7, in which He taught us that those who abide in Him and bear fruit are eternally secure and those who do not are at risk of being cut off. This is the principle of the security of the abider. It also warns of the rise of false teachers who will tickle people's ears with a no-repentance salvation.

6-2 "Lest We Drift from It" - reveals the dangers of drifting away from the truth, and back into our old sin nature thinking and lifestyle. It features scriptures that warn us that those who practice the deeds of the sinful nature will not inherit the Kingdom of God, and that our entrance into the Kingdom is supplied through the Fruit of the Spirit lifestyle.

6-3 "Run that You may Win" - encourages the student to fix their eyes on the prize of eternal life and to look to Christ as their strength through any temptation that could divert them away.

6-4 "If You Continue in the Faith" - details some of life's challenges that sometimes result in people giving up on their faith. Keeping God's love burning in our hearts is the key to becoming firmly established.

6-5 "A Good Conscience" - shows the importance of listening to our conscience, how the Holy Spirit uses our conscience as a tool to lead us, and how the blood of Jesus cleanses our conscience through our faith in Him.

Preparation Notes

For this class, we will be referencing the contrast of lifestyles between the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and the "deeds of the flesh", otherwise known as "the fallen sinful nature". So, prior to the class, you can prepare your white board, which you will use for the entire class. Leave a bit of space to write under each side of the board.

When you begin your Week 6 Class, your board or screen share will look something like this.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit	The Deeds of the Flesh
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, forgiveness, thankfulness, honesty, righteousness, humility, generosity, unity, etc...	selfishness, greed, envy, jealousy, unforgiveness, bitterness, fits of rage, sexual immorality, gossip, divisiveness, bickering, manipulation, slander, pornography, profanity, malice, revenge, etc...

When you finish your Week 6 Class, your board or screen share will look something like this.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit	The Deeds of the Flesh
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, forgiveness, thankfulness, honesty, righteousness, humility, generosity, unity, etc... <u>Is a place of life and security</u> <u>Leads to eternal life</u>	selfishness, greed, envy, jealousy, unforgiveness, bitterness, fits of rage, sexual immorality, gossip, divisiveness, bickering, manipulation, slander, pornography, profanity, malice, revenge, etc... <u>Is a place of death and insecurity</u> <u>Leads to destruction</u>

Week 6 – “The Security of the Abider” Teaching Notes

Lesson 6-1 - "The Barren Branches"

Review the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and the deeds of the flesh.

Keep on these on the board for later reference.

- Tonight, we're going to study eternal security, which is a subject that is very controversial in the church, with many contradictory teachings.
- So, it is important that we go back to the teachings of Jesus as our foundation.
- Let's look at John 15:1-6 again. Page 86 Instructor reads

JN 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.

Q. In this analogy, who are the three principal subjects?

Jesus is the vine, we Christians are the branches, the Father is the caretaker

Q. Does anyone remember setting and to whom Jesus gave this analogy?

At the last supper to the eleven remaining disciples - Judas was gone

- We see Jesus was not casually talking to unbelievers, but giving instructions to His closest, chosen inner circle of followers – in the last hours of His life.
- Let's read through the whole John 15:1-6 passage. Page 86 Instructor reads

JN 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. ³ "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches: he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. NASB

- Here is your 1a. study question.

1a. According to Jesus' warning in the John 15:1-7 passage, what eventually happens to the branches in Him that fail to bear the Fruit of the Holy Spirit?

They are severed from the vine, thrown away, burned, and destroyed.

- Those who continue to walk in the sinful fallen human nature will eventually be pruned from the vine by God Himself and will go to destruction.

- Here is your 1b. study question.

1b. And what does Jesus teach us that we must do to be secure in Him?

We must abide in Him bearing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Q. So according to Jesus, who is eternally secure and who is not secure?

Those who abide in Him and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit are secure. Those who do not bear the fruit, but live in the fallen sin nature are at risk of being cut off.

Q. Does this sound like it doesn't matter how we as Christians live?

Q. Does this sound like once we come to Christ, we cannot be cut off from Him?

- This may not sound like some of the eternal security teachings that you may have heard before, but this is the one Jesus taught – The Security of the Abider.
- The problem with Jesus' teaching on security, is it makes people who are dabbling in the sinful nature lifestyle very uncomfortable.
- Let's look at 2nd Timothy 4:2-4 Page 87 Someone please read

^{2TI 4:2} Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. NRSV

Q. In this passage, what does Paul say would eventually happen in the church?

There would come a time in the church when the gospel will be perverted to accommodate the sinful desires of the people.

- They gather around teachers who will teach a perverted salvation that leads them to believe they can hang on to all their pet sins, and still receive eternal life.
- Paul called it "ear-tickling".
- But if we are truly Jesus' disciples, then we will believe and teach what He taught about eternal security - just the way that He taught it.

Lesson 6-2 - "Lest We Drift from It"

- Someone please read the Galatians 5:19-21 passage. Page 90

^{GAL 5:19} The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish

ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. NIV

- Here is your 2a. study question.

2a. According to the various passages in this lesson, what is the eventual outcome for those who do not embrace the Holy Spirit Fruit lifestyle, but continue to live the lifestyle of the sinful nature?

They will have no inheritance in the Kingdom of God

- Paul said, "I've already warned you about this before, and I'm warning you again.
- Please look at the Ephesians 4 & 5 passage Page 90 Instructor reads
- This is Paul speaking again to a different group of Christians

EPH 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ^{5:1} Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

EPH 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

EPH 5:5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

- Here is your 2a. study question - again.

2a. According to the various passages in this lesson, what is the eventual outcome for those who do not embrace the Holy Spirit Fruit lifestyle, but continue to live the lifestyle of the sinful nature?

They will receive God's wrath and will have no kingdom inheritance

- In verse 5, Paul said that we can know this with all certainty.
- Here is your 2b. study question.

2b. From the Ephesians 5 passage, what does Paul call teachings that lead us to believe we can continue in the sin nature and yet still receive eternal life?

Pure deception, nothing but empty words.

- Any doctrine that teaches us directly, or even implies that we can continue in the sin-nature lifestyle and still receive the eternal inheritance - that doctrine is nothing but empty deception. That lifestyle leads to God's wrath.
- Those who teach such things are blind guides
- Please look at the 2nd Peter 1:3-12 passage Page 91 Instructor reads

2PE 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

2PE 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; ⁶ and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2PE 1:9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹ for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

2PE 1:12 Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. NASB

- Here is your 2c. study question.

2c. From the 2nd Peter 1:3-12 passage, what are the lifestyle qualities through which we gain entrance into the eternal Kingdom of Jesus?

Diligence, faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love

- Can everyone clearly see the difference in the Holy Spirit-life that leads to eternal life, and the sin-nature life that leads to destruction?

Write on the board

- under the Fruit of the Holy Spirit - "Is life and leads to eternal life"
- under the deeds of the flesh - "Is death and leads to destruction"

- Someone please read the Hebrews 2:1-4 passage. Back on Page 89

HEB 2:1 Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. ² For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every

transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, ³ how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, ⁴ while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will. NRSV

Q. In the context of everything that we have been seeing about our salvation, what does it mean to neglect our salvation and drift away from it?

It is simply drifting away from the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit, and falling back into the sin-nature

- The writer is warning us to take care that we don't drift away from the true Christian faith and experience - through neglect or false teaching or whatever.

Lesson 6-3 – “Run that You may Win”

- Let's look at something that Paul said about his own personal experience.
- Look at 1st Corinthians 9:24-27 Page 93 Someone please read

^{1CO 9:24} Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. NIV

- Here is your 3a. study question.

3a. In the 1st Corinthians 9:24-27 passage, what did Paul encourage us to do?

To live our lives in such a way as to get the prize.

- Here is your 3b. study question.

3b. And what reason did Paul give for living his life in such a disciplined way?

Because he didn't want to be disqualified for the prize

- Now let's see what prize Paul was talking about. Philippians 3:10-14 Page 94
Someone please read

^{PHP 3:10} ...that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of

by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. NASB

- Here is your 3c. study question.

3c. From the Philippians 3:10-14 passage, what is the prize Paul was seeking to attain?

The prize is the upward call of God - the resurrection to eternal life.

- Some people today believe that when they become a Christian, that it's impossible for them to be disqualified from receiving eternal life, but Paul sure thought it was possible for him.

Lesson 6-4 - "If You Continue in the Faith"

- Someone please read the Colossians 1:21-23 passage. Page 96

^{COL 1:21} And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach-- ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister. NASB

- Does everyone see the conditional nature of that passage? That big - "If you continue"?
- And now would someone please read the Galatians 6:7-9 passage? Also, Page 96

^{GAL 6:7} Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. NRSV

Q. What is the basic message contained in each of these scripture passages?

To receive the promise of eternal life, we must remain faithful to the end.

- And Paul started off by saying "do not be deceived"

Q. Why do you think that Paul is warning us to not be deceived about this?

Because this is an area where people can be so easily deceived.

- This “do not be deceived” concept is a very common theme in the New Testament teachings.
- In one passage, Jesus talked about what would happen in the Church as we get closer and closer to His return.
- Look at Matthew 24:10-14 Page 98 Someone please read

MT 24:10 At that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come. NRSV

- Here is your 4a. study question.

4a. According to Jesus in the Matthew 24:10-14 passage, why will many people fall away?

Many people will fall away because false teachers will lead people astray, resulting in lawlessness, which causes their love to grow cold.

Q. And in the end who will be saved?

Those who endure in God's love to the end will be saved

- Not those who quit, not those who fall away, not those who live lukewarm.
- This helps us to understand a little about what it means to endure.
- Someone please read the Jude 1:20-21 passage. Page 98

JUDE 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit; ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. NASB

- Here is your 4b. study question.

4b. From Jude 1:20-21, what are we to do as we wait in expectation of Jesus' return?

Pray in the Spirit and keep ourselves in God's love

- The key to enduring to the end is to keep God's love burning in our hearts, and not let it grow cold.
- Someone please read the Jude 1:24 passage. Page 98

JUDE 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy. NASB

- Here is your 4c. study question.

4c. And from Jude 1:24, what is God able to do?

He is able to keep us from stumbling in sin

- If we will keep ourselves in His love and dare to believe He can do it - He will.

Lesson 6-5 - "A Good Conscience"

- God has built into us an internal safeguard to help keep us from stumbling.
- Let's look at the 1st Timothy 1:18-19 passage. Page 99 Someone please read

¹TI 1:18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹ keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. NASB

- This leads to our 5a. study question.

5a. From the 1st Timothy 1:18-19 scripture, why is it important that we keep a good conscience?

If we don't, it could eventually destroy our faith.

- Let's now look at the Acts 24:10-16 passage. Page 99 Instructor reads

AC 24:12 My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. ¹³ And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. ¹⁴ However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶ So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

- This leads to our 5b. study question.

5b. From the Acts 24:12-16 passage, what reason did Paul give for striving to keep his conscience clear?

Paul knew that there are eternal consequences for how we live – there is a would be a resurrection of the righteous to life eternal, and of the wicked to judgment.

Q. In what ways does the Holy Spirit use our own conscience to direct us?

The Holy Spirit will give us peace, love, and joy when we are living rightly, and will withhold that peace, love, and joy when we are not right.

Q. What happens when we ignore our conscience?

Our conscience can become hardened, and we grow cold and empty inside

- Keeping a clean conscience is an essential part of our spiritual experience.
- It is a blessing from God
- But what do we do if we have a messed-up conscience?
- This is Hebrews 10:19-22. Page 101 Instructor reads

HEB 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. NIV

- Here is question 5c.

5c. From Hebrews 10:19-22, what remedy is given for the cleansing of a guilty conscience?

Repentance and faith in the atoning blood of Jesus

- God does not want us to continue with a defiled conscience, but to have a clean one.
- And when our conscience is clean, it is much easier to respond to the nudging of the Holy Spirit as He directs us.
- Amen and glory to God.

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 101 WEEK SEVEN
	FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER

Week 7 – “Fellowship with the Father”

Teaching Notes v3.8.5

General Summary

This lesson encourages the student to develop a daily habit of connecting with God in a personal relationship. Practical steps are suggested that will help the student to approach God in a way that will meaningfully impact their day.

7-1 "Early in the Morning" - encourages the student to intentionally start their day with a simple prayer experience with God for the purpose of getting their heart aligned with His heart and to set the tone for their day.

7-2 "Entering His Presence" - emphasizes the importance of approaching God with a thankful heart of praise.

7-3 "Before the Throne of God" - shows the heavenly example in which worshipers come to God with a heart of adoration and humble respect.

7-4 "The Meditations of My Heart" - speaks about the need to meditate on the scriptures, especially the Psalms in order to renew our minds and bring our hearts into alignment with God's truths.

7-5 "Be Still and Know" - explains why it is important that we break away from our hectic life to experience times of quietness, in which we can be taught by God and be renewed in His presence.

Preparation Notes

For this Week 7 class, you can do a quick review of the Week 6 materials, then erase the white board entirely.

When you begin your Week 7 Class, your board or screen share will look something like this.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit	The Deeds of the Flesh
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, forgiveness, thankfulness, honesty, righteousness, humility, generosity, unity, etc... <u>Is a place of life and security</u> <u>Leads to eternal life</u>	selfishness, greed, envy, jealousy, unforgiveness, bitterness, fits of rage, sexual immorality, gossip, divisiveness, bickering, manipulation, slander, pornography, profanity, malice, revenge, etc... <u>Is a place of death and insecurity</u> <u>Leads to destruction</u>

When you finish your Week 7 Class, your board or screen share will probably look something like this depending on the answers given during the class.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early-morning Prayer Connection Priority • Enter His Presence with Thankfulness • Worship Him from Our Heart • Mediate on Him • Practice being Still and Quiet 	Life, Health, Family, Friends, His Provision, Salvation, God's goodness and faithfulness, Revelation of truth, Shelter, Daily Bread, Clothing, The Holy Spirit in us, future blessings, etc... <hr/> His greatness, His works, His majesty, His goodness, His compassion, His love, etc...
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Week 7 – “Fellowship with the Father” Teaching Notes

Lesson 7-1 – “In the Early Morning”

- Last week, we talked about eternal security, and how Jesus said that works.
- Those who abide in Him are secure, and those who do not abide in Him are not secure.
- Tonight, we're going to talk about how to develop good habits that lead to a lifestyle of abiding in Christ.
- Let's turn in your books to page 103, the Mark 1:35 passage. Someone please read.

MK 1:35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. NRSV

- Here is your 1a. question.

1a. From the Mark 1:35 passage, why do you think Jesus would get up early to pray, rather than later?

The early-morning prayer established a connection with His Father that continued throughout the whole day. It set the tone for His whole day.

Write "Early Morning Prayer Connection Priority" on the white board

- And here is your 1b. question.

1b. And why do you think He went to a deserted place?

He could focus on God and communicate with Him without distraction

- Once Jesus started His public ministry, He lived a very busy life.
- He had a contingent of disciples that basically followed Him wherever He went.
- He would often have multitudes of people looking for Him.
- But He would often withdraw from the people and get alone.

Q. What does Jesus' early-morning prayer example show about the order of priorities in His life?

It showed that Jesus' foremost priority was His relationship and communication with His Father.

Q. How does any of this apply to us?

If we want to have a vibrant relationship with the Father, then we need to follow Jesus' example in making sure that we get some alone time with Him first thing in our mornings.

- Let's look at the Isaiah 50:4 passage. Page 103. Someone please read.

ISA 50:4 The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning; He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. NASB

Q. What does this teach us about how God may view these early-morning prayer visits?

God is not only interested in hearing from us, but also in speaking to us.

- So, we don't need to do all of the talking, because God may have some things to say to us - some things to teach us.
- So, we also need to learn to patiently listen with our hearts.
- If we'll do it, these morning meetings with God will set a peaceful tone and purposeful direction for our whole day.

Lesson 7-2 – “Entering His Presence”

- Many people would say that they would love to have a good time of prayer in the morning, but they don't know how to get started.
- Let's look at Psalms 100:4-5 page 105 Someone please read

PS 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. ⁵ For the LORD is good; His loving kindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations. NASB

- Here is your 2a. study question.

2a. What does the Psalm 100:4-5 passage teach us about how way we should enter God's presence in prayer?

We enter His presence with thankfulness and praise.

Write "Enter His Presence with Thankfulness" on the white board

Q. Why do you think it is important to enter God's presence with gratitude?

Thankfulness shows that we recognize and appreciate what God has done for us

Q. How do we as humans tend to respond differently to people who approach us with gratitude, versus people who come griping and complaining?

We are much more receptive to those who show appreciation

- With God, the thankful heart is the one that actually gets an audience with the King.
- Let's look at the Romans 1:21-22 passage on page 105 Someone please read

^{RO 1:21} For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools. NASB

- Here is your 2b. study question.

2b. According to the Romans 1:21-22 passage, what happens to people when they do not honor God or give Him thanks?

They begin to descend into spiritual darkness

- Thankfulness opens the door for us to enter God's presence.
- But the opposite begins to happen when we do not properly acknowledge God with thankfulness.
- Thankfulness leads to spiritual enlightenment, while a lack of it leads to spiritual darkness.
- Would someone please read the 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18 passage? Page 106

^{1TH 5:16} Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NASB

Q. Is thankfulness a conscious choice? Yes, it is an intentional choice

Q. What are some things that we can do to embrace thankfulness as a lifestyle?

We have a natural inclination to focus on our problems and ignore our blessings.

We must be intentional about taking inventory of all the good things in our lives, and be thankful for them

Q. What are some things that we can express thanks for?

Make a list on right side of the board

Life, Health, Family, Friends, His Provision, Salvation, God's goodness and faithfulness, Revelation of truth, Shelter, Daily Bread, Clothing, The Holy Spirit in us, future blessings, etc...

- Sometimes we need to take an inventory of all the things God has done for us.

Q. What about difficulties? Can we give thanks during difficult times? Why?

Romans 8:28 says "God causes all things to work together for our good in Christ"

- So, we learn to give thanks in all things
- Let's look at the Psalm 9:1-2 passage on page 106 Someone please read

PS 9:1 I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. ² I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. NRSV

- Here is your 2c. study question.

2c. From the Psalm 9:1-2 passage, what does it mean for us to give thanks with our whole heart?

When it comes to the heart, it is much about how we feel. So, in addition to intellectually giving thanks, we must learn to express gratitude from our hearts.

- We might have to express thanksgiving until our heart lines up.

Lesson 7-3 – “Before the Throne of God”

- Now, let's talk about worship.

Write "Worship Him from Our Heart" on the left side of the board

Q. When you think of worship, what picture comes to your mind?

Sunday morning service with the worship band.

- Our first thought is of that corporate expression of worship

Q. What is the difference between a worship service and just a concert?

It all has to do with the individual expressions of worship within that group

- Without our individual expressions of worship, Sunday morning music is nothing more than a concert.
- In fact, one person can be experiencing worship, and the person next to them only a concert.
- Let's look at the Psalm 95:6 passage on page 107. Someone please read

PS 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; ⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. NIV

Q. What is the Psalmist instructing us to do here?

To kneel and bow down in worship

Q. Is it possible to kneel or bow down and still not be worshipping? Sure

Q. Can we sing and raise our hands, yet still not be worshipping?

Absolutely

- Look at the Matthew 15:7-9 passage. page 108 Instructor reads

MT 15:7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸ "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." NRSV

- Now the Psalms 9:1-2 passage page 108 Instructor reads

PS 9:1 I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. ² I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. NIV

- Here is your 3a. study question.

3a. What do Matthew 15:7-9 and Psalm 9:1-2 reveal about what pleases God in our worship and what does not?

God wants the full focus of our hearts in worship - with no pretense.

Q. What are some ways that people honor God with their lips, even though their hearts are far away?

Just going through the motions, following the crowd, doing what we're told, impressing others, rote singing, repetitive prayers, etc....

- Jesus says that kind of worship is hypocritical and in vain.
- God prefers we have a heart with perfect pitch, over a voice with perfect pitch.
- God is not impressed with how tight the worship band is - if our hearts are not right
- Again, will someone please read the Psalms 9:1-2 passage page 108

PS 9:1 I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. ² I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. NIV

- Here is your 3b. study question

3b. On a personal level, what can we do to worship God with our whole heart?

We give God the full attention of our thoughts and emotions as we pour out extravagant adoration upon Him.

- We give up our own agendas, and express our reverence, and devotion, and respect, and honor.
- Someone please read the Revelation 7:15 passage page 108

REV 7:15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. NRSV

Q. When are we supposed to worship God? Anytime and anywhere

- Do you mean that we can worship God on Thursday? Without the band?
- Is it even necessary to have music to worship?
- Would someone please read the 1st Corinthians 3:16 scripture on page 109?

1CO 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? NASB

Q. What does this reveal about where we supposed to go to worship God?

We don't have to go to a temple to worship, because we are a temple of worship.

- If we are a temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in us, then nothing keeps us from giving Him our honor and reverence anytime and anyplace.

Lesson 7-4 – “The Meditations of My Heart”

- Let's look at the Psalms 27:4-5 passage. Someone please read page 110

PS 27:4 One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, And to meditate in His temple. ⁵ For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent, He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. NASB

- In this passage, we are encouraged to meditate.

Write "Meditate on Him" on the white board

Q. What does it mean to meditate? How do we do that?

We quiet ourselves down, shut out the busyness of the world, and focus our minds and hearts on God and the things of God.

Q. What purpose does meditation play in our spiritual lives?

It is a form of communing with God.

- It is a way to focus our minds and hearts on God's truth, bringing ourselves into alignment with God.
- Someone please read the Psalms 77:11-14 passage on page 110 of your book.

PS 77:11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. ¹² I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds. ¹³ Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? ¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. NIV

- Here is your 4a. study question.

4a. In Psalms 77:11-14, we are encouraged to remember and meditate on God's works and His holiness. What do you see as the value of using the Psalms to meditate during your personal prayer time with God?

The Psalms help us by reminding us of God's greatness. They point out God's attributes so that we can meditate on those attributes and become convinced in our hearts. It builds our faith.

- Let's look at the Psalms 139:23 passage on page 110. Someone please read

PS 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Q. So, when we pray a prayer like this, what are we really asking God to do?

We're inviting God to commune with us and reveal to us things in our hearts that we ourselves don't even realize are there.

Q. What is the value in doing this?

It helps to clean out the clutter, and helps us to focus on things that matter

- This is a discipline we learn to do by practice, but it can be difficult to get started
- Psalms is a good source of meditative material to help us get started
- Let's look at the Psalms 145:3-9 passage, page 111. Someone please read

PS 145:3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.

⁴ One generation will commend Your works to another; they will tell of Your mighty acts. ⁵ They will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and I will meditate on Your wonderful works.

^{145:6} They will tell of the power of Your awesome works, and I will proclaim Your great deeds. ⁷ They will celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness. ⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and rich in love. ⁹ The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all he has made. NIV

4b. From the Psalm 145:3-9 passage, what are some things revealed about God that we can meditate upon?

List them on the board bottom right –

His greatness, works, majesty, goodness, righteousness, compassion, and love, etc....

Q. What effect does it have on our hearts and minds when we focus away from the busyness of the world, and meditate on these things?

It has a renewing and cleansing effect on us. It produces an inner strength and quietness in us.

- But we must intentionally slow down and carve out the time, making it a priority.
- One of the best times to do this is in the morning before all the hustle and bustle begins.

Lesson 7-5 – “Be Still and Know”

- Someone please read the Psalm 46:10-11 passage on page 113.

PS 46:10 “Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” ¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. NIV

Q. What is God's message to us in this scripture?

If we really want to know God intimately, we must learn to be still and quiet.

Write “Practice Being Still and Quiet” on the left side of the white board

- Constant busyness is one of the greatest hindrances to our spiritual growth
- Would someone please read the Luke 10:38-42 passage? page 113

LK 10:38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me!" ⁴¹ But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; ⁴² but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." NASB

- Here is your 5a. study question

5a. From the Luke 10:38-42 passage, what was different about Mary and Martha's actions when Jesus was visiting their home?

Martha was busily serving her guests - being a good hostess as she would have been expected to be

Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to his teaching

Q. What was Martha's complaint to Jesus?

Mary is being lazy and not pulling her own weight – not doing her part

- Here is your 5b. study question

5b. Which one was more pleasing to Jesus, and why?

Jesus was more pleased with Mary because she placed a higher value on Jesus' teaching than Martha

- This event is preserved in scripture to let us know how much God wants us to take the time to be still, to be quiet, and to listen to Him.
- He values it above our service to Him.
- God can speak the most profound truths into our hearts in a split second.
- Then it might take us an hour to explain what just happened - if it can even be explained with words.
- But when He does speak, it is exactly what we need to hear at that moment - usually coming as a whisper that we only hear when we are quietly leaning in to listen.

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 101 WEEK EIGHT	BE IMITATORS OF GOD
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Week 8 – “Be Imitators of God”

Teaching Notes v3.8.5

General Summary

These lessons teach us to pattern their lives after the actions, nature, and lifestyle of Jesus, encouraging the student to model their lives after Jesus' example.

8-1 "As You Have Been Forgiven" - encourages the student to be careful to continually forgive others in the same way that God has forgiven us in Christ. It also points out the extreme dangers of refusing to forgive others.

8-2 "The Cheerful Giver" - explores the exercise of compassionate generosity as a way to through which we can imitate God's kindness, and also how generosity positions us to be blessed by God.

8-3 "Abiding, Asking, and Receiving" – reveals some of the keys to a successful prayer life, including understanding of God's heart toward us and His desire to give us good things. It also shows the linkage between abiding in Christ's love and answered prayers.

8-4 "Lean Not on Your Own Understanding" – talks about the difference between trust and faith. Also encourages the student to trust God based on His character and ability.

8-5 "Follow Me" – encourages the student to follow Christ by taking what they have learned and putting it to productive use working in the kingdom of God. Also points to the “use it or lose it” principle in Jesus' parable of the talents.

Preparation Notes

For this Week 8 class, you can do a quick review of the Week 7 materials, then erase the white board entirely.

When you begin your Week 8 Class, your board or screen share will look something like this.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early-morning Prayer Connection Priority• Enter His Presence with Thankfulness• Worship Him from Our Heart• Mediate on Him• Practice being Still and Quiet	<p>Life, Health, Family, Friends, His Provision, Salvation, God's goodness and faithfulness, Revelation of truth, Shelter, Daily Bread, Clothing, The Holy Spirit in us, future blessings, etc...</p> <hr/> <p>His greatness, His works, His majesty, His goodness, His compassion, His love, etc...</p>
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When you finish your Week 8 Class, your board or screen share should look something like this.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Imitation of Christ</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practicing Forgiveness• Practicing Compassionate Generosity• Praying with the Right Motives• Trusting Him with our Whole Heart• Denying ourselves and following Him

Week 8 – “Be Imitators of God” Teaching Notes

Lesson 8-1 - "As You Have Been Forgiven"

- If you have been around children very much, you will find they imitate what they see others do - for good or sometimes for bad!
- And adults do the same thing - for good or for bad...
- God desires that we imitate Christ
- Let's look at Ephesians 4:31-5:2 on page 117 in your book. Someone please read.

EPH 4:31 Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1} Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. NRSV

Q. From this passage, what are some ways we can imitate Christ?

Practice kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness, love, and self-sacrifice

- When we are tender-hearted toward one another, and forgive one another, we are imitating Christ because that is how He has treated us.
- Of all these on the board, forgiveness can sometimes be the most difficult.

Write on the board the heading "The Imitation of Christ"

Then add - "Practicing Forgiveness"

Q. Why is it sometimes so difficult for us to forgive others?

Forgiveness can be a complicated thing because in some ways it violates our sense of justice - especially to the unrepentant and repeat offenders. Forgiveness doesn't seem fair.

- When Jesus was teaching His disciples about forgiveness, Peter asked a question about the limits on how much we must forgive others.
- Please go to page 117, the Matthew 18:21-22 passage - Instructor reads

MT 18:21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." NASB

- My guess is that Peter thought he was being generous by offering forgiveness seven times, but Jesus bumped it to 490!
- Then Jesus continues with a parable to explain - He said (page 118) Instructor

MT 18:23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. NIV

- We must understand this was an extraordinary amount of money.
- One day's wage for most people was one denarius, while the talent was equal to 6,000 denarii.
- Ten thousand talents would have been equal to 60 million days of labor. At just \$1 per day, that would be \$60 million - an impossible sum of money.
- In their day, there was a harsh solution for dealing with people who couldn't pay their debts. Jesus continues...

MT 18:25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. NIV

- That is an incredible level of forgiveness.

Q. In this story, who does this servant represent?

He represents you and me. We are the ones who have been forgiven so much.

- Then Jesus goes on with the story...

MT 18:28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' NIV

- Does that sound familiar?

MT 18:30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

MT 18:31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger, his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." NIV

- There is a very powerful message here about forgiveness
- Here is your 1a. study question.

1a. From the Matthew 18:23-35 parable, what do you believe to be the main point Jesus is making to us?

If are not willing to forgive others, then we should not expect that God will forgive our sins.

- Refusing to forgive others probably gets us in trouble with God faster than just about anything else.
- Our motto should be "Forgive everyone, everything, every time - from the heart".
- Someone please read the Luke 23:33-37 passage. Page 119

LK 23:33 And 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. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One." ³⁶ And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" NASB

- Here is your 1b. study question.

1b. In the Luke 23:33-37 passage, what example does Jesus give us to imitate?

Even as they were murdering Him, He prayed to His Father to forgive them

- Here is your 1c. study question

1c. How can we know for sure we if have forgiven someone?

I believe the answer can be found in what Jesus said on the cross.

- If we read between the lines a little bit, Jesus is basically saying, "Father, forgive them because I already have."
- When we can honestly pray from our hearts that God would forgive them, that is when we know that we have truly forgiven them
- Practicing forgiveness is a way we can imitate Christ, and there are other ways.
- One is found in 1st John 3:16-18 on page 120. Someone please read

Lesson 8-2 – "The Cheerful Giver"

1JN 3:16 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. ¹⁷ 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?

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. NIV

Q. According to John, what is another way that we can imitate Christ?

He compares Christ laying down His life, to our practice of compassionate generosity

Write on the board - "Practicing Compassionate Generosity"

- All throughout the scriptures, we are taught we should practice generosity.
- But many of the teachings are focused not so much on whether or not we should give, but rather on our motivations for giving.
- One of these is in Matthew 6. someone please read, also on page 120

MT 6:1 "Be careful not to do your `acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

MT 6:2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. NIV

- Here is your 2a. study question.

2a. From the Matthew 6:1-4 passage, what does Jesus teach us about proper and improper motives for giving?

Q. What would be some wrong motivations for giving to the poor?

To impress other people, guilt, strictly for a tax deduction

Q. And what does He say about those who give for the wrong reasons?

The approval of man is the only reward they will get

Q. And what would be the proper motivation for giving to the poor?

To please God with our compassion and obedience

- Let's look at the Proverbs 19:17 passage. Page 120 Someone please read it

PR 19:17 He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD,
And He will repay him for his good deed. NASB

- Here is your 2b. study question.

2b. What do you see as the basic principle in the Proverbs 19:17 passage?

When we give with a heart of compassion, it puts us in a position to be blessed and rewarded by God.

- In a sense, God sees this as a debt to be repaid from Him to us.
- Does everyone see how this works?
- Look at the 2nd Corinthians 9:6-7 passage? page 122 Instructor reads

^{2CO 9:6} Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. ⁷ Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Q. What does it mean to give grudgingly?

Grudgingly means that we don't really want to give, we resent giving.

Q. What does it mean to give under compulsion?

Giving because we feel pressured to do it

- Anyone ever felt manipulated into giving?

Q. But what kind of generosity does Paul say that God loves?

Cheerful giving

Lesson 8-3 – “Abiding, Asking, and Receiving”

- Would someone please read the Matthew 7:7 scripture on page 123?

^{MT 7:7} "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. ⁸ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. ⁹ "Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ "Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? ¹¹ "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! NASB

- Here is your 3a. study question.

3a. What can we learn about God's heart toward us from the Matthew 7:7-11 passage?

He wants to answer our prayers and to bless us with good gifts

Q. So, if God wants to answer our prayers, and we want them answered, why do we seem to struggle in this area of getting our prayers answered?

- Please look at the James 4:3 scripture Page 124. Someone please read.

JAS 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. NIV

- Here is your 3b. study question

3b. From the James 4:3 passage, what reason is given as to why our prayers sometimes go unanswered?

If we have the wrong motives, it hinders our prayers.

Write on the board - "Praying with the Right Motives"

Q. What are some of the wrong underlying motives that can hinder our prayers?

Self-centered prayers, lazy prayers, greedy prayers, manipulative prayers, irreverent prayers, prideful prayers, etc....

- So, faith is not the only factor in getting prayers answered?
- Jesus made a statement in John 15:7 that I believe is possibly the most powerful secret to a successful prayer life.
- Someone please read that passage on Page 124 John 15:7

JN 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.

- Here is your 3c. study question

3c. In John 15:7, what secret does Jesus reveal about getting our prayers answered?

The key is to abide in Him, to abide in His love

Q. How are our prayers different when we are abiding in Christ's love, and when we are not?

We're not being selfish, greedy, manipulative, irreverent

- I have concluded that walking in God's love is the key to everything in the Christian life, including having effective prayers.

Lesson 8-4 – "Lean Not on Your Own Understanding"

- Please look at the Proverbs 3:5 scripture on page 126. Someone please read.

PR 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. NIV

Write on the board - "Trusting Him with our Whole Heart"

Q. What does it mean for us to trust someone?

It means that in some way, we are voluntarily putting our future into their hands, and we are counting on them to do what is best.

- In many ways, trust involves risk because we are placing the outcome in someone else's hands.
- Please look at the Psalm 146:1-10 passage on page 127.
- Instructor reads - with emphasis!

PS 146:1 Praise the LORD, O my soul. ² I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

PS 146:3 Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. ⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

PS 146:5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, ⁶ the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them--the LORD, who remains faithful forever.

PS 146:7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, ⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. ⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner; and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

PS 146:10 The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD. NASB

Q. Does this sound like someone who can be trusted? Sure

- Here is your number 4 study question

4. From the Psalm 146:1-10 passage, what are some of God's attributes, abilities, and character qualities that make Him reliable and trustworthy?

He is immortal, He can help us and save us. He gives us hope, is our creator, forever faithful, defends the oppressed, feeds the hungry, frees the prisoners, opens blind eyes, raises us up. He loves us, sustains us, resists the wicked, and He reigns forever

Q. Why then do you think it is sometimes so difficult for us to trust Him?

I believe it is because of our limited understanding

- We have a limited understanding and perspective of our situation
- And we have a limited understanding of God's true nature, character, and power
- I love what Peter said about why we can be confident that God can be trusted

- See the 1st Peter 5:6-7 passage on page 128. Someone please read

1PE 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. NIV

- The real reason we can trust Him, is because He loves us and cares for us.

Lesson 8-5 – “Follow Me”

- Would someone please read the Luke 9:23-25 scripture? Page 129 of your book.

LK 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? NIV

Q. In a practical sense, what does it mean to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Jesus?

It is choosing every day to set aside our own agendas in favor of His

- It is a matter of living our lives for Him.

Write on the board - "Denying Ourselves and Following Him"

- Jesus exemplified this life of surrender when He was on the Mount of Olives the night before He was to be crucified.
- Someone please read the Luke 22:39-42 passage. Page 130 in your book.

LK 22:39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." NIV

Q. Why do you think this “Not my will” prayer is such a difficult one to pray?

Because our will can be strong, especially in our flesh

- Sometimes we just want to do what we want to do
- Sometimes it can be scary to give up control and trust God with the outcome
- Sometimes we can be concerned of what others will say or do
- But the bottom line is – if we want to truly be His disciples, we must submit our will to Him

Q. But what happens within us when we finally do submit our will to His? There is an amazing peace and clarity that comes into our hearts

- Let's look at the Matthew 25:14 passage on page 130. Instructor reads.

- This passage is broken up in your book, but I'm going to read it all together.

MT 25:14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

MT 25:19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' ²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' NIV

MT 25:22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' ²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

MT 25:24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

MT 25:26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So, you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

MT 25:28 " 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' NIV

- Here is your 5a. study question

5a. What do you see as the major points Jesus is making to us in the Matthew 25:14-30 parable?

God expects us to do something with what we've been given

- Personally, I do not think that this parable is as much about money as it is about spiritual things, knowledge, abilities, opportunities.
- Here is your 5b. study question

5b. What was the difference between the faithful servant and the wicked servant?

The faithful servants put what they had been given to productive use.

The wicked servant did nothing with what he had been given.

- God expects that we will put our knowledge and gifts to work in the kingdom and take some risks.
- What we receive from God tomorrow is very often determined by what we did with what He gives us today
- Here is your 5c. study question

5c. And what do you see as the next step in your spiritual journey with Christ?

- Are you committed to taking your next step with God, whatever that is?
- Maybe you need to be baptized?
- Maybe you need to begin to practice generosity?
- Maybe there is someone that you need to forgive, or to ask them to forgive you?
- Maybe there are some ministry shoes you need to fill, finding an opportunity to serve others?
- Maybe you need to be involved in a small group to get fully connected into the body?
- Is there some ministry or service that God is putting into your heart?
- Whatever it is, I encourage you to take the next step.