

SESSION 2

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Open the session in prayer.
2. Break into verse review groups and quote the verse(s) on “Christ the Center”: 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 (recommended but optional). Also review the memory verses from book 1.
3. Share some quiet-time thoughts from *My Reading Highlights*.
4. Complete the “Scripture Memory Principles Quiz” (page 19).
5. Discuss the continued use of an evangelism prayer list.
6. Survey the “Scripture Memory Guide — Week 2” (pages 17–18).
7. Discuss the Bible study “Maturing in Christ” (pages 19–24).
8. Read “Assignment for Session 3” (page 24).
9. Close the session in prayer.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY GUIDE — WEEK 2

Off to a Good Start

You have chosen the translation you want to use for your memory work in book 2, perhaps the same one you used in book 1. You have some memory cards ready to go.

Scripture Memory Guide

Each week, the Scripture memory guide gives you two helpful sections:

1. **About the Verses** — makes the verses more meaningful and easier to learn and apply.
2. **Your Weekly Plan** — gives you suggestions on how to manage your memory work.

About the Verses

LIVE THE NEW LIFE

Every person has physical life. When we have received Jesus Christ into our lives as Savior and Lord, we then possess a new spiritual life — the life of Christ in us.

This new life may be illustrated by a wheel, as we saw in book 1 (pages 49–53). A wheel gets its motivating force from the hub. In the Christian life, Christ is the hub, the source of power and motivation for living for Him (John 15:5). He lives in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, whose main purpose is to glorify Christ.

The rim of the wheel represents you, the Christian, responding to Christ’s lordship through your wholehearted obedience to Him. Such obedience is linked with every other element of the Christ-centered life.

The spokes of the wheel show the means by which Christ’s power reaches our lives. The vertical spokes symbolize our relationship to God. The horizontal spokes represent our relationships with other people, both believers and unbelievers. The wheel functions smoothly only when all the spokes are present and in proper balance.

TOPIC 1: CHRIST THE CENTER

Just as the driving force in a wheel comes from the hub, so the power to live the Christian life comes from Christ. It is not our resolve to “turn over a new leaf” but rather our active dependence on Him that enables us to live lives that are pleasing to God.

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY: A COURSE...

2 Corinthians 5:17 — Life in Christ is completely new, and His presence gives an entirely new dimension to it. Our old ambitions, outlook, and values are changed as we come to know Him and as His power becomes operative in our lives.

Galatians 2:20 (recommended but optional) — Not only are we in Christ, but He lives in us. These two truths teach us the closeness of the relationship we enjoy with Him. As believers, we are identified with Him in His death and in His resurrected life. By faith we rely on Him in order to live His life in and through us.

Your Weekly Plan

1. Download and print Scripture memory cards for this course, or on one side of a blank card write the topic, reference, verse, and reference. On side two write only the topic and reference. Have a card for each verse you plan to memorize this week.

2. Start memorizing 2 Corinthians 5:17, quoting the topic and reference and then adding one phrase at a time until you can quote the whole verse. When you are memorizing two verses in one week, you want to memorize the first verse in two days, then the second verse in two days, leaving three days to review them (more than once a day if possible).

3. Each day you want to quote aloud the verses you memorized in book 1 along with your new memory verse(s).

4. Plan to carry your verse cards with you so you can use spare moments during the day to memorize, review, and meditate on your verses.

5. Many have found that the best times to work on a new verse are just before going to bed or soon after getting up in the morning.

6. Before meeting with your group for session 3, you can deepen your recall by writing out your new verses or by quoting them to someone.

I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.
I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you....
I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.
—Psalm 119:10-11,15

SCRIPTURE MEMORY PRINCIPLES QUIZ

From what you studied on page 13, list at least six principles of Scripture memory. You may summarize or paraphrase — you don't need to quote them exactly.

MATURING IN CHRIST

The twenty-first-century world is characterized by rapid change. Increasingly, technological advances are providing instant communication via satellite, Internet, phone, and instant information stored and transmitted by high-speed computers. We are a generation that has come to expect and demand everything “now.” Christians must remember, however, that there is no such thing as “instant maturity” in the Christian experience. Becoming a Christian begins a lifelong adventure of knowing God better and loving Him more.

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-make you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed. Thus you will prove in practice that the will of God's good, acceptable to him and perfect.

— ROMANS 12:2 (PH)

THINK ABOUT:

What are some similarities between physical and spiritual development?

Moving Toward Maturity

1. You took your first step toward spiritual maturity when you put your faith in Christ. Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

a. What is God's desire for you (verses 13,15)? _____

b. What are some characteristics of immature Christians (“children” or “infants”; verse 14)?

c. According to this passage, what characterizes a spiritually mature person?

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY: A COURSE...

2. In this chart, contrast a person's old nature with the Christian's new nature (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Old Nature	New Nature



3. Consider 2 Corinthians 3:18.

- a. Into whose image are you being changed? _____
- b. Who brings about this change? _____
- c. How rapidly do you think change usually occurs? _____

d. How complete will the change finally be? _____

4. What do the following verses in Romans tell you about your relationship to Christ?

a. What has already happened to you (5:8-9)? _____

b. What should you be doing (6:19)? _____

c. What can you expect in the future (8:16-18)? _____

These three aspects of salvation in Christ (justification, sanctification, and glorification) are helpful in understanding God's plan for believers.

Justification (<i>event</i>)	Past tense—I have been saved from the penalty of sin.	My position is in Christ.
Sanctification (<i>process</i>)	Present tense—I am being saved from the power of sin.	My condition is becoming like Christ.
Glorification (<i>expectation</i>)	Future tense—I will be saved from the presence of sin	My expectation is to be like Christ.

YOUR STARTING POINT

5. Examine Colossians 2:6-7.

a. How did you begin your life in Christ? _____

b. How should you continue to grow? _____

6. Consider Romans 5:1-5. What foundation do we have for building a close relationship with God?

7. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and list several things that you have “in Christ.”

Verse _____

Verse _____

Verse _____

Verse _____

Which of these is most important to you? Why? _____

THE PROCESS OF GROWTH

8. In regard to the following passages, what observations do you have about the process of spiritual growth?

a. 1 Peter 2:2-3 _____

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY: A COURSE...

b. Hebrews 5:13-14 _____

9. Where do good works fit into the Christian life (Ephesians 2:8-10)?

As you reflect on your life, you can be thankful for all that God is doing in you. Take a moment to express your gratitude to God for what He has done, is doing, and will do for you. Our outer person is merely God's frame; the real picture is the inner person who God, the Artist, is still creating.

THE MATURE LIFE

10. Who or what is the Christian's ultimate example (Ephesians 5:1-2)?

In what ways do you think a Christian can and should imitate Christ's lifestyle?

11. What attitude should a mature Christian possess (Philippians 3:13-15)?

12. What are some character traits of a mature Christian (2 Peter 1:5-7)?

Describe a person without these traits (2 Peter 1:8-11)? _____

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY: A COURSE...

13. What stands out to you most from this Bible study? _____

SUMMARY

Moving Toward Maturity

God intends for Christians to mature and become like Jesus Christ. God has saved Christians from the penalty of sin. They are now engaged in a conflict with sin but can anticipate a future with Christ, completely free from sin.

Your Starting Point

Faith in Jesus Christ marks the beginning of Christian growth (2 Corinthians 5:17). All believers have God's resources available to them to help them grow.

The Process of Growth

Spiritual growth is similar to physical growth. It takes time as God works in the believer's life.

The Mature Life

Growing in Christ is similar to walking. Following Christ's example and led by the Spirit, Christians are to walk in fellowship with Christ in faith and love. A mature Christian is one who continues to follow Christ, abounding in His work and experiencing His grace and love.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 3

1. Scripture Memory: Study and complete "Scripture Memory Guide — Week 3" (pages 25–26). Memorize the verse(s) on "Obedience to Christ": Romans 12:1 and John 14:21 (recommended but optional).
2. Quiet Time: Continue using *My Reading Highlights*, *My Reading Progress*, and a prayer sheet.
3. Bible Study: Complete the Bible study "Spiritual Warfare" (pages 33–36).
4. Other: Read and mark the article on "Relationship Evangelism" (pages 26–33) and come prepared to discuss it.