PRE-DISCIPLESHIP

Lessons



CONTENTS

FOUNDATIONAL DISCIPLE LIFE (ESSENTIAL)

- 1. Where it all began: Creation
- 2. Jesus our Redeemer from Sin
- 3. Salvation and The Example of Jesus
- 4. Reborn Into Jesus Christ- Baptism



ESSENTIAL

Introduction

COURSE OVERVIEW:

You will learn the foundations of a Disciple lifestyle and what it means to follow Jesus.

Whether you are a new believer or want to strengthen your faith, this course will provide lessons that will introduce you to not only living as a Christian but growing in your relationship with God. As you go through this wonderful and exciting process. you will discover what every day true Christianity looks like. Your assurance that The Word of God is the foundation you will use for living a life where you will truly know, with confidence, that it's the truth that sets you free.

The creation of God: God is revealed in the Bible as an infinite, eternal, self-existent Being who is the reason for all that is. There's never been a moment where God didn't exist.

God created all things in "the heavens and the earth" through His Word. He spoke everything except man into existence. He formed Adam from out of the ground, then bent down and breathed life into his nose.. The earth was originally without form and covered with darkness Genesis 1:2.: And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

God created Adam and Eve "in His own image and likeness". He created everything good and without sin. After God had finished creating and was looking at what He had finished, he said that it was "very good" Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

This is the world God intended for you to have. A world where everything is good; no sin, no sadness, no pain or death. Living in perfect fellowship with God, each other, and creation.

Genesis 2;1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his word which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God "created and made.

God then told Adam about the garden. He told Him what he could and could not eat. This showed that God communicates with man.. Even before sin entered the world, Adam was dependent on God in order to know how to live in the world that God made.

God gave people ownership over creation, placing it under your feet so that you can take care of His creation and enjoy it. The garden gives you a picture of the way the world was meant to be. The peaceful world you were meant to live in will come back when Jesus returns.

The Fall of Man:

Sin entered into this world as a result of the temptation by the serpent(Satan) which is in Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. Romans 5:12 Wherfore, as by one man sin entered into the world. You may not realize this, but you probably felt the result of Adam and Eve's sin today. In fact, you can't go five minutes without feeling the effects of sin. Just turn on the TV or watch YouTube. Every aspect of God's creation has been in some way corrupted by sin. Everywhere you look you can see pain, rebellion, brokenness, hopelessness, despair.

As Adam and Eve cared for God's creation, the serpent (whom we later learn is Satan came into the scene). He asked Eve a simple question: "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" God had given Adam and Eve every tree in the garden as food, and only the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was off limits. But as we might expect, this was the only tree that Satan wanted Eve to think about. He wanted her to feel that God was keeping something from her. He told her that eating the forbidden fruit would open her eyes so that she would be like God. He promised her good things. He still does that to us today and if we follow satan's voice, we will regret it every time.

Of course, life in the garden of Eden was full of good things enjoyed through the grace and presence of God. But Satan began to promise goodness apart from God. With this simple twist, the world that God created to be "very good" changed in an instant.

Satan comes to you in ways that you wouldn't expect and offers you things that seem good. That's what he did in the garden and what he does to you today. He takes the truth and turns it into a lie and makes it appear beautiful. Adam and Eve allowed someone else's words to be better than God's words. Sometimes you choose to do things your way and not God's way. You are basically saying that you're in control and you know what's best over what God says is best and right for your life.

The Flood and why it happened:

The descendants of Adam Eve multiplied and they started doing evil things and stopped following God's commands. They did not pray to God and only cared about themselves and their fleshly desires. There was only one man who still loved God and his name was Noah. Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. He was 500 years old and had 3 sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. He still believed and worshiped God. He also taught his family to love and fear God.

Genesis 6:5-6 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord, that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

The people had become so sinful that God was sorry He made man because of this. He chose Noah to go and tell the people that they could turn from their wickedness and be saved from the flood God was going to destroy the earth with. But they wouldn't listen. They asked him why he was building an ark(big boat) and tried to explain it to them but they didn't believe Noah. But Noah kept on building the ark because He still believed in God and wanted to obey Him. God told Noah the exact size* to build the ark.

*Have kids that can read go to Genesis 6:14-16

He also told him how many animals, birds and his family were the only ones to be saved from the flood.

Noah continued to follow God's instructions until he was 600 years old before it started to rain.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Then Noah didn't hear from God for 150 days. Genesis 7:24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days. His faith was being tested during that time since he had no idea when the water would go away. Then God acted out of concern and love for Noah and his family. God's dealings with Noah are recorded to give all God's faithful people hope and trust in his ways.

If God has not acted in your life for a long time, you can be sure He will act again and show His love for you. Your job is to continue to trust Him and be obedient to His Word and Spirit. Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

The story of the flood tells us about both judgment and salvation. It was necessary for God to destroy everything outside the ark in order to blot out the terrible sins of men and women. He was giving the human race a new chance for fellowship with Him.

God has promised and made a covenant that He will never destroy the earth with water again. The rainbow is God's sign and reminder of His promise. It should remind us of God's mercy and faithfulness.

Genesis 9:13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

We can also learn from this story that we all have a sin nature from birth and we can see it in ourselves early in childhood.

Can you think of things you did when you were young or even did today that were sinful?

Some interesting facts about creation, the fall and the flood:

- Noah was 950 years old when he died.
- Adam lived 930 years,
- The history in Genesis spans a larger period of time than the rest of the Bible combined.
- God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit all had an active role in creation. They were there from the beginning. They are referred to as the Trinity. We will learn more about the Trinity later on.
- The ark was about 450 ft long, 75 ft wide and 45 ft high. It's estimated that it could hold some 7,000 kinds of animals.

As we learned from last week's lesson, sin entered the world through Adam and Eve and as a result we are all born with a sin nature. In the Old Testament, God sent the flood to deal with sin, then He gave Moses the Ten Commandments and many other laws to His people, the Isrealites. In order to remove the guilt of sin and have a relationship with God(reconciled) and be in right standing with Him, He provided a way to use sacrifices on the annual Day of Atonement. The people could then confess their sins, offer various sacrifices and become reconciled to God again. (You can find examples of the laws that God commanded of His people starting in the book of Leviticus.)

The ten commandments (which is also referred to as the law) were given to teach us that we are all sinners, and that we need a Savior, Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Justified means, as if we have never sinned.

The Bible contains two complete sets of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17 and Deut. 5:6-21). In addition, Leviticus 19 contains a partial set of the Ten Commandments (see verses 3-4, 11-13, 15-16, 30, 32)

Here is a summarized version of the 10 commandments:

- 1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 2. You shall not make gods or worship them (Idolatry).
- 3. You shall not use the Lord's name in vain.
- 4. You shall keep the Sabbath Day holy.
- 5. You shall honor your father and mother.
- 6. You shall not murder.
- 7. You shall not commit adultery.
- 8. You shall not steal.
- 9. You shall not give false witness against your neighbor.
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's property.

Have you been keeping all of God's commandments?

Some people claim that they have kept God's rules, but the truth is you have all fallen short and fail to keep His commandments by yourself. A lot of people would admit that they have stolen something, or have used the Lord's name in vain, or desired to have some item that belonged to someone else. I do not know anyone who could honestly say they have always been perfect, and have never put anything ahead of God (which is idolatry).

We can't keep God's Law and the Bible says we are sinners, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) Every person has done things that are wrong. Lying, cheating, being unkind to others — the list goes on and on. We've hurt ourselves, others, and God with our sin. Because we sin, we are separated from God, who is perfect. God didn't want us to be apart from Him, but our bad choices and sinful nature causes that to happen.

The Bible also says, "There is none righteous, no not one" Romans 3:10, as it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.

We are unrighteous (not in right standing) before God, However, God loves us so much and has already taken care of this. God is able to forgive a sinner when the sinner looks to Jesus on the cross. Jesus died to pay the full penalty for all of man's sin, and He offers to all people a Savior and a way of salvation. No matter how hard a person may try to earn their way to Heaven by being good, or keeping God's commands, he will never measure up to God's level of perfection. Only through the death, burial, and rising from the dead of the Lord Jesus Christ can we find the answer to our sin problem.

There is not a person living today who can claim that they have kept all of God's commands perfectly. Some might think they have done what God demands, but this only shows that they do not really understand the perfection that God requires in keeping His laws. The Bible states, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10). For example, if we steal from or lie to someone, then we are guilty of all the commandments.

The Bible calls everyone to place their trust in Jesus as the only way to Heaven and to have eternal life with God.

That's why Jesus came to Earth. He lived a perfect, sinless life so He could be the sacrifice that brings us back to God. He was born and was placed in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes, which was not a very nice place for a King. Jesus didn't come from a rich family on earth but He was royalty and was to reign and overcome our sin.

Romans 3:24 says "being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

<u>Isaiah 53:5</u> says that by Jesus' stripes we are healed. His sacrifice allows us to be saved because He paid the price that our sin deserved. That was why Jesus died — to save us from our sin. And because of His sacrifice, we have the victory over sin.

There is victory because of what Jesus did when He died on the cross.. He rose from the dead because he is God and God is more powerful than death! Although all have sinned, all can be redeemed and brought back to God because of Jesus' death and resurrection! In John 16:33, Jesus tells us to take heart because he has overcome the world and all the bad that comes with it.

Jesus won the battle against sin and death, and He wants us to share in that victory with Him. He invites us to join Him to have a relationship with Him — all you have to do is say yes and give your life to Him! And when you do that, you will have a friend that you can always count on, you become a new person, you have a loving heart and heart of forgiveness because of what He did for you. You start seeing and realizing how much He loved you.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9)

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 17:3 "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

Someone might say, "Eternal life is living forever." But that's not it. No one ceases to exist when they die. Everyone lives forever in either heaven or hell. "Well then, eternal life must be living forever in heaven instead of hell." That's not it either.

John 3:36 says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Everlasting life is a present-tense possession. It's not something that begins when we get to heaven.

Eternal life is knowing God. You think you know God and you still aren't satisfied and you want there to be something more.

When Jesus said eternal life was knowing God, He was speaking of having an intimate, close, personal relationship with God. That's awesome!

That is not to take anything away from the fact that you will go to heaven when you make Jesus your Lord, but we are supposed to have eternal life (close, intimate, personal relationship with God our Father and Jesus Christ His Son) in this life, right now!

Salvation and The Example of Jesus Lesson 3

"When you get saved from your sin and from going to hell, it doesn't stop there, you actually become a new person. YOU ARE BORN AGAIN! When a man named Nicodemus, who was the ruler of the Jews asked Jesus how he was performing all the miracles that he was doing, like healing the sick, opening up blind eyes and casting out evil spirits, Jesus said to him in John 3:3 Verily, verily, I say unto three, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

You were born a sinner and live according to what your flesh wants. Your flesh is selfish, ashamed, needy, emotional, angry, depressed, lonely, lost, and gets frustrated with everyone and everything. You think that what you want should be the center of your world and your parents should do what you say because you think you know everything. But, you're never truly happy. You only have moments of happiness, like when you get something new or when you make a new friend, or get to play a new game, etc. You always feel like there's something missing in your life. Like, there's something more and you never feel like you're getting what you truly need to be completely at peace and happy with yourself and your life.

However, when you make the decision to surrender your unfulfilled life to God and become born again, you become like Jesus and filled with so much joy and love and you realize that you're seeing things a lot differently. The love that overtakes you in your heart from God is the best feeling you'll ever experience. He makes you new and free from that old sinful way of thinking. And get this, you don't even want to sin anymore. But you will sin because you're still human and you will still be tempted to do things that's not good for you. Satan will lie to you and make sin look beautiful and fascinating. But God made a way of escape for you and that's through Jesus. He's your example of what a sinless life looks like. Even though He was a man just like you, He was also God in the flesh and He never sinned. That's why you have to be born again, so you can go all out to look like Jesus and see the world with new eyes and see yourself and others the way He does.

Salvation and The Example of Jesus Lesson 3

"What it looks like to Be Like Jesus:

- 1. Loving His love never fails. In 1st John 4:19 You love Him because He first loved you. Once you receive His love, then you will love yourself, then you will love Him back then you can begin to love others. It just happens naturally after you are born again.
- 2. Joyful Joy is an overwhelming feeling and the Bible says that the joy of the Lord is our strength.
- 3. Peaceful You can live with peace even in difficult times. Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts.
- 4. Peacemaker Your new born again self will want to make peace instead of trouble.
- 5. Courageous You will be strong and brave even when you face problems. Joshua 1:9 tells us to Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be worried, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
- 6. Kind You will treat others with kindness and goodness.
- 7. Slow to speak You will start listening more than talking. Jesus listened to others more than He spoke. But when He did speak, others wanted to hear more and more.
- 8. Forgiving Jesus forgave all who asked for forgiveness and He forgives you when you ask Him to. When someone who has hurt you says I didn't mean to do that, you must forgive them and let it go.
- 9. Obedient Live your life before God like He's the only one who sees you and because you love Him so much, you want to please Him.
- 10. Faithful God is faithful to us and we should be someone others can count on too. You will pray for others too.
- 11. Humble Jesus thought of you when He died on the cross. He didn't think of Himself so we should be like that too. You can think of yourself less and think of others more. That's not like thinking less of yourself but try to put others 1st like Jesus did for us.
- 12. Hopeful You can have hope in your future because God wants good things for you. You know He's "got your back" and you can rest and hope for the best outcome.
- 13. Truthful Jesus never told a lie. He told them the truth even when they didn't want to hear it but it was always to help them. You can be honest too, with nothing to hide.
- 14. Thankful 1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus. You can be thankful to God and to others for the gifts you receive.
- 15. Friendly Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; And there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. It's hard to be the 1st one to talk to others or make friends easily, but when you become like Jesus, you want to know others and be their friend if they'll let you. Also, Jesus wants to be your best friend too!

Salvation and The Example of Jesus Lesson 3

This list looks and sounds intimidating, doesn't it? You're probably thinking, how can I ever do all that? Only Jesus can live up to all of these characteristics all the time. However, once you are born again, you are like HIM! God will keep changing you until you become like His Son Jesus. All of the above traits are within your reach and are part of you when you become a new person in Christ Jesus. They will all help you in whatever goals you want for your life. You can overcome problems, become successful, have a happy and healthy marriage one day, and you can simply be a happier person.

Perhaps as you read through the list above, The Holy Spirit may have highlighted a few of those things to you. It's like He was saying to you, Hey, let me change you here, ok? If He did that, I pray that you will let Him help you with it.

Jesus wants to be your best friend. He is your example of the new heart you receive when you are born again. Will you accept His free gift of salvation and be born again? Do you want a relationship with Him?

He has a plan and purpose for your life, will you let Him show you what that is? He loves you so much and wants good things for you. He is good and only good. He is the safest place to be. He created you for Himself. Everything He does for us is for His glory and for our good. He loves you so much.

You may ask yourself, why would I serve Him when I see other Christians that don't have love in their heart?

So the question is really simple, would you like to take the next step and be born again? He is waiting for you to come to Him and be the person He created you to be.

"

What is the significance of baptism?

Have you ever thought about getting baptized but have too many questions still unanswered?

This is the next step in your journey of following in the footsteps of Jesus and becoming a disciple.

Why should you consider getting baptized?

• Jesus as our example to follow:

In order to understand the reason for being water baptized, it is important to carefully consider what the Bible says about it... Jesus himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.

And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him; and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Mark 1:9-11

• An Act of Obedience:

Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ as you are becoming a disciple.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, Io, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

• A Public Declaration:

Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and is an important foundation for the Christian life.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

• A Move From Death to Life:

Baptism is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb, and His resurrection from the dead.

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. Colossians 2:12-14

A Brand New Life:

It is a symbol of your new life as a born again Christian. We bury the 'old man' and we rise to walk in the 'new man and a new life with Christ'. Baptism is like a wedding ring, it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart, a commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis.

• Here is one simple way to explain baptism:

Baptism is a symbol. It's meant to show the world that you love, trust, and have put your hope in Christ. You can be a believer in Christ, but not baptized, and your sins are still paid for and forgiven by God. It shows that you are trusting Christ to save you from sin and hell, and He is the lord and joy of your life, then wouldn't you want everyone to know about it? So baptism is a statement to everyone who sees it that you have trusted Christ for your salvation and you're committed to living for Him.

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that is as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4

Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one!

Baptism does not 'save' you; only your faith in Christ does that.

• For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8,9

• A Blessed Life:

Baptism confirms your position 'in Christ' and affirms the blessings of the Father on you as his child.

• A New family:

Baptism also connects us to the 'body of Christ', his people on the earth. In baptism there is a real sense of being joined with other believers, not just participating in an individual act of our own spiritual journey.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,..." 1 Corinthians 12:13

• How are we to be baptized?

As per the example of Jesus – by being immersed in water. The word "baptise" comes from the Greek word "baptize" which means "to immerse or dip under water".

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16.

• Who should be baptized?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ. When Paul writes to the believers in Rome, he assumes that all of them have been baptized (Romans 6). The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ!

"Those who accepted his message were baptized...." Acts 2:41.

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12.

We believe in baptizing children when they are old enough to understand what it means and make a personal declaration of belief.

• When are we to be baptized?

Believers in the New Testament were baptized the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can be, and is encouraged to be baptized.

Then they gladly received his word were baptized.." Acts 2:41.

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the charot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Phlip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. Acts 8:35-39.

Becoming A Disciple Lesson 5

The word **Disciple**, according to the old Greek dictionary means, "someone who believes and helps spread the doctrine of another" a dedicated follower of Jesus and an imitator of Christ.

Disciples believe and commit to learning what the Word says and dedicate their life totally to the Lord.

Discipleship training will also help you grow in the knowledge of who God is along with His character and His Word so you can become rooted and grounded in your journey as a committed disciple and teach others to become a disciple as well.

John 13:34-35; "a new commandment give I unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

A disciple should be able to go directly to God when facing problems in life no matter the issue and get it resolved because a Disciple prays with expectation not unbelief. (don't use Facebook to get answers to your prayers like some people)

Matthew 28: 18-20; "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "all power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father. And of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and Io, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, amen."

Don't let your willingness to serve God get ahead of your knowledge. The reason why God doesn't promote you and allow your gifts to flow even though you are ready and willing is to protect you. He's not withholding a blessing from you. If the gift or call on your life is greater than the character of God within you, it will destroy you.

Discipleship training prepares you and is a necessary process to purify your motives and desires. Don't try to bypass the process. Becoming a disciple is worth it. The strength and character you develop along this journey is crucial for the assignment He has for you. Trust Him....

God is preparing you for the things He has planned for you

We're so excited for you as you continue your new journey in becoming a disciple for Jesus.

Discipleship training will help you grow in the knowledge of who God is along with His character and His Word so you can become rooted and grounded to help you lead others to the Lord and can become a disciple for Jesus as well.

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