

“BOOT CAMP” DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

The Essentials of the Christian Faith

LESSON 1

The Case for Intelligent Design

Q: There are many beliefs about a Higher Power (a source greater than ourselves)...Is it possible to know who this higher power is?

Q. Does this Higher Power have a name?

Q. Why is so important to find the RIGHT Higher Power?

Q: There are a lot of opinions about God-How do you know that yours is true?

Q: THE LAW OF NON-CONTRADICTION...Two “opposing” opinions cannot BOTH be right. They can both be wrong BUT they cannot both be right.

Q: HERE’S THE BIG QUESTION!!!!!!...If what you believed were *NOT* true and it was a matter of life and death, would you want to know it?

The Cost of Unbelief! Pascal’s wager or “BET”:

God has revealed Himself in three primary ways:

1. _____ Rom. 1:18-20
2. _____ Heb. 1:1-10
3. _____
4. _____ 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21

GOING BACK TO HOW GOD REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH CREATION...

LETS FOCUS ON THE FACTS OF Creation and of GOD. Let’s talk about the things YOU CAN PHYSICALLY SEE

SMALL GROUP EXERCISE-HOW HAS GOD REVEALED HIMSELF IN

NATURE?...Give me 10 ways God has revealed Himself in nature that cannot be an accident or coincidence-Just use your common sense ☺

SMALL GROUP RULES....

1. “PASS” house rule
2. NO TALKING HOGS
3. GROUP FACILLITATOR GATHERS INTEL
4. QUESTIONS ARE WELCOME TO ME THROUGH FACILLITATOR
5. YOU PICK YOUR FACILLITATOR
6. SHARE YOUR CONCLUSIONS WHEN DONE WITH ME

SO LETS TALK ABOUT CREATION AND HOW GOD HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN

I. God Has Revealed Himself through CREATION Romans 1:18-20

Evidence won't convince the unwilling...I implore you to keep an open mind...you can always shut your mind up latter if you like, but there's a lot riding on what you believe or what you choose NOT to believe in!

HOMEWORK Utube - Evolution Vs. God (Living waters/ Way of the Master 38 min)

According to the HOLY WRITINGS AND COMMON SENSE, What does CREATION teach us about GOD?

- a. God has invisible _____
- b. God is _____. Psalm 19:1,3
- c. God is all-powerful and _____ How is God Creative in Creation?
- d. God is _____
- e. GOD is _____
- f. No one will have an _____ if they choose to believe God doesn't exist.
- g. God is _____.

GOD'S GOODNESS IS CALLED COMMON GRACE

Acts 14:17, Matthew 5:45

What about evil, did God create that too?

If there is NO EVIL in God and He is the creator of ALL THINGS, then where did evil come from?

**The Case for Intelligent Design:
What your science teacher didn't tell you in school.**

The Bible says GOD loves you & has a plan for your life! Eph. 2:10, Jer. 29:11-13

But Science still teaches that anyone believing in a Supernatural Being who created the world and humans in 6 days is an idiot:

This of course comes from those who hold to the FAITH of atheism

1. Atheism is a religion-disbelief or lack of belief in the existence of God or gods!
2. MOST scientists today are atheists who challenge the Holy Writings, who challenge the Bible's claim that "In the beginning GOD CREATED". Gen 1:1
3. Now I have to admit it's hard to believe that God created the heavens and earth and all that is in it in 6 days
4. I can do no better than to refer you to the Institute for Creation Research (www.icr.org)...If you want FACTS on a 6 day literal creation you will find enough information to make your brain explode ☺
5. ANOTHER OPTION - The HEBREW word "YOM", (English word "DAY").
6. The HEBREW word "YOM" can mean a period of time
7. Consider Genesis Chapter 2:1-4

APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

HERE ARE TWO OPTIONS

- A. I am merely here by random chance, nothing but an accident...I LIVE AND I DIE?
- B. I am a creation of a GOD who made me and loves me, who wants to have a personal relationship with me for eternity

Which of these two choices do you believe and what difference does it make what choice you believe in?

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LESSON 2

The Bible – The Supernatural Gift of God!

LAST WEEK...We made the claim that God has revealed Himself through
1. CREATION, 2. Through the Bible, 3. Through Jesus Christ. This week we will prove
the BIBLE is the inspired supernatural secondary means God has revealed Himself to
humans

God Has Revealed Himself through the Bible

Q. What is the Bible?

A. God's revelation of _____ to _____

The Uniqueness of the Bible: IT COULD ONLY COME THROUGH GOD!

2Tim. 3:16-17, 2Pet. 1:20-21

UNIQUE In Composition:

The Apocryphal Books-Could there be MORE than 66 Books?

UNIQUE In Circulation:

UNIQUE In Translation:

UNIQUE In Survivability:

The Accuracy of the Bible: Does it Have Errors?

What are the 4 different types of errors in our COPIES of Scripture?

1. SPELLING AND NONSENSE ERRORS
2. MINOR CHANGES
3. MEANINGFUL BUT NOT PLAUSIBLE
4. MEANINGFUL AND PLAUSIBLE
5. So, when someone CLAIMS that the Bible has errors...

6. Remember Contradictions are NOT ERRORS!

There is Nothing that can compare to the historical evidence of Scripture!

WHO PUT THE BIBLE TOGETHER AND BY WHAT STANDARD?

Job 19:23-24 , Matt. 5:18

As the books of the Bible were composed, they were recognized by God's people (first the Jews regarding the Old Testament as God's WORD, then the Christians of the

New Testament recognized certain writings as God's WORD. The books were tested according to the following principles:

Scientific and Historic Accuracy of the Bible

The Role of the Dead Sea Scrolls

Q. What is the Bible's Role in the Life of a Christian?

The Bible...

a. Allows us to mature in our faith by providing _____

1 Peter 2:2

b. Helps prevent us from _____

Psalm 119:11

c. Helps us understand _____ and the _____

Hebrews 4:12

d. Renews the _____

Romans 12:1-2

e. Is our offensive weapon for _____

Ephesians 6:17

f. Provides answers to _____

Psalms 119:105

The Bible...answers life's most basic questions:

- What is the purpose of life? Matthew 22:37-40
- Where did I come from? Genesis 2-3
- What happens when I die? Hebrews 9:27
- How I can be sure I'm going to heaven when I die?

Personal Application: LET THE TRANSFORMATION BEGIN!

As a result of today, I will take _____ minutes each day this week and start studying the Bible. Remember, the goal is to connect with God through Bible reading and do what it says! **USE A POST IT NOTE ON YOUR FAVORITE THING**

Recommended Bible reading for those just beginning to read the Bible:

The Gospel of John

Additional Reading

Knowing God by J.I. Packer

The Life You've Always Wanted by John Ortberg

Living By the Book by Howard and William Hendricks

Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer

Darwin's Black Box by Michael Behe

Darwinism on Trial by Phillip Johnson

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LESSON 3

THE FACTS ABOUT JESUS!

WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP?

THREE CHALLENGES RIGHT UP FRONT...

1. CAN WE PROVE THAT JESUS IS GOD?
2. IS FAITH IN JESUS THE ONLY WAY TO GET INTO HEAVEN?
3. IF JESUS IS GOD, WHY DO CHRISTIANS *SEEM* TO BELIEVE IN MULTIPLE GODS?

IF I WANT TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT SOMEONE - HOW DO I GO ABOUT GETTING THE FACTS, LEARNING THE TRUTH OF WHO SOMEONE *REALLY* IS?

IS JESUS A LIAR, LUNATIC OR LORD?

1. He was either a LIAR who wasn't God and deceived a countless multitude of people
2. He was a LUNATIC...who thought He was God
3. HE WAS AND IS WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE...GOD!

I. Is Jesus a LIAR?

POINT 1.

A person who LIVED, TAUGHT, and DIED as Jesus did could not have been a LIAR.

II. Is Jesus a LUNATIC?

POINT 2.

A person who RESPONDED to life as Jesus did could not have been a LUNATIC.

III. Is Jesus LORD...is Jesus GOD?

THE EVIDENCE

- _____ Roman efficiency
- _____ Solid rock rolled into place
- _____ Four awake at all times
- _____ Crucifixion if tampered with
- _____ 70 pounds of spices and linen

MORE EVIDENCE - Sample Prophecies of Jesus' Birth

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>O.T. Prediction</u>	<u>N.T. Fulfillment</u>
The Messiah would be the seed of a woman.	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4
The Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham who had two sons.	Genesis 12:3	Matthew 1:1
The Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac who had two sons.	Genesis 17:19	Luke 3:34
The Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob who had 12 sons who each would become a tribe.	Numbers 24:17	Matthew 1:2
The Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah.	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33
The Messiah would be an heir to the throne of David.	Isaiah 9:7	Luke 1:32,33

The Messiah would be anointed eternal.	Psalms 45:6,7	Hebrews 1:8-12
The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:4-7
The Messiah would be born of a virgin. 1:26-27;30-31	Isaiah 7:14	Luke
The Messiah's birth would trigger a slaughter of children.	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
The Messiah would also come from Egypt.	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:14-15

MORE EVIDENCE-Sample Prophecies of Jesus' Death

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>O.T. Prediction</u>	<u>N.T. Fulfillment</u>
He was betrayed by a friend. 10:4	Psalms 41:9	Matthew
He was sold for 30 pieces of silver.	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
He was silent before accusers.	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12
He was wounded and bruised.	Isaiah 53:5	Matthew 27:26
He was beaten and spit upon.	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
He was mocked.	Psalms 22:7,8	Matthew 27:31
His hands and feet pierced. 23:33	Psalms 22:16	Luke
He was crucified with thieves. 27:38	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew
He was rejected by His own people. 7:5,48	Isaiah 53:3	John

He was garments divided up. 19:23-24	Psalm 22:18	John
His bones were not broken. 19:33	Psalm 34:20	John
His side was pierced. 19:34	Zechariah 12:10	John
He was buried in a rich man's tomb.	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60

For a more detailed list of fulfilled prophecies go to: www.godandscience.org/apologetics/prophchr.html

Is Jesus the Only Way to Eternal Life?

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

And in John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

But what about those who never hear about Jesus, like children or the mentally incompetent...?

FINALLY WE COME TO THE END OF OUR THREE CHALLENGES

1. CAN WE PROVE THAT JESUS IS GOD?
2. IS FAITH IN JESUS THE ONLY WAY TO GET INTO HEAVEN?
3. **IF JESUS IS GOD, WHY DO CHRISTIANS SEEM TO BELIEVE IN MULTIPLE GODS?**

Jesus is the second person of the _____. Christians believe in one God!

POINT 3.

Jesus is our _____ and if He is NOT a liar and He is NOT a lunatic than he has to be GOD or _____!

For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost. *Luke 19:10*

APPLICATION

THE REAL QUESTION IS...WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

WILL YOU TRUST IN HIM AS YOUR SAVIOR? If so, pray in your own words or pray the following...Jesus, I believe by faith that you died on a cross for the forgiveness of all of my sins and rose again from the dead, three days later. I now receive the free gift of eternal life you promised, AMEN!

On Your Own This Week

Reflect on the passages we have covered today on who Jesus is and what impact this makes on your life.

Recommended Bible Reading: The Gospel of John

Additional Reading Suggested

More Than A Carpenter by Josh McDowell

Seeing & Savoring Jesus Christ by John Piper

The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey

New Evidence That Demands A Verdict by Josh McDowell

Going For The Gold by Joe L. Wall

The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

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LESSON 4

The Assurance of Salvation

SMALL GROUP TIME

Q: On a scale of 1-10, how sure are you that you are going to heaven? (circle a number)

(uncertain) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (certain)

Q: If you picked 10, what do you base your rating on?

IF YOU PICK A 10 YOU WILL NEED TO SHARE YOUR ANSWER IN YOUR GROUP ☺

DOES GOD GRADE ON A CURVE?

**Common reasons why people struggle being 100% certain of their salvation:
THERE ARE 3 BIG REASONS....**

1. SIN Will I ever stop sinning? ANSWER=YES AND NO!

SIN IS A CHOICE FOR BELIEVERS!

Ephesians 4:30 *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption...* **Galatians 5:16** *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.* **Romans 7:19** *For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.* **1Timothy 1:15** *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.*

SIN IS SOMETHING WE WILL SPEND OUR WHOLE LIFE FIGHTING, UNTIL WE ARE WITH JESUS...AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO NEVER GIVE UP THE FIGHT. THIS IS WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS THE SANCTIFICATION “PROCESS”! Heb. 12:1-3

IS THERE AN UNFORGIVABLE SIN?

SO WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE SIN? ANSWER-WE CONFESS OUR SIN TO GOD!

1 John 2:1 *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

THE SECOND REASON SOME PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH ETERNAL SECURITY IS...

2. RELIGION IN THE PLACE OF RELATIONSHIP

RELIGION can mistakenly have you believe...

1. You are saved by belonging to a specific church
2. You have to meet some standard, like giving up a specific sin before you can get saved
3. You are ONLY allowed to sin SO MUCH to STAY saved
4. Your salvation is called into question (usually by others whose sin is not so visible).

POINT...WE ARE NOT CALLED TO BE RELIGIOUS IN MEN'S EYES...WE ARE MADE RIGHTEOUS IN GOD'S EYE...specifically THROUGH JESUS!

Rom. 3:21-22, 2Cor. 5:21. Phil.3:8-9.

THE THIRD REASON SOME PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH ETERNAL SECURITY IS...

3. LACK OF UNDERSTANDING FROM SCRIPTURE

What does the BIBLE say about the assurance of salvation?

- A. God wants us to _____ we have it! (1 John 5:13)
- B. Every believer is _____ with the Holy Spirit of promise! (Ephesians 1:13)
- C. God cannot break HIS _____! Please don't insult His character! (Micah 7:18-20)
- D. All believers are changed into the _____ of Father God! (John 1:12)
- E. Eternal life is a FREE GIFT, hence if ANYTHING is _____, as a condition, or proof, or evidence requiring human effort, the gift ceases to be a FREE GIFT! (Romans 6:23)
- F. FAITH in Jesus, plus _____ equals salvation. (Galatians 2:16)
- G. God promises to give us _____ LIFE not _____ LIFE! (John 3:16)
- H. Our _____ assurance of Salvation must be our _____ and NOT OURSELF! The moment we look to ourselves for the "assurance of salvation" we have robbed God of His Glory in saving us. (Romans 8:29-30)
- I. We are saved by _____ alone by God's GRACE, not by _____, past, present or future!

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by **grace** that you have been saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **not as a result of works**, that no one should boast.*

WHAT IS GRACE?

Grace is God's _____ toward sinners.

Justice is *getting* what you *do* deserve

Grace is getting what you *don't* deserve.

Mercy is *not* getting what you *do* deserve.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO BE SAVED FROM? ANSWER-Any and all SIN!

Romans 3:10, Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:23.

God's glory is the _____ that He has set.

Simply stated, SIN is _____ towards God.

WHAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF OUR SIN? Romans 6:23

WHAT IS MEANS BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED? ANSWER-THE BLOOD OF JESUS!

1 Peter 1:19, Ephesians 2:13, Hebrews 10:19, Heb. 9:22

THIS IS WHY THERE IS *ONLY ONE WAY* TO HEAVEN AND ETERNAL LIFE!

Acts 4:12

WE ARE ONLY SAVED BY JESUS' BLOOD, WHICH HE SHED ON A CROSS!

Thus, Jesus being perfectly pure in word, thought, and deed was the *only* eligible candidate to pay the price for our sin, as well as tangibly expressing God the Father's love for each of us. Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10

Hence the Bible teaches us God's love is a _____ toward us when we didn't even care about Him. God's sacrifice of Jesus becomes a GIFT to anyone who wants to receive a new home in heaven, the FREE GIFT of eternal life!

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THIS GIFT? Romans 8:1

Diagram:

BORN _____ t _____ DIE

FINALLY...How many times do I have to trust in Christ to be sure that I have eternal life and a place in heaven?

Small Group Discussion Notes:

On Your Own This Week:

Review this week's lesson and try to memorize **Ephesians 2:8-9**:

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

Look up the verses we used this week and OBSERVE the CONTEXT!

This week, meditate on the following verses:

I am a wonderful creation of God (Psalm 139:13-14).

I am deeply loved by God (John 3:16).

I have been adopted as God's child (Ephesians 1:5).

God's love for me will never change (Ephesians 2:4).

I am God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10).

I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18).

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12).

I have been forgiven for all my sins (Colossians 1:14).

No one can snatch me from the hand of Christ (John 10:27-29).

I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20).

I can resist the enemy and he will flee from me (James 4:7).

I can confess my sins and God will always forgive me (1 John 1:9).

I will spend eternity with God (1 John 5:11-12).

I can find freedom in the truth of God's Word (John 8:31-32).

I have been freed from power of sin (Romans 6:1-7).

My salvation is by God's grace, not my works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

Recommended Additional Reading

So Great a Salvation by Charles Ryrie

What's So Amazing about Grace by Phillip Yancey

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LESSON 5

Igniting Your Prayer Life!

Time in the Word report: _____

Q: What is Prayer?

Prayer is simply _____ with God.

Q: Why is it that many suffer from an anemic prayer life?

- A. Some may not know _____ to pray.
- B. Some may not know _____ to pray for.
- C. Some may not believe God really _____, _____, or _____.
- D. Some may believe we are too _____.

I. How do I pray and for what do I pray for?

Jesus' model prayer:

God takes forgiveness seriously:

Not **FORGIVING** others is the single biggest threat to our fellowship with God!
IT WILL WRECK HAVOC WITH OUR PRAYER LIFE...

Forgiveness of others does *NOT* mean:

Forgiveness of others *does* mean:

Forgiveness of others *means seeking to be a peacemaker:*

II. Overcoming the Barrier of Doubt, Does God Hear, Care, or Answer our Prayers?

Q: Does God really hear us?

Q: Does God really even care?

Q: HOW does God answer our prayers?

There are 4 ways that God ANSWERS prayer! No-Slow-Grow-

1. If the request is wrong, God says, “_____.”
2. If the timing is wrong for you prayer request, God says, “_____.”
3. If the request is right, but your spiritual life needs attention, God says, “_____.”
4. If the request, timing, and heart are right, and according to God’s will, God says, “_____.”

Q: What are some hindrances to prayer?

Unresolved _____ conflict and not forgiving others!

Discord in _____.

Not _____ at all.

Praying with _____ motives.

Living a _____ life.

Ignoring the _____ of others.

III. Too Busy to Pray?

If it's important to you, then make it a priority! (Use a post-it note if necessary)

Getting Started:

- Set aside a specific _____ and _____ and if you have a family pray _____!
- Don't do all the _____ remember to practice listening to God!
- Begin a _____ to record God's faithfulness over time!
- Pray before and after you _____.
- Follow the _____ model.

IV. A.C.T.S.

A _____

C _____ until silence.

T _____

S _____ for others and for yourself.

Personal Application:

As a result of today, I will...

On Your Own This Week:

1. PRACTICE THE A.C.T.S. Model at least once this week and pray every day before and after you read the Bible. Learn to practice listening to God. 2. Try to memorize Philippians 4:6-7:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Suggested Additional Readings

Too Busy Not To Pray by Bill Hybels

Hearing God: Developing a conversational relationship with God by Dallas Willard

A Call to Spiritual Reformation by D.A. Carson

The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers by Arthur Bennett

Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster

The Gift Of Forgiveness, by Charles Stanley

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LESSON 6

Discovering God’s Will and Plan for your Life!

TODAY WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THE PROS AND CONS OF LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD and discovering GOD’S PLAN for your life on earth!

Time in the Word Report: _____

Time in Prayer Report: _____

I. GOD’S PLAN AND WILL FOR EVERY PERSON, IS TO LIVE FOREVER!

SO WHY DO WE DIE?

SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

GOD’S WORD, THE BIBLE GIVES US THE ANSWER!

FIRST: GOD GIVES YOU THE CHOICE BY HIS GRACE TO CHOOSE WHERE YOU WANT TO SPEND ETERNITY...WITH God of WITHOUT God! 1John 5:12-13

SECOND: GOD’S PLAN INCLUDES JUDGMENT FOR EVERY PERSON Heb. 9:27 HOWEVER THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF JUDGMENT!

II. GOD’S WILL AND PLAN FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN’S LIFE IS TO REWARD THEM FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE AND THE _____ LIFE THEY LIVE ON EARTH!

GOD’S GRACE, GOD’S WILL, GOD’S PLAN INCLUDES MANY TYPES OF REWARDS FOR FAITHFUL BELIEVERS IN HEAVEN-A *Partial List*

Run to win the race and a crown that lasts for eternity (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)

Paul says there is a harvest in heaven, for not giving up. (Galatians 6:9).

The Lord will reward every believer for what good they have done. (Ephesians 6:8)
 The crown of righteousness waits all who have loved Jesus appearing (2 Tim. 4:6-8)
 Paul delights in the reward he will receive for discipling others. (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
 Jesus tells us to store up treasure in Heaven not on earth (Matthew 6:19-21)
 Jesus said, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in Heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys" (Luke 12:33).
 Jesus said, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. Rev. 22:12
 Jesus said, "For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has *done*." (Matt. 16:27)
 Paul says do good and lay up treasures in heaven 1 Tim 6:18-19
 Peter says faithful believers will have an inheritance IN heaven. 1Pet. 1:4
Some of the rewards found in the Book of Revelation promised to the 7 churches
 The right to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God (Rev 2:7).
 To the one who is faithful unto death, the crown of life (Rev 2:10).
 To eat of special food, the hidden manna and a white stone, with a new name written on it that no one knows except the one who receives it (Rev 2:17).
 To have the right to co-reign with Christ (Rev 2:26)
 To receive the morning star by Jesus (Rev 2:28).
 To walk with Jesus in white (Rev 3:4).
 To receive special garments, and a special name in the book of life (Rev 3:5).
 To have one's name proclaimed by Jesus before the Father and his angels (Rev 3:5).
 To have one's name inscribed on a pillar in the temple of God by Jesus
 To be given a new name by Jesus (Rev 3:12).
 To receive special communion with Jesus in heaven (Rev 3:20)
 To sit with Jesus on His throne (Rev 3:21).

IF GOD'S PLAN IS TO REWARD ALL BELIEVERS AT THIS "SPECIAL" JUDGMENT, WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE? 1Cor. 3:9-15

POINT. REWARDS IN HEAVEN BEGIN WITH _____ WHO IS OUR GREATEST REWARD! ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT WHEN WE TRUST IN JESUS. ALL OTHER REWARDS RECEIVED IN HEAVEN ARE EARNED BY _____ TO GOD'S WILL AND PLAN FOR OUR LIFE!

III. THERE ARE _____ TO GOD'S WILL

FIRST ASPECT. God's _____ Will

God's Sovereign Will is His *predetermined* plan that consists of THREE things.

1. **God's sovereign will is _____.** (Psalm 135:6, 115:2-3; Proverbs 16:9; Ephesians 1:11)
2. **God's sovereign will is unknown by man until God has _____!**
Deuteronomy 29:29
3. **God's sovereign will is _____ and _____.** Romans 12:2

SECOND ASPECT: God's MORAL Will

10 VERSES THAT WILL ENSURE YOU LIVE A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE!

1. **God's moral will is for all people to come to _____.**
Matt. 7:21, Matt. 12:50, John 6:40, 2 Peter 3:9
2. **God's moral will is for us to _____ what the will of God is.** Psalm 143:10
3. **God's moral will is for Christians to reach the _____.**
Matthew 28:19-20
4. **God's moral will is to set ourselves apart for His use, abstaining from _____.** 1 Thessalonians 4:3
5. **God's moral will is that we _____ in order to have a good reputation**
1 Peter 2:13-15
6. **God's moral will is that we _____, _____ and _____ *always*.**
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Phil. 4:6-7
7. **God's moral will is for some Christians to _____ for His Glory.** 1 Peter 4:19
8. **God's moral will is that we _____ with Him in mind.** James 4:13-15
9. **God's moral will is that we be _____ with the _____.** Ephesians 5:17-18
10. **Summation of God's Will: Do everything to the _____!**
1 Corinthians 10:31

IV. What is God's *Specific* Plan for My life?

V. How Can I Make A Godly Decision?

MEDITATE ON THE 10 VERSES I JUST SHARED WITH YOU.....AND???

When faced with a decision, the following guidelines from Gary Friesen's book, *Decision Making and the Will of God* are helpful:

1. In those areas specifically addressed in the Bible, the revealed commands and principles of God (His moral will) are to be obeyed.
2. In those areas where the Bible gives no command or principle, the believer is free and responsible to choose his or her own course of action. Any decision made within the moral will of God is acceptable.
3. In non-moral decisions, the goal of the Christian is to make wise decisions on the basis of how to BEST accomplish the objective.
4. Mature counsel should be sought from those who know you, display wisdom, and biblical knowledge.
5. Use your God given ability to make decisions based on common sense and avoid rushing into something.

In summary: Enjoy the freedom of grace, the freedom of personal choice in any area of your life not specifically addressed in the Word!

Personal Application:

As a result of today, I will...

1. Ensure I am reading the Bible and praying every day? **YES**
2. (I need a bolt of lightning!) **NO**

Small Group Discussion Notes:

PROPS-Shepherd's Bread/chalice and grapes/Whip/Hammer & Nails/Crown/
Music

“BOOT CAMP” DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

The Essentials of the Christian Faith

LESSON 7

Baptism-The Lord's Supper-Personal Testimony

INTRO- We are at the halfway mark in our goal to make disciples of every believer! Today we look at the SACRAMENTS OF THE BIBLE... Those practices the Church holds to be SPECIAL or SACRED (Specifically, Baptism and The Lord's Supper) ADDITIONALLY we want to ensure you are able to give an accurate account of the hope you have in Jesus, for anyone who might ask you... IN OTHER WORDS... Equip you to share you faith with others through a personal testimony!

Time in the Word Report: _____

Time in prayer Report _____

I. What is Baptism?

Baptism is the **first** thing Jesus told people to do after they placed their faith in Him for eternal life. It is our first act of obedience to God out of love for Jesus and His sacrifice made on our behalf!

Q: What is the meaning of believer's baptism?

The act of baptism is a clear declaration that one is **IDENTIFYING** themselves with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Romans 6:3-4 *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

Q: Who should be baptized and when?

Baptism does NOT save anyone, only FAITH in Jesus saves, however in the early church, people who placed their faith in Christ were usually baptized **IMMEDIATELY**.

Acts 8:35-38 *Then Philip...told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.*

Baptism is your first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus...Therefore, **every** believer should be baptized as soon as possible after their decision to trust Christ for eternal life!

Q: How should a person be baptized?

The Greek word for baptism is “*baptizo*,” which means “to dip” or “**IMMERSE**.”

POINT: Let’s make sure we understand, God is more concerned with your motive and **HEART** of obedience than the **METHOD**! How you get baptized is not an issue Christians should be warring over! ☺

Q: “I was baptized as an infant. Do I need to be baptized again?”

Let me ask you another question...IF you were baptized as an infant or as a child, who’s decision was it? In order for your baptism to be an act of obedience to God, it needs to be YOUR decision! ☺

Summary of Baptism (As a WORK of obedience, baptism cannot be a condition of salvation, however...In the New Testament, it is a foreign concept to have an un-baptized believer.)

If a believer is not baptized, he or she has **UNFINISHED** business with God.

If you have not been baptized since receiving Jesus Christ, what should you do?

II. How Do I Develop My Testimony?

The apostle Peter tells us where we begin...

1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.* (START A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION AND WATCH FOR OPPORTUNITY)

THIS VERSE IS talking about your ability to share your personal testimony... what changes a personal relationship with Jesus has made in your life!

Understanding the Value or POWER of a Personal Story or TESTIMONY!

1. It is **UNIQUE** because you are unique.
2. It is **PERSONAL** and therefore, easily understandable.
3. It is **AUTHORITATIVE** because it is your story.
4. It is **MEMORABLE** because of the experiences you share.
5. It is **UNARGUABLE** since people cannot argue against your experience.
6. REMEMBER: Your **BAPTISM** is a powerful opportunity to share your TESTIMONY!

Step 1:

- What was your life like before your relationship with Jesus Christ?

- **THINK NEED:** Why did you need to trust in Jesus?
- Example: *“I grew up where I occasionally attended church. I rarely thought about God. My purpose in life was to live for myself and do what pleased me...”*

Step 2:

- Specifically, how and when did you receive Christ and become a Christian?
- **THINK GOOD NEWS OR GOSPEL:** What does Jesus promise to non-believers?
- Example: *“After attending my dorm’s Bible study in May of last year, I realized my need for Christ. So I prayed and asked Christ to forgive me of my sins. I believe that He loves me so much that He died for me and rose again. I asked Jesus to come into my life and give me a new heart.”*

Step 3:

- How is your life different since believing in Christ?
- **THINK CHANGE:** What changes have you or others seen since trusting in Jesus?
- Example: *“Jesus has changed my life! I no longer fear the future and I am filled with His joy and peace. Although my life is far from perfect, I now know why I was created. Jesus has given me a new purpose in life. Jesus now is my life (Colossians 3:4)...”*

Tips on Sharing Your Story

- Avoid religious phrases (e.g. born again, sanctified, justified, filled with the Spirit) because someone who doesn’t know Jesus yet, may be turned off by the use of terms they don’t understand or appreciate.
- Include the core truths of the Gospel (i.e. Jesus died for my sins and rose again; (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- If you came to Christ as a child, you may desire to emphasize what your life might have been like without Christ, being grateful for what you were spared from by God’s grace.
- Avoid using the specific name of religions or denominations you may have been a part of. Even if we are fervent to see people know the truth, they may be offended.
- Include a meaningful verse(s) if it fits into your story.
- Remember, the only thing you can do wrong is keep silent!

HOW DO I GET SOMEONE TO ASK ABOUT THE HOPE I HAVE WITHIN ME?

1. Ask someone to tell you about their spiritual beliefs
2. Listen with Gentleness and Respect---DON’T ARGUE WITH THEM!!!!
3. Ask them if they are experiencing the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
4. Ask them is they are certain they will go to heaven when they die
5. Ask them if you may share the hope that you have (YOU LISTENED TO THEM ☺)

III. What is the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is a Sacred time of Celebrating what Jesus has done for every believer. It is a time REMEMBERING Jesus sacrifice for you, of PROCLAIMING his death as the means to our forgiveness of sins...A TIME OF ANTICIPATING His return and a time of EXAMINING our hearts and confessing any sins we may have committed!

THE APOSTLE PAUL DESCRIBES THE LORD'S SUPPER IN THIS WAY...

1 Corinthians 11:23-28 *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, 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.' In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, **in remembrance** of Me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim** the Lord's death **until He comes**. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought **to examine himself** before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*

The bread represents Jesus' **BODY**, which was broken or crucified for you.

Q: What type of bread is Biblical? Any bread is Biblical as the Bible does not specify what type of bread to use.

The cup represents the **BLOOD** of Jesus that was shed for the forgiveness of a sin for those who believe in Him by Faith.

Q: Is it wine or grape juice? The wine for communion in the early church contained alcohol (1 Cor. 11:21)...This presented challenges within the church at Corinth...the this reason and out of compassion for those who may have an alcohol problem, most churches use grape juice.

There are Four significant parts in observing the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:24-28):

1. **REMEMBERING** *Do this in remembrance of Me (v24, 25).*
2. **PROCLAIMING** *...you proclaim the Lord's death (v26b).*
3. **ANTICIPATING** *...until He comes (v26c).*
4. **EXAMINING** *A man ought to examine himself (v28).*

Q. Why do we EXAMINE ourselves during this time? So that we won't have to experience God's loving (JUDGMENT) OR discipline for un-confessed sin!

1Cor. 11:28-32 *But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. **But if we judged ourselves rightly**, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.*

The cup also represents the **NEW COVENANT OF GRACE** that God was establishing with New Testament believers who place their faith in Jesus!

Q: If Jesus blood represents the NEW Covenant of GRACE, than what was the First Covenant and how do they differ? The FIRST or OLD Covenant was LAW while the NEW Covenant is freedom from living under rules and regulations! **Living under GRACE** means the Holy Spirit now lives inside every New Testament believer. He guides us to live a holy life!

Comparison of Passover to the Lord's Supper

OLD COVENANT (by God) Bound by Law	NEW COVENANT (by Christ) Free in Grace
PASSOVER	THE LORD'S SUPPER
Old Testament	New Testament
Passover Lamb - The lamb was to be without spot or blemish, and its blood was to be sprinkled upon the door-post and the lintel so that the angel of death could see it. If there was no blood applied as God instructed, death was certain (Exodus 12:5).	Christ is our Passover Lamb - He is the Lamb without spot or blemish, the only perfect sacrifice acceptable to God for the forgiveness of our sins. JESUS Blood must be "sprinkled on the door post of our hearts" or death is certain (Hebrews 9:22, Romans 6:23)
Freedom from bondage of Egypt	Freedom from the bondage of sin
Prophecy given - Not a bone was to be broken in Passover Lamb. (Exodus 12:46-	Prophecy fulfilled - Not a bone was broken in Christ our Passover Lamb (John 19:36)
Jesus prophesied in the Old Testament as the Passover Lamb (Isaiah 53:7)	Prophecy of Jesus as the Passover Lamb fulfilled in the New Testament: <i>Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us</i> (1 Corinthians 5:7)
The Passover Lamb was sacrificed to save the first born of Israel – It was special occasion for God's chosen people	Jesus, our Passover Lamb was sacrificed to save anyone who calls on Him by faith. The Lord's Supper is for believers only

Celebrated annually	No set time
Looks forward to the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross (A foreshadowing)	Looks back to the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross

“BOOT CAMP” DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

The Essentials of the Christian Faith-A Dozen Ways to Share Jesus

LESSON 8

SMALL GROUP TIME

Time in the Word report _____

Time in prayer report _____

I'm in or willing to be in a small group or at least pray about joining one _____

EXTRA CREDIT (BEMA POINTS) I shared Jesus with _____ this week

Who will you pray for this week that needs Jesus? _____

I. SHARING THE “GOOD NEWS”/GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Q: What is *your* greatest barrier to sharing Christ? For most people it is _____!

The only thing you can do wrong is _____.

The Gospel is _____ to some people, but *you* don't have to be. As long as you remember _____ to _____, you leave the door open for God to do HIS WORK!

Note the two controlling attitudes:

1. _____
2. _____

Q: Have you ever felt like this... “The harder I try to _____ the Gospel, the less effective I become. Some will want it (Pray _____ them!) Some won't want it (Pray _____ them!)”

II. A DOZEN WAYS TO SHARE JESUS WITHOUT FEAR

Number 1: Bring your friends to _____ local church or _____!

Number 2: Ask others, “Can I share some _____ with you?”

WHEN USING GOSPEL TRACTS, REMEMBER THESE SIMPLE TIPS:

1. **Pray before sharing Christ.** Whatever method you use, pray that He would speak to that person, keep you quiet when He's done, and that He would soften his/her heart to accept Him.
2. **Read through the tract ahead of time.** Know when to stop and ask a question and when to pause to let him/her think about it. Most tracts are self-explanatory; just make sure you read it first.
3. **Get permission to share.** Ask the person, “May I share something with you?” If they say, “No”, then don't proceed! People are much more receptive when you have had the courtesy to ask before you share.
4. **After receiving permission, read through the tract with him/her out loud.** It seems to work best if you can both look at the same tract, but you retain control of it. When you get to the prayer at the end, ask if he/she would like to pray with you.

If the answer is no, that's okay—you've done your job. Give him/her the tract to take home and express your thanks to him/her for listening. If he/she says yes, explain that you will pray the prayer slowly, one phrase at a time and let him/her repeat each line after you. When you have finished, say another short prayer out loud and thank the Lord for your new brother or sister in Christ.

Names of common “Good News” tracts:

May I Ask You A Question? by EvanTell, Inc.
Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws? by NewLife Publications
The Long Trip by Chick Publications
Good News by NewLife Publications
Steps to Peace with God by World Wide Publications

NUMBER 3: USE _____ TRACTS OR WHAT WE LOVINGLY CALL GUERILLA WARFARE.

NOTE: Please don't ever use negative tracts that bash someone's religion. Remember, we are to share our faith with gentleness and respect!

Number 4: Share Christian _____, _____, _____.

SOME EXAMPLES

- 1. LINKS, LINKS, LINKS...**What could be more simple than sending a friend a LINK to our website for any of the BOOT CAMP lessons that they NEED TO SEE (Including our communion service).
- 2. Give away a Jesus DVD to a friend or host a JESUS MOVIE PARTY!!!!**
- 3. Josh McDowell's book, “Evidence that demands a verdict” is awesome for the skeptic!**
Among important books in the defense of Christianity, this one has few equals. Evidence That Demands a Verdict is an easy-to-read, front-line defense for Christians facing the tough questions of critics and skeptics. Using secular evidences and other historical sources, Josh McDowell's faith-building book is a "must read" for every Christian.
- 4. “I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist”, by Norman L. Geisler**
To some, the concept of having faith in a higher power or a set of religious beliefs is nonsensical. Indeed, many view religion in general, and Christianity in particular, as unfounded and unreasonable. Norman Geisler and Frank Turek argue, however, that Christianity is not only more reasonable than all other belief systems, but is indeed more rational than unbelief itself. With conviction and clear thinking, Geisler and Turek guide readers through some of the traditional, tested arguments for the existence of a creator God. They move into an examination of the source of morality and the reliability of the New Testament accounts concerning Jesus. The final section of the book deals with a detailed investigation of the claims of Christ. This volume will be an interesting read for those skeptical about Christianity, as well as a helpful resource for Christians seeking to articulate a more sophisticated defense of their faith.

Number 5: Pursue _____ evangelism while we still can. ☹

General Tips:

Begin by Praying specifically for the salvation of at least two people you have regular contact with—those you have contact with inside or outside your office.

1. Work toward building a quality relationship with the people you are praying for. Look for ways to serve and meet needs.
2. When God opens a door, ask them questions such as...
 - “Do you have an interest in spiritual things?”
 - When appropriate, “How do you celebrate Christmas, Easter, etc.?”
 - “Do you have any special family traditions?”

Specific tips as an Employer:

1. Always pray for your employees, especially for those whom God has given you a burden.
2. Do not be a threat (Ephesians 6:9).
3. Grant justice and fairness (Colossians 4:1). Remember, in the sight of the Lord, employers or employees are equal.
4. Build up employees with encouragement. Look for ways to affirm them.
5. Share your business philosophy (If Christian) with prospective employees. Remember, do not discriminate.

Specific tips as an Employee:

1. Be obedient to your employer. Do what you are called to do: “A day's pay for a day's work!” When sharing the gospel, **do so on your own time**, i.e. lunch or after work.
2. Be especially mindful of religious holidays for unique opportunities to initiate conversation or invitation to services.
3. Respect your employer. You are under his/her authority.
4. Watch your witness. Don't gossip, lie, or demean others. People are always watching, especially on your bad days!
5. Learn to be an encourager.

6. Be sincere of heart (Colossian 3:22). Work as if you are working for the Lord. Do not be a hypocrite.

Number 6: Focus on _____ evangelism.

Initiating relationships and maintaining them with non-Christians

Tips:

- Initiate new friendships with a non-believer...Be proactive.
- Focus on common interests and concerns.
- Pray for them and don't put a limit on how long they take to come to Jesus.
- Test their spiritual openness and always respect boundaries.
- Don't push or force...PULL!
- Be alert for God's opportunities.

Names: _____

Number 7: Offer to _____ for others.

Even non-believers welcome prayer.

Tips:

- How can I pray for you?
- Pray for their requests.
- Follow-up. Specifically, "How's _____ going, I've been praying for you. Is there anything else I can pray for you about?"
- Make sure you point them to Jesus as the author of any answered prayer.
- Continue to "test the seed" by inviting them to special evangelistic events, church Services, community group, outreach functions, etc.

Who can you start this technique with? _____

Additional Resource: Howard Tryon's book, Praying for You

Number 8: Share the _____ Road.

Memorize or mark these 5 verses in your Bible. The complete Gospel is found in one book.

I've bolded the key words

- **Romans 3:23:** For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.
- **Romans 6:23:** For the wages of sin is **death**, but the **free gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 5:8:** But, God demonstrated His **love** toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Romans 10:9:** That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord (GOD), and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved
- **Romans 8:1:** There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

The Romans Road shares both the good news and the bad news:

Tips

- Have the other person read the verses in their Bible or your Bible.
- Better yet, make a cheat sheet and memorize these verses so you can share the Word anytime and anyplace when you are caught with your Bible down!
- Include your personal testimony and how these verses led you to a new life (relationship) with our living Lord.

Number 9: Recount your personal _____.

Always Remember: Share with gentleness and respect! 1 Peter 3:15

Number 10: Use the _____ Illustration.

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE	CHRISTIAN
-----------------------	-----------

Ask two questions:

- How does a _____ become a Christian?
- What would the recipe look like to get into heaven?

Then walk them through making a recipe of a Chocolate Chip Cookie and Christian

Number 11: ASK...Are you _____ you are going to heaven? (1 John 5:13)

Questions to Ask:

1. Do you think you are going to heaven when you die? (Most will say, "I think so", or "I hope so").
2. Would you like to know FOR SURE you will go to heaven? (DUH??? ☺)
3. Did you know the Bible shows us in one place HOW TO BE SURE? (**Turn to 1 John 5:13**)

LET THEM READ IT FOR THEMSELVES ("Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God" Romans 10:17)

ASK: "Do you know what 'THESE THINGS' are"? The answer comes right before this verse **NOW THE BIG QUESTION**...Do you have Jesus living in you (This is relationship NOT religion). **ASK:** "WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE JESUS IN YOUR HEART BY FAITH"?

Number 12: Give away a _____ as a gift.

Prepare the Gift this way: (Suggested only...John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 John 5:11-13)

- Mark your favorite salvation verses with a highlighter pen.
- Include a card with the following written on it, "With Love, P.S. I marked a few of my favorite verses for you. Turn to page _____." Use John 3:16 and put a post-it note with next verse.
- Mark "Good News" verses first, so your intention is not misinterpreted.
- Use post-it notes after the first page with page numbers written on them to help them navigate through the truth of God's salvation message.
- Don't use too many verses (Perhaps 5 maximum).
- If using suggested verses, leave a note on final page..."_____ If you have already placed your faith in Jesus or if you do, please let me know as I pray for you daily...."

Conclusion:

This is *not* an exhaustive list...use *whatever* works!

With which methods do YOU feel most comfortable?

Who are you going to share Jesus with this next week?

Colossians 4:3-4 *Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.*

Ephesians 6:19 *Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.*

“BOOT CAMP” DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

The Essentials of the Christian Faith

LESSON 9- **Financial Stewardship**

Time in the word report _____

Time in prayer report _____

I shared Christ with _____ this week

I. Introduction

A. **LOST OR ANOTHER DAY DEEPER IN DEBT?**

B. **WHAT IS THIS WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT TO A MAN THAT IS THE WAY OF DEATH?** Let me sum it up for you in one word: _____

II. Ownership and Stewardship

A. **WHO OWNS YOUR STUFF?**

I Chronicles 29:11-12 and Psalm 24:1; Psalm 50:10-12; Psalm 104:29

_____ is the owner of _____!

B. **WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT US TO DO WITH HIS STUFF?**

Since we don't own it, God lets us manage it. That makes us what the Bible calls a _____.

What's the bottom line? The world's financial plan is irrelevant. *We must learn God's financial plan to be a faithful steward.*

C. Did you know that the Bible has less than 500 verses on **faith**, about 500 verses on **prayer**, and over 2300 verses on _____?

So what?

Why does the Bible speak so much about money? Matthew 6:24

III. Giving

A. IS TITHING A REQUIREMENT OF GOD?

What is God's purpose for tithing? Tithing is an external evidence of an _____ commitment. Tithing is an outward expression of an inward _____.
Proverbs 3:9

So, is tithing required of a New Testament believer? _____. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Is tithing beneficial for a New Testament believer? _____

Is 10% the limit for a New Testament believer

B. WHAT'S THE STANDARD? II Corinthians 8:1-5.

What's the difference between a TITHE and an OFFERING? II Corinthians 8:14.

What's the bottom line? Proverbs 3:5-6

C. God expects us to steward our Time, Talent and Treasure!

To get control of your:

- Time –
- Talent –
- Treasure –

IV. Getting out of Debt

HOW DID I GET HERE?

If you tell a lie often enough, loud enough, and long enough, the LIE will become accepted as TRUTH!

IS DEBT A SIN?

HOW DO I GET OUT OF DEBT?

There are a number of good debt reduction strategies, but nothing will work until you learn the art of CONTENTMENT!

Matt. 6:20-21 *“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Notice the order of treasure and heart. Treasure comes *first*, heart _____.

Biblical Financial Freedom

How does the Bible define, “financial freedom?” There isn’t a single verse, but drawing on the entire counsel of God, we define it this way:

Financial Freedom is . . .

- **Trusting God**
- **Being a conduit of God’s blessing not a dam that consumes and constipates**
- **Being content in all things**
- **Not allowing money any hold on your heart**

Getting Yourself Debt Free (An Example)

Debt Repayment List Example					
Creditor	Interest Rate	Monthly Payment	Balance Due	Months To Payoff	Total Interest Paid
Automobile Loan	7%	\$ 297.02	\$ 15,000.00	60	\$ 2,821.20
Discover Card	12%	\$ 66.00	\$ 3,000.00	61	\$ 1,005.65
Mortgage	8%	\$ 1,357.46	\$ 185,000.00	360	\$ 303,685.60
Sears Card	15%	\$ 22.00	\$ 1,000.00	67	\$ 476.90
Visa Card	18%	\$ 121.00	\$ 5,500.00	75	\$ 3,689.07
Totals		\$ 1,863.48	\$ 209,500.00		\$ 311,678.42

Lets assume we stop going to Starbucks a couple of times and put an extra \$25.00 a month toward our debts.

What order should we pay these off?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Following the plan, when will we pay off these debts?

Debt Repayment Schedule Using Additional \$25 Monthly Payment

	Sears	Discover	Visa	Auto Loan	Mortgage
ORIG BALANCE	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 185,000.00
ORIG PAYMENT	\$ 22.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 121.00	\$ 297.02	\$ 1,357.46
ADDITIONAL	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NEW PMT	\$ 47.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 121.00	\$ 297.02	\$ 1,357.46
BAL AFTER 2.08 YRS:	\$ -	\$ 1,983.24	\$ 4,342.57	\$ 9,378.40	\$ 181,635.41
ORIG PAYMENT	\$ -	\$ 66.00	\$ 121.00	\$ 297.02	\$ 1,357.46
ADDITIONAL	\$ -	\$ 47.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NEW PMT	\$ -	\$ 113.00	\$ 121.00	\$ 297.02	\$ 1,357.46
BAL AFTER 3.75 YRS:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,050.85	\$ 4,253.95	\$ 178,510.98
ORIG PAYMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121.00	\$ 297.02	\$ 1,357.46
ADDITIONAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113.00	\$ -	\$ -
NEW PMT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 234.00	\$ 297.02	\$ 1,357.46
BAL AFTER 5 YRS:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,879.55
ORIG PAYMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,357.46
ADDITIONAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 531.02
NEW PMT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,888.48
BAL AFTER 17.5 YRS:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Feel free to take out logos and header to make fit on 1 2-sided page

Getting Out of Debt, Step by Step

Without a budget, you don't stand a chance!
The following steps might be useful to your goal of being debt free.

Try to live by the 80-10-10 rule:

Tithe 10% of your income • Learn to live on 80% of your income • Save 10%

How do I get out of debt? One of the best methods of debt elimination is actually very simple. (1) Transfer ownership of every possession to God. (2) Give the Lord His part first (the tithe from your gross salary). (3) Allow no more debt (no bank or family loans and cut up all credit cards). (4) Develop a realistic balanced budget that will allow every creditor to receive as much as possible. (5) Start retiring the debt, beginning with the highest interest debt first. If all of them are high interest, pay the one with the smallest balance first. Once the smallest is paid off, put all the money on the next, and so on. Generally speaking, if these steps are followed, the average family will be debt free in less than five years.

- With the guide we just went over you need to make a list of all your expenses.
- It might be helpful for you to start with the blank "Personal Financial Statement" in your workbook. Do your best to break them down every expense by month and be sure to take into account the unexpected (i.e. car repairs).
- Now you're on your way to producing a budget; without one you are just kidding yourself about getting out of debt. Remember to budget your tithe (this should be at the top of your list). Budget your savings as well.
- Be aggressive in cutting out any unnecessary expenditure and make sure you are living within your income. **Reminder: cut up all credit cards!**
- Identify a source of capital like our \$25 example.
- Target the monthly reoccurring bill that you can pay off the fastest.
- As soon as you pay off this debt move to the next bill that can be paid off soonest using the original extra payment you were making, plus the "new money" from the bill you just paid off.
- Continue until you are debt free.

Hint: Should you come into any bonus money or raise, make sure you use these funds to pay off your debt before changing your lifestyle. Additionally, these funds may be the source of an offering God wants you to use for ministry.

Whatever you do, don't give up!

Additional Resources

Starting the budget can be a tedious plan. Remember to write everything down, save receipts, and use the forms we have provided for you. Crown's website, www.crown.org, has some wonderful tools for budgeting. Make full use of the resources. For instance, to see how your budget lines up against a guideline budget go to www.crown.org, click "Tools," click "Online Budget Guide" and then enter your numbers. You'll immediately have what you need.

Some Common Questions on Tithing

How do I give if I am going through difficult financial times?

Tithing While in Debt

March 31, 2005 - by Crown Financial Ministries

A farmer always keeps a portion of each harvest as seed stock to be planted the next season. If he didn't, he would not be able to grow another crop. As Christians, our tithe is our seed stock (2 Corinthians 9:10). Proverbs 3:9-10 says that we need to honor God by giving Him the first fruits of our produce (income or compensation). Therefore the first portion of our income belongs to God. It doesn't belong to anyone else—not even creditors.

A vow

God's Word makes it clear, however, that a vow (promise) of any kind is not to be taken lightly. Once someone has given his or her word, it becomes a binding contract. So, before agreeing to any terms, it is assumed that an individual has carefully considered the consequences. For the current generation, it appears that this concept is infrequently taught and seldom applied. A vow in today's world is often deemed to be something made under one set of circumstances and broken under another. For example, a vow to pay a creditor is ignored when the purchased product loses its usefulness. However, Psalm 37:21 says, *"The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but the righteous is gracious and gives."* Therefore, Christians must commit to pay back whatever they've borrowed, regardless of circumstances or how long it takes. It really makes no difference whether it's a personal note or a business note. Solomon said, *"It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay"* (Ecclesiastes 5:5). If you make a vow to pay—you must pay. If debts are made—debts must be paid, so, if Christians feel that they can either pay their tithe or pay their debts—not both—what does God expect them to do?

A matter of the heart

The principle of tithing is just that—a principle. God is looking for the right attitude in a person's giving. If there is not a true heart-felt willingness to give back to the Lord a portion of what He has entrusted to us, giving tithes upon tithes would be without purpose.

An option

For people who feel that they cannot afford to give the full tithe because they have too much debt, yet they are willing and want to tithe; perhaps there is an option that can satisfy both situations. Because God expects us to remain true to biblical principles, if we have made prior vows (in the form of taking on a debt) to man before making a vow to tithe to God, God directs that the vow be maintained in order to present a good witness (see Proverbs 22:1). In such cases, the tithe should come from the money not already pledged to creditors, but available to disperse. However, a commitment to give to God would certainly take precedence over any payment to creditors for debts contracted *after* a pledge was made to tithe.

Conclusion

It is a matter of the heart in giving to God. Christians should be looking for reasons to give rather than looking for ways not to give. Even though they may feel that they cannot afford to pay a full tithe, they need to commit to give something to the Lord. Under no circumstances should they refuse to give anything to the Lord, especially if they expect God to bless them.

Perhaps those in debt could start with a smaller amount than 10 percent and remain faithful to that commitment, increasing it as God provides. Or, until they have relieved themselves of some of their encumbering debt, they could provide some sort of volunteer service to the church or to people in need within the body of Christ.

Is the money I give tax deductible?

Yes. However, the key is to make sure you are giving in such a way that our accounting department will be able to track the money given (i.e. check, cash in envelope, cashier's check, charge, etc.).

When was the first tithe recorded in the Word?

The first tithe is found in Genesis 14 where warring kings capture Lot, Abram's nephew. Abram conquers the enemy kings and rescues Lot from captivity. Following this rescue, King Melchizedek of Salem (an ally of Lot) blesses and offers a celebration for Abram. Abram recognized Melchizedek's blessing as a benediction from the Lord and in turn, gives Melchizedek one-tenth (considered "the Kings share") of everything he had. This is the first recorded tithe and becomes a pattern for the later patriarchs Isaac and Jacob.

Didn't Jesus affirm the practice of tithing in Mathew 23:23?

If one reads the context of the entire passage beginning in verse 1, you will discover that this passage addresses the legalistic practices of the Pharisees and their unrighteous heart condition. The *entire* passage is focused on their hypocrisy. Jesus' affirmation of tithing is essentially a "yeah but."

Furthermore, when you consider that 1 out of 10 verses in the synoptic Gospels deals with money, 16 out of 38 parables deal with money, Matthew 23:23 is the *only* recorded mention of the word tithe by Jesus, and that Paul set the standard as sacrificial giving, It's apparent that we, as New Testament believers saved by God's awesome grace, have a higher standard.

What about cosigning?

Cosigning is when a person becomes legally responsible for the debt of another. Proverbs 17:18 warns that a man is "lacking in sense" who pledges for another. *Don't do it!* Unless you are prepared to give the money away with no expectation of repayment you will undue tension that can ruin a relationship.

You can find many more answers to your questions by visiting the common questions section on the Crown website www.crown.org

“BOOT CAMP” DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

The Essentials of the Christian Faith

LESSON 10 Part 1 **Spiritual Gifts**

Time in the word report _____

Time in prayer report _____

I shared Christ with _____ this week

I'm currently serving _____ or am willing to start _____

I'm tithing _____ or plan to start _____

I. Introduction

A. The church is described as the _____. **1 Corinthians 12:12, 27**

B. God has given each one of us a _____

1 Peter 4:10a

C. The purpose of spiritual gifts is to _____ for the benefit of those in the church.

1 Peter 4:10b; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 14:19

II. Gift Confusion (Manifestation Gifts)

There are THREE _____ of gifts listed in the Bible.

A. In 1 Corinthians the first type of Spiritual Gifts are called “Phanerosis” gifts, which mean a _____ of the Holy Spirit.

Manifestation gifts, like all Spiritual Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit as

_____ -NOT according to _____ desires, but _____ desire.

1Cor. 13:1 *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

III. Gifted People (Domata)

The SECOND TYPE of Gifts listed in the Bible are really NOT Gifts, but Gifted _____.

Eph. 4:11-13

IV. The last list are “GRACE” Gifts

“Grace” Gifts”, called “CHARIS CHARISMATA” in Greek, are gifts given by the Holy Spirit that **MOTIVATE** us to serve others. They are active at all times and work in proportion to the enabling of the Holy Spirit according to His will. **Romans 12:6-8**

There are 7 Gifts in this list found in the Book of Romans that we will study and most Christians have a **MIX** of these MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS.

1. Prophet/Perceiver

The God-given ability to communicate God's message in relation to the truth already revealed (Jude 3). It is not necessarily or even primarily prediction. Rather, it is done for the purposes of encouraging, strengthening and comforting (1 Corinthians 14:3). These have the ability to perceive the spiritual needs of others and meet those needs through Scripture.

Body Part: _____

2. Server

A server has the God-given ability to recognize a need and administer assistance to others. In relation to other believers, this releases them to utilize their God-given gifts (e.g. Deacons in Acts 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:28; and Romans 12:7).

Body Part: _____

3. Teacher

The God-given ability to study, research, explain and communicate truth (e.g. Paul and Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2).

Body Part: _____

4. Exhorter

The God-given ability to draw near to individuals in time of need, encouraging and counseling them accurately with the Word of God, and persuading them to take courage in the face of something they must do or assuring them to take comfort because of something that has occurred (e.g. Barnabas in Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:19-26; and 15:36-41).

Body Part: _____

5. Giver

The God-given ability to give freely of what God has entrusted to them. This includes giving time, material goods and financial resources with joy and eagerness and without any "ulterior motives" that would benefit the giver (e.g. David in I Chronicles 29:1-19).

Body Part: _____

6. Leadership/Administration

The God-given ability to lead others in meaningful endeavors which demonstrates personal care and concern in order to meet the needs of others and encourage their growth (E.g. fathers in I Timothy 3:4-5; 12).

Body Part: _____

7. Mercy/Compassion

The God-given ability to have immediate compassion for those who are suffering combined with great joy in meeting their needs (e.g. the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37).

Body Part: _____

Two Important Reminders

1. Scripture commands us to minister in many areas whether or not we have the corresponding spiritual gift.

Gifts to some

Ministering (serving)
Exhortation
Giving
Teaching
Showing mercy
Faith
Evangelism

Commands to all

Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
Exhort each other (Hebrews 10:25)
All give (2 Corinthians 9:7)
Make disciples (Matthew 28:19)
Be kind (Ephesians 4:32)
Walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7)
All witness (Acts 1:8)

2. No matter what spiritual gift(s) we have received, the Christian virtue of love must accompany the exercise of those gifts; otherwise, they will prove unfruitful. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

CONCLUSION (Peter 4:11)

The ultimate purpose of serving one another through our gifts is to _____

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GIFTS AND TALENTS

APPLICATION

As a result of today I will _____

“BOOT CAMP” DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

The Essentials of the Christian Faith

LESSON 11 **Spiritual Gifts** PT 2.

Time in the word report _____

Time in prayer report _____

I shared Christ with _____ this week

I'm currently serving _____ or am willing to start _____

I'm tithing _____ or plan to start _____

I. “GRACE” Gifts

“Grace” Gifts”, called “CHARIS CHARISMATA” in Greek, are gifts given by the Holy Spirit that _____ us to serve others. They are active at all times and work in proportion to the enabling of the Holy Spirit according to His will.

Romans 12:6-8 *And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace (charin) given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith; if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching; or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.*

There are 7 Gifts in this list found in the Book of Romans that we will study and most Christians have a _____ of these MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS.

Your dominate gift or gifts will modify the other proportion of gifts you may have been given by the Holy Spirit and what makes you uniquely YOU!

1. Prophet/Perceiver

The God-given ability to communicate God’s message in relation to the truth already revealed (Jude 3). It is not necessarily or even primarily prediction. Rather, it is done for the purposes of encouraging, strengthening and comforting (1 Corinthians 14:3). These have the ability to perceive the spiritual needs of others and meet those needs through Scripture.

Body Part: _____

2. Server

A server has the God-given ability to recognize a need and administer assistance to others. In relation to other believers, this releases them to utilize their God-given gifts (e.g. Deacons in Acts 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:28; and Romans 12:7).

Body Part: _____

3. Teacher

The God-given ability to study, research, explain and communicate truth (e.g. Paul and Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2).

Body Part: _____

4. Exhorter

The God-given ability to draw near to individuals in time of need, encouraging and counseling them accurately with the Word of God, and persuading them to take courage in the face of something they must do or assuring them to take comfort because of something that has occurred (e.g. Barnabas in Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:19-26; and 15:36-41).

Body Part: _____

5. Giver

The God-given ability to give freely of what God has entrusted to them. This includes giving time, material goods and financial resources with joy and eagerness and without any “ulterior motives” that would benefit the giver (e.g. David in I Chronicles 29:1-19).

Body Part: _____

6. Leadership/Administration

The God-given ability to lead others in meaningful endeavors which demonstrates personal care and concern in order to meet the needs of others and encourage their growth (E.g. fathers in I Timothy 3:4-5; 12).

Body Part: _____

7. Mercy/Compassion

The God-given ability to have immediate compassion for those who are suffering combined with great joy in meeting their needs (e.g. the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37).

Body Part: _____

II. Obstacles to Gift Flow.

1. Fear of the unknown and not trusting in Christ's strength
2. Anger or bitterness
3. Role-playing in an area you are not gifted in
4. Irresponsibility-You just don't care about serving
5. Habitual sin in one's life (especially not forgiving others)
6. Insensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading

Two Important Reminders

1. Scripture commands us to minister in many areas whether or not we have the corresponding spiritual gift.

Gifts to some

Serving
Exhortation
Giving
Teaching
Showing mercy
Faith
Evangelism

Commands to all

Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
Exhort each other (Hebrews 10:25)
All give (2 Corinthians 9:7)
Make disciples (Matthew 28:19)
Be kind (Ephesians 4:32)
Walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7)
All witness (1 Peter 3:15)

2. No matter what spiritual gift(s) we have received, the Christian virtue of love must accompany the exercise of those gifts; otherwise, they will prove unfruitful. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

III. Conclusion (1 Peter 4:11)

The ultimate purpose of serving one another through our gifts is to _____ !

APPLICATION...As a result of knowing God gave me a Spiritual Gift or Gifts to serve others in my local church, I will...

A. DO NOTHING _____

B. KEEP SERVING _____

C. START SERVING _____

When, Where, How?

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GIFTS AND TALENTS

Talents have to do with techniques and methods, gifts have to do with spiritual abilities. Talents depend on natural ability, gifts on spiritual endowment. Talents instruct, inspire, or entertain on a natural level. However, when a gift is exercised, something supernatural happens in and through the one who is ministering.

	<i>Talent</i>	<i>Gift</i>
<u>Source</u>	Common grace of the spirit	Special grace of the spirit
<u>Time Given</u>	Present from natural birth	Present from new birth
<u>Nature</u>	Natural ability	Spiritual endowment
<u>Purpose</u>	Instruction, entertainment, inspiration on a natural level	Spiritual growth of saints, Christian service in the church to build others up

“BOOT CAMP” DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

The Essentials of the Christian Faith

LESSON 12 Sanctified living & Spiritual Warfare!

Time in the Word report _____

Time in prayer report _____

I shared Christ with _____ this week

I am committed to stewarding God's Time, Talents and Treasure entrusted to me

I'm now serving _____ or have made plans to start _____

(Describe the Salvation Process) JUSTIFICATION-SANCTIFICATION-GLORIFICATION

POINT 1. Your spiritual growth takes place in the _____

Process when you work in _____ with the Holy Spirit!

Sanctification is both a *position* & a *condition*: **MEANING**="To Be Set Apart" or "Made Holy".

AS A POSITION- Sometimes it is used in place of being saved or made holy.

1Cor. 1:2, Heb. 10:14

AS A CONDITION- It is the process of becoming holy by obedient living. 1Th. 4:3-7

I. What is the Role of the Believer in Becoming like Jesus?

1. We must not _____ ourselves to this world. James 1:22
2. We must _____ our minds. Romans 12:2
3. Renewal happens on a _____, moment by moment basis. Ephesians 4:1, 22-24

II. Why Should I Walk Holy?

1. This is our way of _____ God for demonstrating His love for us. It is also worship.
Psalms 70:4
2. All believers will stand before the _____ of Christ. 2
Corinthians 5:10
3. Walking worthy also benefits us in _____ by inviting God's blessing. John 10:10

III. How Can I Walk Holy?

In the New Testament there are over many verses that tell us to "walk" a certain way all of which will help us learn to live a HOLY LIFE!

1. Be _____ – (lowering of your mind; having a spirit of modesty)

OPPOSITE= **GOAL=**

2. Be _____ – (meekness, temper of the spirit in which we accept God's dealings with us as good, without disputing or resisting)

OPPOSITE=

GOAL=

3. Be _____ – (long-suffering; long-tempered; self-restrained in the face of provocation,

which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish)

OPPOSITE=

GOAL

4. Bear with one another in _____ – (to bear with, means to endure or put up with sacrificially)

OPPOSITE=

GOAL=

5. Keep the _____ we have in the Spirit in _____ – (one, oneness and peaceable)

OPPOSITE=

GOAL=

Ephesians 4:22-24 *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off** your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to **put on** the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and **holiness**.*

According to Paul we are to _____ our old self and _____ our new self.

There are six more specific statements in the Book of Ephesians where we are exhorted to walk in true righteousness and holiness by practicing the “put-off/put-on” principle: Ephesians 4:25-32

6. Put off falsehood and speak _____ to one another (v 25).

7. In your anger, do not _____ or delay resolution (v 26-27).

8. Do not _____ from others, but instead work hard to share with others in need (v 28).

9. Let no _____ talk come from your mouth, but only words that build others up (v 29).

10. Do not _____ the Holy Spirit by choosing to sin or delaying putting off this list (v 30).

11. Put away bad _____ towards others and be filled with graciousness (v 31-32).

IV. The Sanctification Process-a Constant Battle

Gal. 5:16-24_

In Summary: We are to walk according to the _____ **not** the _____.

KEEP IN MIND-if you are going to walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit and cooperate with His direction in your life...EXPECT SPIRITUAL WARFARE!

The Bible teaches Christians to beware of _____ enemies working against holiness?

Number 1. Our own FLESH NATURE

Number 2. The WORLD

Number 3. SATAN and other fallen ANGELS James 4:1-7

V. God has given us SPECIAL ARMOR for Spiritual Warfare against the Devil who always attacks an obedient Christian living a holy life! Ephesians 6:10-20_

Christians need only be aware of THIS enemy, but NOT fear Satan and the other fallen angels because the apostle John speaking of SATAN and ANTI-CHRISTS says...

1John 4:4 *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*

Who is Satan and how does he work?

Essential to our study of Satan is to recognize that he is in **no way** equal to God. His knowledge, presence, and power are limited because he is an angelic being (a guardian cherub according to Ezekiel 28:14) created by God for the purpose of glorifying and serving God. However, he became proud in his heart and desired to be worshipped himself and exalted like God. So, he declared war upon God, with one-third of the angels joining his army to oppose God. Judged by God for his sin, the Serpent was then cast down to the earth (Isaiah 14:11-23; Ezekiel 28:1-19; Daniel 8:10; Revelation 12:3). Upon the earth, he appeared as a serpent to tempt Adam and Eve by twisting God's word and lying (Genesis 3:1-24; Revelation 12:9, 20:2). After successfully tempting Adam and Eve to sin, the Serpent was judged and cursed by God for his sin and told that Jesus would ultimately come to completely defeat him, though Jesus would suffer physical harm in their conflict (Genesis 3:14-15).

The motivation for all of the Serpent's work is pride and self-glory, instead of humility and God's glory (Ezekiel 28:2; James 4:6-7). Subsequently, one of his most powerful allies in opposing God's people is their own pride. Some have speculated as to why the Serpent continues in his war against God even though Scripture is clear that he will be ultimately defeated and painfully judged. It may be that the Serpent is indeed so proud that he has deceived himself and now believes that God is a liar who can be beaten.

In his war against God, the Serpent not only has a third of fallen angels who are now known as demons (2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 9:1, 12:3-4), but he also has people who are allies in his army: either by demonic possession, demonic influence, or simply living according to their sinful nature and flesh. Such people include: False prophets who speak for the Serpent (2 Peter 2:1); False apostles who begin ministries for the Serpent (2 Corinthians 11:13); False Christians who divide churches (Galatians 2:4); False teachers who teach heretical doctrine for the Serpent (2 Peter 2:1)

The Serpent uses any means at his disposal and has some tactics that have proven particularly effective for him on people. These include: Torment (Acts 5:16); Physical injury (Acts 8:4-8); Deceit and trickery (Acts 13:9-10); Sexual temptation (1 Corinthians 7:5); False religion (1 Corinthians 10:14-22); Scheming (2 Corinthians 2:10-11); Secret and shameful ways that deceive people and distort Scripture (2 Corinthians 4:2-4); Sexual and marital relationships between believers and unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:15); The preaching of another Jesus and gospel (2 Corinthians 11:1-4); Anger and bitterness (Ephesians 4:17-32); Foolishness and drunkenness (Ephesians 5:8-21); False miracles (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10); Blasphemy (1 Timothy 4:1-2); Idle gossiping busybodies (1 Timothy 5:11-15); Persecution (1 Peter 5:8-11); Sin (1 John 3:1-8); Murder (1 John 3:12); Hatred (1 John 3:13-15); False spirits (1 John 4:1-6); Idolatry (1 John 5:18-21); Deception (2 John 7); Accusation (Revelation 12:10)

Has Jesus conquered Satan?

The Bible is emphatically clear that Jesus Christ has utterly defeated Satan and is Lord over the world, flesh, devil and demons. Colossians 2:13-15, Hebrews 2:14-15

Can a Christian be possessed by a demon?

A Christian cannot be possessed by a demon because they are under the control and dominion of the Holy Spirit. However, it is possible for a believer to come under the influence of a demon (Matt.16:22-23; Acts 5:3).

Can a non-Christian be possessed by a demon?

Yes, Jesus is clear that an unbeliever already has Satan as their father (John 8:43-44) and they have none of Christ's authority to protect them. The Bible does not indicate exactly how someone becomes demon-possessed, but a simple reading of the gospels (Matthew includes a number of examples) or Acts does show that demon-possessed people did come to Jesus and the disciples and they were often delivered and converted.

Is it my fault when I sin?

Yes, when we sin we cannot blame it on anyone but ourselves and must take responsibility for our sin by taking it to God in prayerful repentance. Though Jesus has utterly defeated Satan, a Christian can give conquered ground in their lives to the Enemy by habitual sins such as anger, unforgiveness, bitterness, foul language, sexual immorality, impurity, greed, coarse joking, etc. (Ephesians 4:26-5:11). Likewise, a Christian should avoid occultist entries into their life, such as astrology, new age paraphernalia, charms, séances, Wicca, games like Ouija, etc. (Leviticus 19:26, 31; 20:6; Deuteronomy 18:9-13; Acts 19:18-20).

“BOOT CAMP” DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

The Essentials of the Christian Faith

LESSON 13 The Church, Community and Worship!

I. What is the Church?

Col. 1:9, Col. 1:10-20

1. The Church is a _____ of believers, united together by their relationship with Christ, irrespective of denomination...In this sense the Church is UNIVERSAL
2. The church comes together to _____ Christ, and as such He should have first place in our weekly commitments. It is every believer's choice whether God gets our _____ time or gets our leftovers when attending church is inconvenient.
3. The UNIVERSAL Church is made up of ALL _____ churches, where believers are committed to worshipping God and serving each other side by side in a LOCAL church, so the BODY of Christ remains healthy.

How has this changed today?

II. Why does the Church, LOCAL and UNIVERSAL Exist?

1. The Church exists to serve _____ by serving _____ within the LOCAL church.

Rom. 12:1, Rom. 12:4-6

2. The LOCAL church exists to serve GOD by supporting _____ work outside its walls. **Rom. 15:24**

3. The church, both LOCAL and UNIVERSAL exists to produce _____ of Jesus Christ

Matt. 28:19-20 “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

4. The church exists to _____ Christ's Kingdom on earth.

Matt. 16:13-18

5. These verses also teach us that Jesus is the _____ of the Church...He is in fact the _____ of His Church.

Ephesians 2:19-20.

6. The Church exists for horizontal relationships and fellowship with other believers in _____ GROUPS or HOME GROUPS.

Acts 2:41-42, Acts 2:46-47

7. The LOCAL church is a place of encouragement for every believer and a home where God is worshipped _____!

Heb. 10:23-25, Psa. 22:3

8. The LOCAL Church is to feed the pastor and the Pastor _____ the flock!

1Tim. 5:17-18, 2Tim. 4:2, 1 Pet. 5:2-3

III. What is Worship and who does it?

1. Worship is declaring to God His great _____.

Psa. 150:1-5

2. We are _____ to worship God!

Psa. 150:6

3. If believers won't worship God, _____ + will take our place !

Luke 19:37-40

4. Worship is daily _____ especially at a weekend church service.

Romans 12:1

5. Worship is everything and _____ you do to the Glory of God.

1 Peter 4:11b

6. Worship is also to be experienced _____.

Colossians 3:16

7. Worship is praising God in _____ and in _____.

John 4:23

8. _____ to God is worship!

9. The celebration of the _____ is worship!

10. Worship is what all believers were _____ !

FINAL REVIEW (Form 1-Anonymous)

I ATTENDED _____ of the 16 weeks of Boot Camp

BEFORE BOOTCAMP I read the Bible _____ times a week

NOW I read the Bible _____ times a week

BEFORE BOOTCAMP I read the prayed _____ times a week

NOW I read the pray _____ times a week

BEFORE BOOTCAMP I talked about Jesus with a potential non-believer
_____ times a week

NOW I talk about Jesus with a potential non-believer _____ times a week

BEFORE BOOTCAMP I gave God the first _____ %, once a month

NOW I give God the first _____ %, once a month

BEFORE BOOTCAMP I served God _____ hours per week

NOW I serve God _____ hours per week

BEFORE BOOTCAMP I was in a community group weekly _____ YES _____ NO

I am in a community group now _____ or am willing to join one now _____

MY COMMITMENT TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS (Form 2)

I am committed to serve God in my local church by

I would like help in this area _____ YES _____ NO

I am in a Discipleship Group _____ or want to join one _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____ ALTERNATE

Comments
