



New Believer Follow-Up Study Guide

12-WEEK PROGRAM

Introduction

Welcome to the body of Christ! Congratulations on taking the important first step of committing your life to Christ! You've started and Incredible Journey.

Every new believer needs some training to help direct them on this journey. After all, you wouldn't give keys to a brand new car to someone who has never driven before – that would be dangerous to them, as well as to many others. What we want to do here is to provide a vehicle for that initial training for those who have committed their lives to Christ either through a prayer in asking Christ into their lives or through the public ceremony of baptism.

As with driving training, every new Christian student ("disciple") needs a teacher (a mentor), and they need to be in "the car" *together* for the training to be as effective as possible. So we recommend that you hook up with a "mentor" as soon as possible when you get back home. We recommend that each "student" and each "trainer" be located in close enough proximity that they can commit to getting together on a regular basis, ideally at least once a week for a 12-week period, in order to complete this training session. Obviously this will only be the beginning of the new believer's walk in life with Christ. It will be an ever-deepening journey throughout one's life.

The mentor should be a Christian of sound character and solid faith and mature in the ways of the Lord. They need not be a Pastor or other ordained/trained leader. But it does need to be someone who has walked the road for a while and is still headed in the right direction.

The process is simple. Just take one session each week (or whatever period you and your mentor arrange) and follow along. You should allow approximately 90 minutes for each session. Of course the teacher will want to be prepared for the session by reviewing the material in depth prior to each session. And the student will have some reading and such to do between each session. Open and close each session with prayer, having both the trainer and the student praying.

One key item to remember is to have fun! God did not call us into His Kingdom to be bored to death. He wants us to have an enjoyable time. So please feel free to change your settings and be comfortable in these discussions and get to know one another better during your time together.



Pathways

making disciples who make disciples, who make disciples ...

Session 1

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST!

Welcome to the body of Christ, to eternal life, and to the gift (and gifts) of the Holy Spirit. By receiving the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart, God has adopted you into His family as one of His children. You are now the heir to the special rights and privileges reserved for God's children. His promises to us have been revealed through the Holy Scriptures of the Bible.

As you read your Bible, you'll eventually come across the story of the Prodigal Son (if you haven't already heard of this story). It about a son who decides to leave his father and go his own way. He ends up spending all of his money and getting into all kinds of trouble. Finally, he decides it will be best to go home. His father is still waiting for him to return after all that time and welcomes him with open arms, gifts and a party to celebrate the son's return.

That is now your story. When God made man, we were His children. Then mankind turned away from God to go our own way. Now that you have turned back to God, He is once again your Father and He has gifts and promises waiting for you.

REVIEW

Let's look again at God's plan of salvation and how you fit into it.

1. Take a few minutes to go over the Bridge Illustration (Chart 1) to review the gospel message.
2. Do you believe that God lives within you?
3. What evidences are there that you have been born again?
4. Are you finding yourself beginning to turn away from sinful behavior and attitudes?
5. Do you have any doubts or questions?

LESSON

Today we will focus upon several key promises God has given His children.

1. You now have eternal life. (I John 5:11-13)
2. You are now a new creation in Christ Jesus. (II Corinthians 5:17)
3. You have been adopted into God's family. (Ephesians 1:3-6)
4. You have been saved by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8-10)
5. Jesus paid the penalty for your sins. (Colossians 2:13-15)
6. God's Spirit will confirm that you belong to Him. (Romans 8:16)
7. God's Spirit will be your constant help. (John 14:16)
8. Nothing will separate you from God's love. (Romans 8:35-39)

Pathways

making disciples who make disciples, who make disciples ...



9. You can have victory over sin. (I John 5:4-5)
10. You now have peace with God. (Romans 5:1)

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Scriptural Reading: John 1-2

Scripture Memorization: I Corinthians 10:13

Write out any questions or comments you may have. And don't forget that it's common to struggle with doubts too---even the apostles did, sometimes (Matthew 28:17). Be sure to feel free to share any of those that come up as questions as well!

HELPFUL HINT

When memorizing scripture, it is best to write it out on an index card from an easy to read translation. Review it a few times each day, and by then end of the week you'll have it memorized!

Also remember: You are not who you have always been anymore. God has moved in and is living in your heart now. Listen to Him! You now have eternal life! Live in the Spirit and not in the flesh any longer.



Session 2

LEARN TO PRAY

The Lord invites His children to regularly communicate with Him through prayer. We can have constant access to God, lifting all burdens and problems before His throne. Prayer puts believers in touch with the resources of heaven for power, protection and provision. As we pray, our relationship with Christ grows even stronger. Together, let's learn to pray as God's Word teaches.

REVIEW

1. Can you remember what are some of the promises God has given to you?
2. Let's talk about some experiences we may have had where we've already experienced those promises.

LESSON

Our focus today will be on the power of prayer. There is all the difference in the world between knowing about a person and knowing a person. A man who never prays can know a lot about God, but only a prayerful man can truly know God (Psalms 63; John 10:27-29; Luke 13:22-27). We are called to an ever-deepening life of knowing the Lord who loves us and wants us to share our whole lives with Him.

Prayer is not twisting the arm of God. Rather, it is cooperating with Him in His purposes for the world. In prayer we discover God's will and join in His purpose (Matthew 9:38). So you see, praying and doing go hand-in-hand.

It is wise to make regular times for prayer (Daniel 6:10). Prayer is often done alone (Mark 1:35) and at other times it is with a group (Acts 1:14). You can also learn to pray brief prayers throughout the day as you have need (Matthew 14:30)---God will hear you from wherever you are! And definitely don't forget to offer up to God prayers of thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2).

Answers to prayer often come in three forms: yes, no, and not right now. Be willing to wait on the Lord. He truly has your best interest at heart.

1. Notice the pattern of prayer Jesus taught His disciples in Luke 11:1-4:
 - a. praise / worship
 - b. pray for God's will in your life and in the lives of others
 - c. surrender daily needs to Him
 - d. confess sin and repent
 - e. trust God for help in trials and temptations



2. What principle of prayer is found in Luke 11:5-10?
3. What condition does Jesus attach to answered prayer? (John 15:7)
4. The following scriptures tell us when to pray:
 - a. Mark 1:35
 - b. Ephesians 6:18
 - c. Philippians 4:6
 - d. James 5:13-16
 - e. I Thessalonians 5:17
5. Notice the things these scriptures guide us to pray for:
 - a. Luke 6:28
 - b. Luke 22:40
 - c. Ephesians 1:15-18
 - d. Colossians 1:9-10
 - e. Colossians 4:3
6. What other things might you pray for?
7. If you don't feel like praying, what do you think you should do about that?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Scriptural Reading: John 3-4

Scripture Memorization: Review all previous scripture memorization verses.

Write out any questions or comments

HELPFUL HINT

Sometimes we can get too bogged down in trying to remember all of the things to pray for and exactly how or when to pray. The most important thing to remember is that prayer is communication between you and God. Make it holy, make it special, make it regular, and anticipate it being a lot of fun. Just talk to Him like He's your best friend, your Father, and powerful enough to do more than you could ever imagine. He is, and He wants to give you all He's got. He often will give you His greatest gifts in times of prayer! Go for it!



Session 3

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

A Christian leader once noted that evangelism in the United States calls many people to faith, but few to obedience. Too often individuals want Christ's salvation, yet they live their lives by the world's standards. True discipleship involves both surrender and obedience. Jesus is Lord and we must say yes to His commands. Christians are called to follow His teaching and example in all they do. Today, let us discuss Jesus Christ as Lord.

REVIEW

Let's take a few minutes and look back at the promises God gives to His children.

1. How can you know for sure that Christ is in your heart? (Romans 8:16)
2. What did Jesus do for you on the cross? (Colossians 2:13-15)
3. How secure are you in God's family? (Romans 8:35-39)
4. How did you receive peace with God? (Romans 5:1)
5. What is the role of the Comforter (God's Spirit)? (John 14:26)
6. Do you have any questions or doubts?

LESSON

Today we will consider the relationship believers should have to Jesus Christ, the Lord.

1. What name did God give Christ Jesus? (Philippians 2:9-11)
2. What two actions will people take because Jesus is Lord?
 - a. Philippians 2:10
 - b. Philippians 2:11
3. What do these two actions signify?
4. Why did Jesus question those who called Him Lord? (Luke 6:46)
5. Can you identify the Lordship principles found in these verses?
 - a. Luke 14:26
 - b. Luke 14:33
 - c. John 14:15
 - d. John 14:21
 - e. John 15:9-10
6. How are we to view work as Christians? (Colossians 3:23-24)
7. What should be our attitude before the Lord? (James 4:10)

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Pathways

making disciples who make disciples, who make disciples ...



Scriptural Reading: John 7-8

Scripture Memorization: Review all previous scripture memorization verses.

Write out any questions, or comments

HELPFUL HINT

We show Jesus that we love Him and trust Him by doing what He has told us is best for us. If you need help on a project or homework, who do you ask? Someone that knows the answer, right? That's all Jesus wants you to do – ask Him for help, and then follow His lead. After all, He did create you and everything that exists – He does know the right answer to every question, and only He can see the future of a matter.



Session 4

THE BOND OF FELLOWSHIP

Christians should not live isolated from other believers. Instead, they are to develop loving relationships characterized by unity, encouragement and support. Together we can resist the enemy, grow strong in the Lord and boldly witness for Jesus Christ. Our Lord has called believers out of the world and toward one another. We must make a deep commitment to the people of Christ, meeting regularly for fellowship. That will be the focus on this lesson.

REVIEW

Let's look back to last week's lesson on the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

1. List any specific ways in which you have submitted to Christ's Lordship.
2. How could you make Jesus Lord of your possessions?
3. Are there areas of your life in which you struggle to make Christ Lord? List them and pray about them.
4. Why do you think Jesus links obedience to love?
5. What does the following statement mean to you? "If Jesus is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord at all."
6. Do you have any questions or things you find confusing?

LESSON

Christians must learn to depend on one another in the body of Christ.

1. What distinguishes Christians as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ? (John 13:34-35)
2. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Note three admonitions given to believers:
 - a. spur one another on to love and good deeds
 - b. do not give up meeting together
 - c. encourage one another
3. What one principle emerges from I Corinthians 12:12-26?
4. Review how Ephesians 4:15-16 emphasizes growing together in love and growing mature in Christ.
5. What characterized the new believers' commitment to each other in Acts 2:44-45?
6. What responsibility do we as Christians have for others? (Romans 15:1-2)
7. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and discuss who two people are better than one.
8. What should Christians do when they meet together? (Colossians 3:15-16; Acts 2:42-47)



9. List the times and places that you meet/can meet with other Christians for the above activities.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Scriptural Reading: John 9-10

Scripture Memorization: I John 1:9

Write out any questions, doubts, or comments

HELPFUL HINT

Just as Sam helped Frodo to complete the journey he had in the “Lord of the Rings” saga, so our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ will help you, as you will help them, complete your journey. Join a fellowship and make some good friends. Get to know them well, and allow them to get to know you. We all see things from different perspectives, and they will have insights into things you have not thought of yet. Learn from others experiences and share what you have learned with them. And remember---don’t just go to church to “get” something from God and others. Become a real part of a fellowship and give to God and others. It’s what Jesus did!



Session 5

STUDY THE WORD

God has revealed Himself and His will for Christians in the pages of the Bible. His Word contains a fascinating wealth of things we need to know for growing in our faith. In Scripture we discover information about God, ourselves, relationships with others, and much more. As a young Christian, it is critically important that you learn to read and “feed” on the Word of God. You will find that it provides just the right nourishment for growing strong in Christ. You’ll also find that it provides a lot of joy!

REVIEW

Christians do not only enter into a relationship with Christ, but they are bonded together with every other Christian. The Bible calls us the body of Christ.

1. Reflect on these “one another” passages that are found in God’s Word:
 - a. accept one another
 - b. bear one another’s burdens
 - c. care for one another
 - d. comfort one another
 - e. confess your sins to one another
 - f. serve one another
 - g. show patience to one another
 - h. be hospitable toward each other
 - i. be kind to one another
 - j. love one another
 - k. pray for one another
 - l. be at peace with one another
 - m. encourage one another
 - n. fellowship with one another
 - o. forgive one another
2. What do these instructions tell you about our commitment to other Christian believers?
3. Do you have any questions?

LESSON

The Bible is God’s personal letter to you. Learn to study its instruction each day.

1. Read I Peter 2:2. What does Peter call a new Christian?
2. What should the new Christian long for?



3. II Timothy 3:16 tells us that God's Word is God-breathed. What do you think that means?
4. What use does scripture have in the believer's life? (II Timothy 3:16)
5. What special instruction did God give Joshua regarding His Word? (Joshua 1:6-8)
6. When should God's people read His Word? (Joshua 1:8)
7. Read Psalm 1. What is the key to living a prosperous Christian life?
8. When reading God's Word, consider these four guidelines: read it slowly, systematically, sensitively, and sincerely.
9. What is God's command to you regarding His Word? (II Timothy 2:15)

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Scriptural Reading: John 11-12

Scripture Memorization: Review all previous scripture memorization verses.

Write out any questions, doubts, or comments

HELPFUL HINT

The Bible is a very large book. But there is no need to be intimidated by it. God doesn't expect you to have it memorized by tomorrow. Just take it piece by piece, bit by bit, one chapter at a time, one day at a time. The neat thing about reading the Bible after you are a Christian is that now God is helping to show you things because He is living in you and reading right along with you. He will show you things pertinent to your life now. Read the same thing years later, and you will see something different – guaranteed, if you have eyes to see.



Session 6

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before Jesus ascended into heaven He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. Our Lord did not want His followers to face life and ministry alone. He promised to send His Spirit, known to believers as the Helper and the Comforter. God's Spirit is still at work, wanting to infill and empower believers. Today we will focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in your life.

REVIEW

Scripture is God's inspired message written for His children.

1. What particular truths did you discover in God's Word this past week?
2. Why is reading the Scriptures so important to Christians?
3. What was God's promised key to success recorded in Joshua 1:7?
4. List again the four purposes of God's Word recorded in II Timothy 3:16.
5. What equips believers for every good work? (II Timothy 2:15)
6. Do you have any questions or doubts?

LESSON

God is Father, Son *and* Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the "Counselor" Christ promised would come to His disciples after He ascended to heaven. The Holy Spirit is God's provision of Himself for us, coming inside us to make us a dwelling place of God, and living there and working through us for growth, protection and fruitfulness. We will never be alone anymore! We will always have God's Presence in us through His Holy Spirit.

1. What do these scriptures tell you about the Holy Spirit?
 - a. Genesis 1:2
 - b. Romans 8:14
 - c. John 14:16-17
 - d. Romans 1:4
 - e. John 16:8
 - f. Matthew 3:16
2. When does the Holy Spirit come to the believer? (Ephesians 1:13)
3. What must a person do to receive the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 1:13)
4. Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit comes to do certain things in our lives. What two activities does He mention in John 14:26?
5. Where does the Holy Spirit take up residence in your life? (John 14:17)
6. Read what Jesus says about how long the Holy Spirit will be with you. (John 14:16)



7. What four things does the Holy Spirit want to do in you?
 - a. John 14:17
 - b. II Thessalonians 2:13 and Hebrews 9:14
 - c. I Corinthians 12:1-11
 - d. Acts 1:8
8. God gives specific guidance on how to receive the Spirit's fullness. What is it? (Luke 11:13)

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Scriptural Reading: John 13-14

Scripture Memorization: II Timothy 3:16

Write out any questions, doubts, or comments

HELPFUL HINT

The Holy Spirit is God living in you. And if God is living in you, then you have nothing to fear. You have access to God 24/7, and He will never leave you. Be confident in this, and be bold for the Lord.



Session 7

GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

A common question Christians ask is, "How can I know God's will for my life?" We are constantly faced with decisions and we must know how to best determine God's plan. Be assured that the Heavenly Father wants you to know His will. He does not want you to decide in the dark or make wrong choices. Today we will look at God's promises and consider some practical steps toward discovering His will.

REVIEW

The Holy Spirit of God is actively at work in your life. Have you recognized His presence?

1. Has the Holy Spirit helped you in any way this past week?
2. What two sins does God's Word warn us about relative to the Holy Spirit? (I Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30)
3. Review the fruits of the Spirit's presence in you as recorded in Galatians 5:22-25.
4. What particular things has the Holy Spirit convicted you of in recent days?
5. Do you have any questions?

LESSON

Scripture reveals that God has a wonderful plan for our lives.

1. The Bible tells us that God wants to guide us into His way. (Psalm 25:8-10)
2. What is the first key to discovering His will for our lives? (Matthew 6:33)
3. Before seeking direction in specific situations, be sure you are submissive to His general will. What is that will?
 - a. II Peter 3:9
 - b. I Thessalonians 4:3
 - c. Ephesians 5:17-18
4. When facing a decision what should you do? (James 1:5)
5. If you seek God's will, He will answer your prayers. (I John 5:14-15)
6. What is the problem with doing things your own way, without direction from God? (Isaiah 55:8 and Joshua 9:1-15)
7. What steps should you take to discover the will of God in your life?
 - a. Psalm 119:105 – delight in the Word
 - b. Proverbs 11:14; 15:22 – receive counsel from mature believers
 - c. Acts 13:2-3 – follow the Holy Spirit's guidance



- d. Proverbs 3:5-6 – submit your plans to God
 - e. Colossians 1:9 – pray
8. What advice does Paul give in Romans 12:2 about discovering God's will?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Scriptural Reading: John 15-16

Scripture Memorization: Review all previous scripture memorization verses.

Write out any questions, doubts, or comments

HELPFUL HINT

When faced with two equally acceptable choices, simply ask which one is most likely to bring the most glory to God and expand His Kingdom the most. Then choose for God and not for your own self.



Session 8

EFFECTIVE WITNESSING

When Jesus called the first disciples, He said, "Come, follow me, ... and I will make you fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). From the beginning the Lord made it clear that witnessing was a basic ingredient of discipleship. Every Christian must be ready and willing to share the message of salvation with others. Jesus wants us to reach out to lost men and women everywhere, spreading His good news. Today we will discuss why, how and when we should do that.

REVIEW

God wants you to walk daily according to His Word and His will. How have you been doing?

1. Have you faced any decisions this past week?
2. How did you arrive at the answers?
3. Are there any areas of your life presently outside of God's will you would like to talk about or just pray silently about right now?
4. What guidance would you give another person about discovering God's will?
5. What three adjectives does Paul use when speaking about God's will in Romans 12:2?
6. Do you have any questions?

LESSON

Thousands of people all around you are lost and without Christ. It is God's will that we all be engaged in seeking and helping to save the lost. Will you do your part in reaching them?

1. What is God's desire for this lost and broken world? (I Timothy 2:4)
2. Why are people lost and bound for eternal death? (Romans 3:23; 6:23)
3. What has God done for sinners? (John 3:16 & Colossians 2:13-15)
4. How will people find out about God's salvation? (Romans 1:14-15)
5. What name has God given you? (II Corinthians 5:20)
6. As an ambassador, what should you be doing? (II Corinthians 5:20)
7. What message has God committed to you? (II Corinthians 5:19)
8. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is Christ's command?
9. How is a person saved? (Ephesians 2:8-9)
10. Review the following scriptures that outline the gospel message: Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9; 12:1-2.
11. Who motivates us to faithfully witness? (Acts 1:8)



PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Scriptural Reading: John 17-18

Scripture Memorization: Proverbs 3:5-6

Write out any questions, doubts, or comments

HELPFUL HINT

Being a witness for God, or sharing the gospel with someone, need not be scary. Just be yourself, and out of love for that person, tell them of the things God has done for you and how He has brought you into eternal life.



Session 9

QUIET TIME

The Lord wants to develop a deep and lasting relationship with you, His disciple. Just as with any vital relationship, doing that takes time and commitment. The saints of the past set apart time each day to meet with God. They would turn to God in prayer, and He would speak to them through His Word and His Spirit. Their devotional life became a great source of growth and strength. Every believer should prioritize a daily quiet time with God. That will be the focus of this week's lesson.

REVIEW

Have you had any opportunities to witness for Christ lately?

1. List the names of at least five non-Christian friends.
2. What is God's greatest desire for their lives?
3. If God opened the door for you to share the gospel, what would you say?
4. How can people receive God's gift of salvation? (Romans 6:23 & Ephesians 2:8-9)
5. What is the Great Commission? Where is it found in scripture?
6. Do you have any doubts or questions?

LESSON

To grow strong in Christ you must spend quality time with Him in prayer and study.

1. Was quiet time with God important to Jesus? (Mark 1:35)
2. When did He get alone with the Father?
3. What was David's attitude about time with God? (Psalm 63:1)
4. What is the source of fruit in a believer's life? (John 15:5)
5. What thoughts come to mind when Jesus says to abide in Him?
6. Consider these suggestions for having an effective quiet time:
 - a. Ask the Lord to give you a desire to have a quiet time with Him
 - b. Find a suitable place
 - c. Choose your best time
 - d. Develop a simple format. (One suggestion is the **STOP** plan: **S**ilence – begin with quiet stillness before the Lord; **T**hankfulness – praise God for who He is and what He has done; **O**penness – read a section of God's Word, reflecting on it's truths; **P**ray – using an outline such as the Lord's prayer, petition the Heavenly Father.)



- e. Ask a Christian friend to pray for you about having a consistent quiet time.
7. How should we approach God in our quiet time? (Hebrews 11:6)

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Scriptural Reading: John 19-20

Scripture Memorization: Review all previous scripture memorization verses.

Write out any questions, doubts, or comments

HELPFUL HINT

You don't have to be quiet during quiet time. You can sing, pray and read aloud if you want. Quiet is more a reference for the things that normally take up your time. Take time and give it completely to God, like an offering, and drink in the riches He has in store for you.



Session 10

GET INVOLVED

If you don't use a muscle, it becomes small and weak. Similarly, if you don't allow yourself to be used by the Holy Spirit, you will not allow Him to flow through you like a mighty life-giving river of water that He desires to be. If we open ourselves up to His guidance, and ask for ways to join in the work of the Lord, He will lead us into ministries He has prepared for us. And then we will be positioned to make disciples who make disciples, who make disciples...

REVIEW

As we discussed last week, every Christian must develop a quality devotional life.

1. Talk about your experience during your quiet time this week.
 - a. How often did you meet God in quiet time?
 - b. How long did you normally spend in quiet time?
 - c. What truths did you glean from scripture?
 - d. What effect did your quiet time have in your life?
2. Who is praying for you regarding your quiet time?
3. Do you have any questions or doubts?

LESSON

Every Christian should be active in some form of ministry.

1. Who is the Head of the Church? (Ephesians 5:23)
2. Who is to provide the leadership in a local church? (Titus 1:5)
3. What are the various activities in a healthy local church? (Acts 2:42-47)
 - a. teaching the Scripture
 - b. fellowship
 - c. communion
 - d. generosity
 - e. worship
 - f. evangelistic growth
4. Who is to do the work of ministry in a church? (Ephesians 4:12)
5. Who determines the ministry Christians are to have in a church? (I Corinthians 12:11)
6. What is the supreme mark of the Christian church? (John 13:34-35)
7. What local church are you attending?
8. What ministry, or ministries, are you interested in getting involved in?



PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Scriptural Reading: John 21

Scripture Memorization: Matthew 28:18-20

Write out any questions, doubts, or comments

HELPFUL HINT

When God gives you gifts, He doesn't do it just to see your excitement in ripping off the paper wrapping. He desires you to use your gifts for the furthering of the Kingdom. Put those gifts, skills, and desires to work for the Lord, and He will bring satisfaction back into your life.



Session 11

BE A FAITHFUL STEWARD

Our Heavenly Father is generous with His children. He places countless resources at their disposal. But these gifts are not to be hoarded or used solely for selfish desires. Time, talents and finances are not only for our blessing, but also for the blessing of others. As God's child it is critically important that you faithfully give to the Lord's work. Today we will discuss the issue of being a faithful steward.

REVIEW

Every believer should be actively involved in some form of ministry.

1. Are you regularly attending church services?
2. List two ministries, or areas of service, you feel that the Holy Spirit has gifted you and has put a desire in your heart to help out with.
3. Make plans to talk with the Pastor, or others, about your interest.
4. If nothing comes to mind, make plans to ask what areas are in need of assistance that you might be able to aid.
5. Pray about these matters with your trainer and keep them updated on what areas you get involved in.
6. Do you have any questions or doubts?

LESSON

Disciples should serve God with their time, talents and finances.

1. Read Matthew 6:25-33. What does verse 33 teach about the priority of our lives?
2. What does Psalm 24:1 say about the earth and its resources? Does that include your resources?
3. What is the central principle of the parable in Matthew 25:14-30?
4. What does God call the man who buried his talent? (Matthew 25:6)
5. What principle of giving is identified in Malachi 3:8-12 and Luke 6:38?
6. Notice Paul's instructions in Ephesians 5:15-16 regarding time.
7. God expects us to use spiritual gifts for His kingdom. (I Peter 4:10)
8. What should be the attitude of our service? (II Corinthians 9:7)
9. Evaluate your stewardship of time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances. Have you been found trustworthy in these areas? (I Corinthians 4:2)

PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE NOW

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Scriptural Reading: Matthew 25

Scripture Memorization: Review all previous scripture memorization verses.

HELPFUL HINT

Your journey in true life has just begun. Choose your paths wisely, and seek guidance from the Lord. Some growth hurts, and other growth will simply amaze you. Be sensitive to the Spirits lead, and be willing to do something out of the ordinary for Him. Enjoy the journey!



Session 12

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!

Jesus Christ, at the cross, has already defeated our sin and the work of Satan. , And now Jesus has empowered us to walk in victory as well. But remember that just like Jesus faced opposition, you will too! In fact, immediately after he was baptized, he was “led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4). As a baby Christians, you might find yourself tempted too as soon as you get home. --But be of good cheer---the battle has already been won, and here’s some pointers from our Saviors word about how to successfully survive when these “fiery darts” come!

LESSON – THE MIGHTY ARMOR YOU HAVE IN CHRIST!

Christians are engaged in a mighty battle and must learn to overcome the temptations of Satan, the world and even our own thoughts. The temptations themselves are not sin (for even Christ was tempted and did not sin), but it is giving in to temptations cause us to sin and to engage in behaviors that would be hurtful for you! Christ, who has forgiven you and saved you completely, wants to save your from that hurt as well. Here’s what God’s Word says to help us.

As a new Christian, you should search out the things in your life that lead you to sinful situations – and change them.

1. Notice what Paul has to say about our struggle against Satan in Ephesians 6:10-12.
2. What are the various pieces of armor must we wear if we are to fight the Devil and stand against his attacks? (Ephesians 6:13-18)
 - a. belt of truth
 - b. breastplate of righteousness
 - c. shoes of readiness of the gospel
 - d. shield of faith
 - e. helmet of salvation
 - f. sword of the Spirit
 - g. praying always
3. What confidence can we have when facing temptation?
 - a. I Corinthians 10:13
 - b. I John 4:4
4. Why do you think Jesus is particularly sympathetic with us about temptation? (Hebrews 4:15; 2:18)
5. In what areas of life are we often tempted? (I John 2:15-17)
6. Notice the stance Christians should take towards the Devil in James 4:7.



7. Read Luke 4:1-13. The following principles of fighting Satan are revealed in this passage.
 - a. Satan tempts with lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and pride of life
 - b. do not submit to his lies
 - c. use the Word of God as a defense
8. What does I Peter 5:8-10 say about Satan? Remember this always.
9. Reflect on the promise of James 4:7.



CHART 1

THE BRIDGE ILLUSTRATION

