

Discipleship Orientation

The Introduction to Discipleship Meeting.

The first meeting held with a church pastor or (and) discipleship ministry leader is designed to help individuals make an informed decision to start the directions study. The goal here is for prospective disciples of Christ to “count the cost.”

Satan will attempt to destroy or distract you:
Gen 3, Matt 4 Watch your relationships, etc.
for potential stumbling points.

Passage for study – Luke 14:25-35

Is Christ your first love? When any relationship discourages you from following Christ, will you choose Him even over family if necessary? Vs. 26

Is Christ a greater priority to you than your own life? Vs. 26-27

Have you counted the cost (your very life for Christ!) of being a disciple of Christ? Do you KNOW you are able to move forward in consecration to Him? Vs. 28-33, Rom 12:1-2, Phil 3:7-8, etc..

The Four Goals of Discipleship

Everything we do in discipleship centers around accomplishing biblical objectives that we describe as the **4 Goals of Discipleship**. Acts 2:42-47, Eph 4:11-16, etc...

What:

1. Be established in the **Word of God**
2. Be established in the **Fellowship of Believers**
3. Be established in the **Structure of Our Local Church**
4. Be established with us in **Ministry**

The Four T's of Discipleship

How:

It isn't enough to know what we want to accomplish, or where we want to go in ministry. We must be able to bring concrete plans and activity to bear in the life of each disciple.

The Four Goals point us toward who to be, not what to do. “Be established,” but use the following four things in each of the four goals to accomplish this! We will...

The 4 t's make sure that you are teaching the 4 goals in a way that provides practical accountability.

1. **Teach** – make sure you have comprehension of the material.
2. **Train** – illustrate and show you how these biblical principles apply to our lives.
3. **Task** – challenge you to begin to step out in obedient faith as they identify ways to live out what you are learning.
4. **Team** – challenge you to partner together with our congregation in ministry.

The Discippler & Disciple's First Meeting.

As quickly as possible, the discipler should make contact with the new disciple and set up an initial meeting. The goals for this meeting are for the discipler and disciple get acquainted and to review the expectations of discipleship from the "Introduction to Discipleship" meeting.

- Luke 14:25-35
- The 4 goals of discipleship
- The 4 T's : Teach, Train, Task, Team

THE POWER OF YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY -ACTS 22:1-21 [TASK]

One of the best ways to get to know a brother or sister in Christ is thru the sharing of personal testimonies. In this first discipleship meeting, the discipler will give their testimony of salvation through Christ and begin to instruct the disciple how to do the same via the model that the Apostle Paul uses in Acts 21. Have the disciple use this format to develop their own written testimony.

Prepare Your Testimony: Your personal testimony has great potential power.

- It is a powerful defense

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

- It is a powerful tool to relate the gospel

Act 22 - Paul's testimony in Acts 22 is a model for you to develop a personal testimony.

The Example of the Apostle Paul:

A. Paul told who he was and what his life was like without Christ 22:3-5

Paul covered his race (Jews), origin (Tarsus), education (Gamaliel), religion (zealous), devotion.

B. Paul told how he personally encountered Christ 22:6-10

- He told of God's divine intervention (6)
God seeks man, and not vice versa
- Encountered God's light, not man's reason/intellect
- He told of the conviction of sin (7)
- He told of meeting Jesus (8-9)
Salvation is a person, not a religion. Others can encounter God, but never know Him
- He told of his submission to God's Lordship (10)

C. Paul described how God went to work in his life 22:11-20

- Submission to Christ results in submission to Christ's servants (11-13)
- Showed God's direction (14-15)
 - His basic steps of obedience in following the Lord (16)
 - Baptism is a sign of the reality of your faith
 - Baptism clears conscience (1 Pet 3:21)
- His growth even in the midst of problems (17-20)

D. He told who he was now in Christ 22:21

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THOSE WHO HEAR WILL ACCEPT CHRIST!

Summary: 1. What was your life like without Christ? 2. How did you meet Christ? 3. What resulted from getting saved? 4. What is God doing in your life now?

Lesson ONE – *The Father*

Agenda

Pray.

Review of Directions lesson ONE:

- Answer any lesson one questions.
- Highlight & emphasis one or 2 main points in each day's study ensure that the disciples are "getting it" as to what the lesson is teaching.
- As a rule, hit a main point and a personal question from each day's work.

Examples:

Day one: "Can you explain the two spiritual families. Do you know which one you are now a part of?"

Day two: "How did you get out of the wrong family?" Point out the "Romans Road" in the "Directions" study.

Day three: "Once you are a part of God's family, what is your relationship to Him?"

Teach: Key Question: *Have you "received him?" (John 1:12)*

Day four: "How has God loved you?" pg 10: John 3:16 How has He changed you? 2 Cor 5:17 pg 9.

Day five: "Read James 1:17, what are the good things that God has given you? How has your heavenly Father loved you?"

You are looking to see where the disciple is at. Are they listing stuff or spiritual things? i.e. Christ's righteousness, salvation, truth of His Word, Jesus, Holy Spirit indwelling, power of God, etc...

This will set you up to cover the content in the teaching outline.

What personal illustrations from your own life can you give to help illuminate the truth contained here?
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Teaching Outline for Lesson ONE

Understand that sin always causes division. Text: Gen 3

- Adam and Eve hid from God when they sinned against Him.
- God sought Adam out and made provision to deal with his sin.
- Notice that God communicated first.
- God bridged the divide of sin.
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Study the religions of the world. Biblical Christianity is the only view that show that God has bridged the divide between man and God. Religion always says must work his way to God / heaven / nirvana / etc... Point out the truths in passages like 2 Cor 5:21, etc...

God as your Father.

Understanding the true nature of your relationship with God as His child.

A. God is your Father, and you are his child.

1 John 2:1, Ephesians 5:1

B. Now that you are saved, God no longer deals with you as a sinner, but as his son.

C. Your new relationship with God is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his child. The Bible shows us many ways that God treats his children. A good father will do his best to fulfill these things for his children, and when he does, it is a reflection of your Heavenly Father's care for you. Where earthly fathers fail, God steps in.

1. A good father helps his child.
Psalm 46:1
2. A good father feeds his child.
Matthew 4:4
3. A good father protects his child.
Matthew 18:6
4. A good father guides and teaches his child.
John 14:26
5. A good father has a plan for his child.
Romans 8:28-30
6. A good father provides for his child.
Philippians 4:19
7. A good father will not discourage his child.
Colossians 3:21
8. A good father disciplines his child.
Hebrews 12:5-11
9. A good father loves and cares for his child.
1 Peter 5:7

KEY TEACHING POINT:

A good father will NEVER do anything to purposely hurt his child. He will only do those things which will help his child grow and mature. Your Heavenly Father operates in the same way, only his ways are perfect. Unlike earthly fathers who often err, God never makes a mistake in his dealings with his children.

Matthew 7:11

God gives unconditional love - it isn't based on your performance. God loves you because He IS love!

1 John 4:8

Team - Points for prayer:

- If the disciple had a bad relationship with his/her father, commit to pray for mutual reconciliation.
- *Don't allow flawed earthly relationships to hinder your relationship with your Father in heaven.*
- If the relationship was good, commit work together to find an idea to honor the disciple's father.
- For blessing in the disciple's witness to others.

Attend the Prayer Ministry to pray for lost family and friends.

Answered prayer?

Lesson TWO – *The Son*

Agenda

Pray.

Review Testimony. Refer to first meeting guide for proper format.

Review of Directions lesson TWO:

- Answer any lesson TWO questions.
- Highlight & emphasize one or 2 main points in each day's study. To make sure that the disciples are "getting it" as to what the lesson is teaching.
- As a rule, hit a main point and a personal question from each day's work.

Examples:

Day One: "How can you intimately know God the Father?" (Through knowing and following the Lord Jesus Christ according to His Word.)

Train: *Life Illustration/Explanation: Go outside and look at the building you are in right now. Think about how it came to be. You see the building. You trust that the building is safe because there are building codes and standards that have to be met as a building is constructed. Even though you have probably never met the builder, you know there is a builder because you see the building. In the same way, we know there is a heavenly Father because we have believed and trusted in His Son, Jesus Christ. What are three tangible ways you can grow in your relationship with your heavenly Father even though you cannot physically be with Him or see Him? Think about how Jesus spent time with His Father while on the earth (Prayer, Reading God's Word, spending time with other Christians).*

Day Two: "Describe HOW God views you as righteous."

(At salvation, you get Christ's righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:21)

TRAIN: *Does the disciple understand the terms "justification" and "imputed?" Define if needed. Here's a simple way to communicate these concepts...*

Justification: "just as if I'd never sinned"

Imputed: to reckon, to credit or account "the opposite of amputated"

Day Three: "How does God see you differently now that you've trusted in Jesus Christ, verses before you were saved?" (Examples: You are 1. His child vs. enemy. John 1:12, You are now justified vs. condemned. Rom 8:3. You are now accepted vs. rejected. Ephesians 1:3-6)

Day Four: "Can you know that you have eternal life? Do you know that you have eternal life?"

Review 1 John 5:9-13. (key words: "witness of God", believe, record, eternal life, "ye may know")

Day Five: Do you have any fears that cause you to doubt God's love for you or to doubt your position as God's child through Jesus Christ? (Be ready to counsel them to take a position of faith in God's Word to them! 2 Tim 1:7)

This will set you up to cover the content in the teaching outline.

The Bible declares WHY your salvation is that secure.

1. Your relationship with God is as a father and son by birth.
John 1:12-13 (Review these verses from Lesson 1)

2. Your new birth is sealed by the Holy Spirit.
 - a. When you were born physically, there was a record made called a birth certificate. When you were born again, a record was also made in heaven.
I John 5:11-13
 - b. Your birth certificate was marked with a seal. Your spiritual birth is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God at salvation till the time of the rapture.
Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30

KEY TEACHING POINT:

Birth is irreversible. You will always be your biological father's child because you were born of his seed. One or both of your birth parents may have never had a part in your life, but a biological process put you on earth that cannot be changed. You could disown each other, change your name, or never see each other the rest of your lives, but your father will always be your father. The same is true of your relationship with your Heavenly Father. A person can never be "unborn". Your birth is fixed forever, both physically and spiritually, and even God himself cannot change that fact!
John 3:3-8

Basic questions you may be asking:

1. What if I am still unsure of my salvation?
Illustration: Eph 6:17 the eternal security of the believer is the "chin strap." Soldiers with loose helmets are distracted in battle.

Can you point to a specific time that you acknowledged your sin and called upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to save you, then you are saved. If so, then you can write that time down here to be a constant reminder of your salvation. There is never a need for a person to get saved again.
Romans 10:9-13

If you cannot point to such a time, it is possible that you either cannot remember or have not really been born again. Some people have had a "religious experience" but never really understood the gospel. Others may have said a prayer but were not sincere, or joined a church thinking it would save them. If you are still unsure of your salvation, why not settle the issue right now? You can then write down THIS day as the start of your new life in Jesus Christ.

2. You cannot forfeit your salvation yourself.
 - Salvation is a free gift of God by grace and not works. No man can lose his salvation because no man can earn salvation.
Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23

- If there was anything you could do to earn or keep salvation (good works, baptism, or church membership), you would be righteous by your own efforts, and the death of Jesus Christ would have been pointless.

Galatians 2:21

- It only takes ONE violation of the law of God to make you a lawbreaker. Every person is subject to sin, even after salvation. You cannot count on being sinless after you are saved as a means of keeping your salvation.

Galatians 3:10, James 2:10

TEAM - Points for prayer:

- Let's thank and praise God for our salvation (and that He keeps it secure!)
- Build a list of those you know that need God's salvation, begin to pray for them to hear the gospel.

Lesson THREE – *The Holy Spirit*

Agenda

Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to give understanding!

Review Testimony (if needed.) Refer to first meeting guide for proper testimony format.

Review of Directions lesson THREE:

- Answer any lesson THREE questions.
- Highlight & emphasize one or 2 main points in each day's study. To make sure that the disciples are "getting it" as to what the lesson is teaching.
- As a rule, hit a main point and a personal question from each day's work.

Examples:

Day One: Where does God live? (In us! 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16)

How can we really know that God Himself lives in us (through the Holy Spirit)?

Answer: He has promised us in His Word! The proof (evidence) of His indwelling of our lives is that we desire to keep His commandments! Do you have that desire? 1 John 3:24, 4:13.

Day Two: Romans 7 and 8, reveals how we can have victory over sin and power for living the Christian life. What is the key?

Answer: Our power source: Romans 8:5-6 – Renewing the spirit of our minds with the Word and of God.

Review Ephesians 3:14-19 – by this, the inner man (the real you) is strengthened!

Day Three: When you sin, God's Holy Spirit convicts you of sin and to do what is right before God.

Guilt, on the other hand, functions to keep you powerless in sin and depressed in feelings of hopelessness and defeated.

Have you experienced both? Are you allowing an area of past sin to keep you under guilt (defeated and powerless?)

Day Four: Gal 5:16-18. The key to victory over sin!

Walk in the Spirit is the key to not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh.

(Leaders, you will talk about how to do this in your teaching time. Eph 5:18 - 19, Col 3:16 – As you walk in the Word of God.)

Day Five: According to God's Word, what can hinder the Spirit's control of your life? *Sin.*

What does it mean to be filled by the Holy Spirit? *You turning over control of your life to God according to God's Word.*

Do you need more of the Holy Spirit? *You received ALL of the Holy Spirit of God at your salvation. The Key is the Holy Spirit getting control of MORE of you!*

Task: What sin that "so easily besets you" do you need to yield to the Holy Spirit in order that His power through you might set you free?

This will set you up to cover the content in the teaching outline.

The Holy Spirit has specific functions in your life.

We have already learned following...

(This section reviews points covered in the lesson. This section is introductory and functions as a brief review only. References are only given for your reference if needed)

- The Holy Spirit sealed (secured) your soul at salvation. Ephesians 4:30, 1:13
- The Holy Spirit is the earnest or guarantee of your salvation.
Ephesians 1:14, II Corinthians 1:22
- The Holy Spirit bears witness to you of your salvation.
Romans 8:16, I John 4:13
- The Holy Spirit will convict you of sin.
John 16:8-9, Ephesians 4:30, I Thessalonians 5:19
- The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God.
II Corinthians 4:7, Ephesians 3:16, Zechariah 4:6
- The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God.
II Corinthians 4:7, Ephesians 3:16, Zechariah 4:6

1. The Holy Spirit also...

(Teaching outline follows)

- a. The Holy Spirit made you a new creature in Christ at the time of your salvation.
II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:10

- b. The Holy Spirit teaches you the Bible.
John 16:13-15, I Corinthians 2:9-14

- c. The Holy Spirit gives direction in decision making.
I Corinthians 2:15-16, Proverbs 3:5-6

- d. The Holy Spirit brings to remembrance what he has taught you when it is needed.
John 14:26, Acts 11:16

- e. The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you.
Romans 8:26-27, Ephesians 2:18

- f. The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need.
John 14:15-18, II Timothy 1:7, II Corinthians 1:3-4

- g. The Holy Spirit produces specific fruit in your life.

The fruit of the Spirit is singular because ALL of these qualities are produced at the same time by a close relationship with the Holy Spirit. This fruit has nine components that all work together at the same time. Each component can be defined in many ways, but the fruit of the Spirit is God's specific work in your personal life. These qualities represent what the Holy Spirit does inside you to produce a changed life.

Remember, you can't just make fruit – it has to grow. That takes time. Be patient.

2. Inward qualities that transform your personal life:

- a. Love: The Holy Spirit gives you a genuine love for others based on the love Jesus showed you by dying for your sins.
John 3:16, I John 3:14-16, 4:10-12

b. Joy: The Holy Spirit gives you a deep abiding happiness regardless of, and sometimes even in spite of external circumstances.

Hebrews 12:1-2, John 15:9-11, 16:20-24

c. Peace: The Holy Spirit gives you the true inner peace of knowing that you are right with God through Jesus Christ.

John 14:27, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:6-7

3. Outward qualities that transform your relationships with others:

a. Longsuffering: The Holy Spirit gives you grace toward others despite their shortcomings because of God's grace to you.

II Peter 3:9, I Corinthians 13:4, Ephesians 4:32

b. Gentleness: The Holy Spirit makes you a "gentleman"; with the ability to treat others with courtesy, dignity, and respect.

I Thessalonians 2:5-8, II Timothy 2:24, Titus 3:2

c. Goodness: The Holy Spirit gives you a godly character that reflects the goodness of Jesus Christ toward others.

II Thessalonians 1:11, Ephesians 5:8-10, Psalm 107:8-9

4. Upward qualities that transform your relationship with God:

a. Faith: The Holy Spirit gives you a confidence in God and his word that will increase your faith in him, and your faithfulness to him.

I Corinthians 1:9, Romans 1:17, 10:17, Proverbs 3:5-6

b. Meekness: The Holy Spirit gives you an inner strength that manifests itself in a humble spirit regardless of circumstances.

Matthew 11:28-30, I Peter 3:1-6, 14-16, Philippians 4:13

c. Temperance: The Holy Spirit gives you balance and moderation - not by "self-control" - but by God controlling your life.

II Peter 1:5-8, I Corinthians 9:24-27, Philippians 4:5

KEY TEACHING POINT:

The Biblical evidence of a walk with God through his Holy Spirit is a changed life. The Holy Spirit transforms your life so others can see your faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:4, II Corinthians 4:7, Galatians 2:20, Romans 12:1-2

Points for prayer: Use Day Five on page 39 as a prayer outline.

- Pray for God to fill or empower you with His Spirit and to take control of every aspect of your mind, heart, soul and spirit.
- Pray that He would make us aware of when we try to take control back from Him.
- Thank God for hearing and answering this prayer according to the promise of His Word. 1 John 5:14-15.

Lesson FOUR – *God's Truth*

Agenda

Pray. Ask for help of God's Holy Spirit to understand His Truth.

Review of Directions lesson FOUR:

Answer any lesson FOUR questions.

Highlight & emphasize one or 2 main points in each day's study.

To make sure that the disciples are "getting it" as to what the lesson is teaching.

As a rule, hit a main point and a personal question from each day's work.

TASK: Reinforce Goal #1: The need to be established in the Word of God.

Examples:

Day One: Do you believe that the Bible really is God's Word? The greatest chapter in the Bible on a man's love for God's Word is Psalms 119. What is your relationship and attitude toward God's Word?

Day Two: Psalms 119:105. Lamp for my feet: shows me my current position in life.
Light for my path: shows me the direction I need to be going!

Day Three: Eph 4:11-16. Why do we need to meet every week for discipleship? We're not just meeting, we're exercising this function described here in Eph 4! We can naturally learn worldly wisdom as we go through everyday life. To learn God's wisdom, we need God's Word, His Spirit and His Church. So, the weekly discipleship meeting serves a very critical function for you as you learn God's Word for yourself!

Day Four: Do you really view the Word of God as your absolute authority?

Many claim submission to God, but do not view His Word as their final authority. You cannot separate God from His Word. John 1:1-2, 1:14 – You submit to Christ as Lord day to day, through submission to His Word as your final authority.

Day Five: 2 Tim 2:15. Have you seen the need to develop good study habits in God's Word? What is your current plan or routine for getting the Word of God into your heart and life?

Illustration: Most inventions run best when they are used according to their manual's instructions. The same goes for you and I. We need to follow God's instructions for "running" our lives!

This will set you up to cover the content in the teaching outline.

Teaching Outline for Lesson FOUR.

Key Truths About the Word of God.

1. The word of God was active in your salvation.

Romans 10:17

2. The word of God was the agent which brought about your new birth.

I Peter 1:23, James 1:21

a. The process of salvation begins with God sending out his word. When you heard it and exercised your faith in the word, then and only then was God's grace for salvation available to you. Therefore, without God sending his word, man cannot be saved.

Romans 10:17, Ephesians 2:8-9

b. The gospel contains three parts: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again from the dead, and all three are according to the scriptures. You must believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition, and God's plan of salvation in order to be saved.

I Corinthians 15:1-4

3. Since the word of God is active in salvation, it is also your guidebook for life.

The Bible transcends time and culture, and is relevant to your life even though it was written centuries ago.

a. Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) comes with an owner's manual which tells you how to operate it. If you don't go by the book, it won't work.

b. The Bible is your "owner's manual for life" written by the author and designer of life, God. Your life will not work unless you "go by the book".

Psalms 119:105, Proverbs 3:5-6

4. The word of God is practical and applies to your life in four basic areas.

II Timothy 3:16-17

a. Doctrine - The Bible teaches you what God wants you to know.

b. Reproof - The Bible points out to you what is wrong.

c. Correction - The Bible establishes what is right.

d. Instruction in righteousness - The Bible shows you how to maintain what is right.

5. The word of God has many practical purposes for a Christian.

a. The word of God equips you to serve God.

b. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, as we saw in the previous lesson. He moved in at the moment of salvation, but now your "temple" needs to be renovated and furnished for God's work in your life.

c. The word of God furnishes you by giving you God's mind.

I Corinthians 2:16, Proverbs 2:1-9, 24:3-4

- d. The Bible gives you knowledge: the facts of God's truth.
- e. The Bible gives you wisdom: the ability to use the facts properly.
- f. The Bible gives you understanding: the ability to know and use the truth of God's word with a proper relationship to God.
- This is illustrated by three items of furniture in the Tabernacle.
Hebrews 9:1-5, Exodus 35:13-15
 - The table of shewbread pictures the word of God.
Matthew 4:4
 - The candlestick pictures the light of the Holy Spirit.
Ephesians 1:17-18, II Corinthians 4:6, Psalm 119:130
 - The altar of incense pictures a relationship with God through prayer.
Psalm 141:1-2, Revelation 5:8, 8:3-4
- g. The word of God helps you overcome spiritual opposition.
Ephesians 6:10-18, II Corinthians 10:3-5
- h. The word of God is spiritual food for your new man in Christ. The Bible is likened to seven different types of food. It provides a complete and balanced spiritual diet.
Job 23:12, Jeremiah 15:16, John 6:31-35
1. Milk - I Peter 2:2
 2. Apples (fruit) - Proverbs 7:2, 25:11
 3. Honey (sweets) - Proverbs 16:24, Psalm 119:103
 4. Corn (vegetables) - Psalm 78:24
 5. Water - Isaiah 55:10-11, Ephesians 5:26
 6. Bread - Matthew 4:4
 7. Meat - I Corinthians 3:1-2, Hebrews 5:12-14
- The word of God cleanses you to serve God.
John 15:3, Psalm 119:9-11

Basic questions you may be asking:

1. Where should I start reading?

- One of the most important exercises for a believer in Christ is to read the word of God DAILY - not just once, but the rest of your life. It is a good habit to develop right now.
- Determine a time and place for your personal study of the Bible.
- Develop a plan for reading, and stay consistent.
- Start a “journal” of your Bible reading and study. Write down what God has shown you in his word, and make a note of questions you have in your reading. Take these questions to your pastor or others in your church who can help guide you in the faith.
- As a young Christian, it is best to focus first on the books that deal with your new relationship in Christ, mostly in the New Testament. The Gospel of John and the Epistles of John, along with the Epistles of Paul (Romans through Philemon) are a good place to start. Once you have completed the New Testament, it is a good practice to read the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation once per year. Three chapters per day will accomplish this.

I Timothy 4:13, Matthew 6:13

2. What if I find something I don't understand?

You will find MANY things in the Bible you do not understand at the time. Do not get frustrated. This will continue the rest of your life, because no one has ever mastered the Bible nor ever will. It is far more important that you live what you do know. God will not give you more understanding of the Bible if you are not faithful with what you have now. As you put into practice the things you learn, God will entrust you with more.

John 16:12

Points for prayer:

- Ask for God to help you develop a growing hunger for God's Word.
- Ask for spiritual insight into the truth that God's Word gives. Ask for grace to live it out, etc...

Task: Keep a journal as you daily read God's Word. Write down the following:

1. Questions, or points that you don't understand.
2. Any truths that God reveals to you.

Lesson FIVE - Prayer

Agenda

Pray. Ask for help of God's Holy Spirit to understand His Truth.

Review of Directions lesson FIVE:

- Answer any lesson FIVE questions.
- Highlight & emphasize one or 2 main points in each day's study to ensure that the disciples are "getting it" as to what the lesson is teaching.
- As a rule, hit a main point and a personal question from each day's work.

Examples:

Day One: Matt 6:5-13 – What was most impactful for you? Vs 7, do you find yourself just repeating the same prayer over and over?

Task: Help the disciple to set aside a specific time and place for prayer if needed.

Day Two: How many times did you eat today? How often do you go to God in prayer? Do you think your spiritual sustenance and health is any less important than your need for physical nourishment?

Task: do you have someone that you need to forgive, OR, that needs to forgive you? Spend time in prayer asking for God's help and grace to come to the place of freedom over unforgiveness and the bitterness that always festers there.

Day Three: Discussion: How has your attempt to apply these four ways of prayer changed your communication with God? Have you seen more purpose and depth in prayer life? How?

Task: Work through the A.C.T.S. Model of Prayer.

Pray with an open Bible – pray a passage back to God! (The whole Bible can function as a prayer manual!)

- Adoration – in your first portion of prayer, focus only on ascribing praise and worth to God alone. We're not asking for anything yet!
- Confession – deal with sin. Simply confess it! We're still not asking yet!
- Thanksgiving – give thanks for what God has already done! You're still not asking yet.
- Supplication – Now ask! 1 Peter 5:7

Do you see the difference between praising God (over who He is) verses thanking Him (for what He has done)?

Day Four: Have you identified any hindrance to your prayer life? Have you asked God to reveal any hindrances (improper attitudes or actions?) Has there been repentance on your part?

Day Five: Make sure the disciple knows that prayer is **to the Father in Jesus' name**.

Remember that prayer to God is only possible through God's Holy Spirit and because of Jesus Christ. (Rom 8:27, 34)

- Take time for seasons of prayer with your disciple!
- Invite the disciple to attend Prayer Ministry with you.

This will set you up to cover the content in the teaching outline.

I. Prayer produces a change in YOU first and foremost.

A. Prayer gives you peace of heart and mind.

Philippians 4:6-7, I Peter 5:6-7

B. The expression, "Prayer changes things" is not always accurate. Sometimes prayer may not change a situation or circumstance because of a greater principle of God, but a proper prayer life will ALWAYS produce a change in you.

II Corinthians 12:7-10

C. Prayer conforms you to the will of God. It does not conform God to yours.

Matthew 26:36-39, Colossians 1:9

KEY TEACHING POINT:

Prayer draws you close to God so he can prove his sufficiency for every need.

II Corinthians 3:5

God knows exactly what you need even before you ask.

Matthew 6:8

God allows needs to come into your life for a specific reason - so he can draw you to him to meet the need.

Psalms 50:15, Philippians 4:19

Even though God knows your needs before you ask, he still wants you to "let your requests be made known". When you ask God to supply your needs instead of trusting yourself, he is able to prove his love for you.

Philippians 4:6

II. Bible principles are more important than methods of prayer.

A. Realize you have direct access to God personally and at all times. You do not need to go through any other person to talk to God.

I Timothy 2:5, Ephesians 2:18

B. Talk to the Lord as a friend.

John 15:13-14, Exodus 33:11

C. Don't repeat the same words over and over. Prayers that are written out by others do not allow YOU to personally communicate freely with your friend and Father.

Matthew 6:7

D. Always focus on maintaining a proper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. There are certain things that can hinder your prayers.

1. Unconfessed sin

Psalms 66:18-20, Isaiah 59:1-2

2. Insensitivity to the word of God
Proverbs 28:9

3. An unforgiving spirit
Matthew 6:14-15

4. Bitterness toward your mate (as well as others)
I Peter 3:7, Colossians 3:19

5. Not asking
James 4:2

6. Asking with selfish or other wrong motives
James 4:3, Proverbs 21:13

E. Allow the Holy Spirit to intercede for you in prayer.
Romans 8:26-27

Lesson SIX – *Guidance*

Agenda

Pray. Ask for help of God's Holy Spirit to understand His Truth.

Review of Directions lesson SIX:

- Answer any lesson SIX questions.
- Highlight & emphasize one or 2 main points in each day's study to ensure that the disciples are "getting it" as to what the lesson is teaching.
- As a rule, hit a main point and a personal question from each day's work.

Examples:

Day One: Your attitude of submission toward God enables you to submit to His will. God's will overrides your personal will.

How have you become more submissive to God's will for your life verses your own will?

Day Two: God's will vs. God's plan: God's will for your life deals with your relationship with Him and tends to direct who you are in Christ – God's plan for your life (is unique for every believer) tends to direct your earthly ministry for Christ and your relationships.

Day Three: God guides you through His Word, Holy Spirit and the local church.

Can you see how God is already leading you at this point in your Christian walk?

(Didn't God move you to start the "Directions" study? Aren't we're learning the Word of God in a local church ministry structure!)

Can you identify these three resources revealed in John 14:6 & 2 Timothy 1:7?

Day Four: Will doing the right things make you a right person? 1 Samuel 16:7

How has your changed life in Christ (inside) changed how you are now living (outside?)

Day Five: If you knew where God is ultimately taking you in this life – you probably wouldn't follow!

Remember, the circumstances of life are always changing, but God's will NEVER does!

Philippians 1:6, Romans 8:29

You will always need God's Word, His Spirit and His local church body to correctly respond to life's changing circumstances. Remember: Allow God to make your will match his will! Phillippians 2:12

This will set you up to cover the content in the teaching outline.

Teaching Outline for Lesson SIX.

The will of God for your life can be summarized simply: Be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ; grow to be more like him every day. Romans 8:29-30

God's plan for your life will be revealed as your new life in Jesus Christ unfolds.

1. God's plan for your life involves three resources he has provided to give you direction in life.
 - a. The Holy Spirit lives in you to direct you personally.
Galatians 5:25, John 16:13-15, I Corinthians 2:9-10
 - b. The word of God is your written authority from God.
I Thessalonians 2:13, Colossians 3:16-17, Psalm 19:7-11
 - c. The local church is organized to equip you for life and ministry. God provides pastors and other mature members of his body to give you wise counsel.
Ephesians 4:11-12, I Timothy 3:15, Proverbs 11:14
2. If you are fulfilling the will of God daily, you can trust him to direct you in his plan for your life. God's direction will involve all three of these resources.
Psalm 37:23, 119:105, 130, 133, II Corinthians 13:1

KEY TEACHING POINT:

You cannot find God's plan for your life until you submit to his will. If you violate the clear commandments of God's will, the direction of his plan stops in your life. Keep your main focus on what God expects from you now. Most people think the will of God is way out in the future. God is interested in you BEING the right kind of person now. Be what God wants you to be, and he will show you what to do.
Matthew 6:34, Philippians 2:13

Basic questions you may be asking:

1. *Why doesn't God reveal all the details of his plan for me now?*
 - It would overwhelm you before you got started.
 - You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet. Either there is some violation of his will, or you are not yet equipped to handle it now. God will reveal what you can handle when you are ready.
 - God wants you to be patient as he works in your life spiritually. Your answer to the question as a young child, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" is probably NOT what you are doing now. Interests, talents, and desires grow and change, both physically and spiritually.
 - Are you faithful to obey God where He has you now? Should God trust you with more if you aren't faithful with what He's already given you.
2. *Why does God allow seemingly bad things to happen in my life?*

There are two general reasons why things that appear to be "bad" happen to God's people:

 1. God wants you to grow spiritually through trials. In every trial, God often has a larger purpose to accomplish that is impossible apart from the adversity.
I Peter 4:12-13, 5:10, James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5

2. God allows you to make your own choices, and they bring consequences. Even though God wills certain things for your life, he also gave you a free will. Sometimes bad things result from bad decisions.

Galatians 6:7-8, Deuteronomy 30:19

You must remember that God is your Heavenly Father and never makes a mistake in his dealings with you as his child.

Matthew 7:11, Romans 8:28

Points for Prayer:

- We need God's grace in our circumstances.
- We need to ask for God's leading, guidance and direction for our lives!