

Lesson THIRTEEN – *Overcoming Sin*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson THIRTEEN:

Answer any lesson THIRTEEN 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 include:

Day One: The Lord is righteous and holy, Psalms 145:17. Sin is the opposite of who God is. Sin is the transgression or violation of God's Law, 1 John 3:4. Are all men natural born sinners? Can you give a scripture reference for your answer?

Day Two: Jesus Christ came to die for sinners. When you put your trust in Jesus Christ, He forgave you of your sin. As a Christian you will continue to sin. Why is this? (Romans 7:17 & 20)

Remember: It's when you no longer struggle with sin that you've lost the fight!

Day Three: All temptations come from your sin nature and thought life. Can you list the three broad categories that all sin falls under? (1 John 2:16) Does God expect you to overcome sin by your own power?

The key passage for this day is Rom 8. Read Heb 12:1 and Gal 5:16. What does this look like in terms of the dealing with the daily temptation of sin? What are practical ways to "lay aside... the sin" and "Walk in the Spirit?"

Day Four: God desires you to have friends and enjoy life. But the Bible warns of friends and practices that may encourage temptation and sin. Have you recognized a need to change some relationships or priorities that would help you grow in your Christian life?

Day Five: God desires to have fellowship with you daily. But fellowship with God depends upon walking with Him in light, (righteousness). In order to overcome a sinful habit or stronghold in your life, rely upon the three resources God has provided you to experience victory:

- God's Spirit
- God's Word
- God's People

Recount some testimony of how your focus on your relationship with God has led to victory over sin in your own life!

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

(Prepare a 15 to 20 min study from the following notes.)

Teaching Outline for Lesson THIRTEEN.

One of life's greatest challenges is battling sin in your own life. This truth is not evident to a young Christian, but as you grow in Christ, you will realize more fully the intensity of this struggle. As we saw very briefly in a previous lesson, when you got saved, you became two people. Your old man in Adam's image has a sinful nature, and your new man in Christ Jesus has God's image. The purpose of this lesson is to help you combat the sin nature of the old man.

1. Understand the nature of sin. Sin is a much larger issue than most people realize. It involves your ENTIRE human nature (Your sin nature did not change when you got saved, and it never will.), not just an individual wrong act. You cannot battle sin properly unless you confront the nature of your sin. Your human nature (flesh) is corrupt and unable to be improved.

John 3:6, Romans 7:18

2. Understand the nature of temptation. From your study this week, you saw that your sin is a result of temptation in three major areas.

I John 2:15-17

1. The lust of the flesh: The temptation to satisfy the desires of your body.
2. The lust of the eyes: The temptation of covetousness.
3. The pride of life: The temptation of ego and pride.

• **There are two great examples in the Bible of these temptations.**

1. The temptation of Adam and Eve, resulting in sin and defeat. They saw the tree was "good for food" (lust of the flesh), "pleasant to the eyes" (lust of the eyes), and a tree "to be desired to make one wise" (the pride of life).

Genesis 3:1-6

2. The temptation of Jesus Christ, resulting in victory. Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread (the lust of the flesh), was shown the kingdoms of the world (the lust of the eyes), and was tempted to prove he was the Son of God by jumping off the Temple (the pride of life).

Luke 4:1-13

• Jesus faced the same temptations Adam and Eve did, and that you face. He overcame them by his power and by the word of God. Since Jesus Christ lives inside you, his power is the only resource to overcome sin. You sin when you are faced with temptation, and you give in to it instead of coming boldly to the throne of grace to find help through Jesus Christ and the word of God.

Hebrews 4:15-16, I Corinthians 10:13

3. Understand how God views your sin.

A. God judged sin at Calvary and placed it on Jesus Christ who paid for all of it. When you placed your trust in Jesus as your Saviour, your sins were forgiven.

II Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13-14

B. God has "put off" your sins, and he considers your flesh dead to sin. God will no longer "charge sin to your account" because it is forgiven in Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:4-8, 6:6-7, Colossians 2:11-14

C. Even though your sins are forgiven, the consequences of those sins can and will remain. A continual lifestyle of sin will result in the chastisement of God.

Hebrews 12:5-11, Galatians 6:7-8, Job 4:8

4. REINFORCE this week's day's 4 & 5: The best way to overcome sin is to prevent it in the first place by the power of God's Holy Spirit and his word.

A. Realize you are dead to sin in Jesus Christ. God has already counted you dead to sin, but you must "reckon yourself dead" also. Dead men cannot sin.

Romans 6:11, Colossians 3:1-10

B. Don't allow sinful thoughts to control your mind.

II Corinthians 10:3-5

C. Don't make provisions for the flesh. Avoid opportunities to sin and do not keep things in your life that make it easy for you to fall into sin.

Romans 13:14

- Don't get involved with sinful activities. Associate with lost people to try to win them, but don't get involved in their sin.

Ephesians 5:5-12

- Separate yourself from the world and follow Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 6:14-18, James 4:4

Realize that "separation" is also a positive thing. Not only are you to be separate from the world, but you are to separate yourself UNTO the gospel. The more you involve yourself in reaching lost people with the gospel of Jesus Christ, the less likely you are to be drawn into their sin.

Romans 1:1, 14-16

D. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. If you focus your time and energy on the good and right things God wants from you, you will have much less opportunity to sin.

Galatians 5:16-25, Romans 8:1-8

- One of the main functions of the Holy Spirit is to convict of sin. If something you are involved in is displeasing to God, he will let you know about it!

John 16:8-9, Psalm 139:23-24

- Your conscience will also point out what is right and wrong. God has built his moral law into the heart of every person. However, your conscience can be "seared" if you continue to violate the word of God and ignore God's conviction.

Romans 1:18-20, 2:14-15, I Timothy 4:1-2, Titus 1:15

THE KEY TEACHING POINT:

God has made a way of escape from temptation to sin. (Day 4) I Corinthians 10:13

The only sure way of escape from sin is to hide the word of God in your heart and apply it to your life.

That is why memorizing Bible verses is so vital to your Christian life. No matter how much of a challenge it might be for you to memorize scripture, work at it! You will never overcome sin until you hide the word of God in your heart and obey it. Jesus Christ overcame his temptation by quoting scripture. Why would you think there is a better way? Read the Bible!

Psalm 119:9-11, 37:31, Proverbs 4:4, 4:20-22, Hebrews 4:12-13

Points for prayer:

- For God to help us see and confess sin. Ps 139:23-24
- For wisdom to walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Gal 5:16
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Lesson FOURTEEN – *My Path to Maturity*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson FOURTEEN:

- Answer any lesson FOURTEEN 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 include:

Day One: God has not promised the Christian a problem free life. As long as we live in this corrupt and sinful world, we will experience times of sickness, pain, hardship, trials, tragedies, etc. But how you deal with these is important. Can you explain the teaching in Romans 8:28?

Key: It isn't a "rabbit's foot" promise that everything works out for everyone! What are the two required conditions to claim God's promise here?

Day Two: God desires that we trust in Him during the good times and tough times of life. When experiencing a trial or problem, should you respond from attitude of defeat and hopelessness or should your faith in God bring patience, experience and hope? (Romans 5:3-5)

Teacher Task: Give own example of a trial that God used to teach you patience to wait and trust in Him.

Train: Illustration/ Explanation: *Some say a person either sees a glass as "half-empty" or "half-full" of water. The pessimist chooses "half-empty;" the optimist chooses "half-full. As a Christian, your joy does not depend on circumstances because God owns the glass, the pitcher, and the water company! He uses problems to get our glass lined up under His pitcher.*

Day Three: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, 1 Peter 5:5-7. When faced with a trial or problem, one should be humble and trust in God's will. Have you recently experienced a trial when you prayed and trusted God for the answer or solution? Did you see God work in some way? Did God teach you through the experience?

*Can a person appear to be a humble person and yet not truly practice biblical humility? (Yes, it is possible to live **for** God and be prideful like the Pharisees [Luke 20:47] but not live **from** God – the essence of humility.)*

Train: Illustration / Explanation: *The Christian life is full of paradoxes. If you want something, give it away. If you want to live, you have to die. In this paradox, if you want to be great, become a servant. A good indicator that humility is real in the life of any Christian leader is his / her commitment to being a servant. Matt 20:26-28. Ex: you might be ready for more ministry responsibility when you've been willing to faithfully scrub bathrooms for the rest of the church!*

Day Four: No man has ever suffered more pain than Jesus Christ when he was rejected, humiliated and nailed onto the cross, 1 Peter 2:19-25. He humbled himself and submitted to his Father's will. No matter the severity or extremity, could there ever be a trial or hardship in your life that you could not trust God with? Why?

Be confident that God understand how we feel in the midst of our problems because Jesus, the “God-man,” had to experience real suffering and He leads us through His experience!

Teacher Task: Give own illustration of a severe trial you previously experienced and your Biblical or non biblical response.

Day Five: Any trials, hardships or problems in your life should not to be considered a waste or needless. God wants to convert the worst experiences into opportunities to grow in Christ. God desires to comfort you so that you can comfort others, 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.

Are you sensitive to the suffering of others? How have you comforted someone who was suffering from a trial?

Are you a faithful example to others in how you deal with your own trials?

Teacher Task: Give your own examples of how you have been able to comfort others.

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

(Prepare a 15 to 20 min study from the following notes.)

Teaching Outline for Lesson FOURTEEN.

Goal: Getting God’s Perspective on the Lost World.

Understand, many problems in the believer’s life will come from the lost world. An understanding of the lost around you will help you properly respond when issues inevitably arise. Understanding the lost world will help you to grow through trials with a heart that grows in love for the lost.

The Bible is clear that the present world operates contrary to God. The Bible commands God’s people to be separate from the world, while at the same time to reach lost men and women for the Lord Jesus Christ. This requires a balanced and consistent life in order to influence people for Jesus Christ without the world influencing you for evil – your focus will stay biblical. Our enemy is not flesh and blood!

1. You should learn to expect opposition from the world.

A. The world opposed Jesus Christ before it will oppose you.

John 15:18-21

B. As his representative, the world will oppose you also. However, you will only be opposed if you live for Jesus Christ. If you go along with the world, the world will not be against you. If you are not receiving some opposition from the world, either God has given you a temporary period of grace, or there is something wrong with your walk with him.

II Timothy 3:12, Luke 6:26,

C. Do not confuse opposition with the general problems of life or with the consequences of sin. Adversity and difficulty in life comes from many sources, and some of them will be your own fault. Opposition from the world comes when you are living right before God and sharing his truth with others.

I Peter 3:10-17, Acts 4:13-22, 5:17-42

2. Opposition from the world will come from several areas.

A. All opposition has its ultimate source in Satan. He is the mastermind behind all resistance to the work of God in the world and in your life.

1. Satan is the “god of this world”, and makes every effort to hinder the work of God and keep the lost from coming to Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 4:3-4, I Thessalonians 2:18

2. Satan has established a “course of this world” to directly oppose the work of God. He is currently at work in the lives of his children to try to accomplish his purposes and frustrate God’s plan for your life.

Ephesians 2:1-3

3. Satan is your personal enemy, and seeks to destroy your life in any way he can.

I Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:10

B. Satan masterminds opposition in your life from three major areas, like a target or “bullseye”. The closer he can get to the center, the more effective the attack.

1. Opposition can come from those closest to you who know you best: friends, family, co-workers, and other acquaintances. This opposition is the hardest to face because of the personal relationships involved. *(Remember, people are not your enemy. Eph 6:12)*

Matthew 10:35-36, Mark 6:4, John 1:11

2. Opposition can come from lost people in general. The two spiritual families have never gotten along, and never will. *(Remember, people are not your enemy. Eph 6:12)*

Galatians 4:29, I John 3:13

3. Opposition can come from society in general. The nature and course of the world is designed to be contrary to God’s word. This type of opposition comes mainly through the media, worldly education, and the institutions of this world. You must judge those things by the word of God. *(Remember, people are not your enemy. Eph 6:12)*

I John 2:15-17, James 4:4

3. You must learn how to overcome this opposition. You will never eliminate it in this life, but you can achieve victory in the face of opposition with Bible principles. 1 John 5:4

A. Please God with your life.

Proverbs 16:7

B. Give a soft answer. Avoid fights whenever possible. This does NOT mean you are to give in to every attack and appease those who oppose you. But you can rise above many confrontations by not adding to the strife.

Proverbs 15:1, I Peter 3:9, Romans 12:18

C. Love your enemies, pray for them, and help them. Jesus Christ loved his enemies enough to die for them when he didn’t have to do it. The world cannot understand this type of love, and those who are seeking the truth will be drawn to it. In some cases, it can result in turning an enemy into a friend by leading them to Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:14, 20-21, Matthew 5:44

D. Keep good company. Associate with people who love God and want to serve him.
I Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20, Psalm 1:1-3

**4. God promises victory in the midst of opposition when you “put on the whole armour of God”.
There are seven items in this armour to enable you to stand against Satan’s opposition.**

Ephesians 6:10-18

A. Loins girt about with truth (verse 14)

Truth is defined as the word of God. This part of the armour covers the midsection – the strongest part of the body. The strength of your walk with God depends upon applying of the word of God to the struggles of spiritual opposition.

John 17:17, Proverbs 31:17, Jeremiah 1:17-19

B. The breastplate of righteousness (verse 14)

The breastplate was a small shield attached to the torso area to protect the soldier’s heart. When opposition comes, you must keep your heart right with God.

I Thessalonians 5:8, Proverbs 4:23

C. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel (verse 15)

Your feet must be protected from the elements of the world as you carry the gospel to the lost.

Romans 10:15, Isaiah 52:7

D. The shield of faith (verse 16)

The shield of the Roman soldier was a moveable instrument, which allowed him to ward off unexpected and unusual attacks. Your enemy Satan will seek every means to defeat you in your Christian life.

I Peter 5:8-9, I John 5:4, Psalm 28:7

E. The helmet of salvation (verse 17)

The helmet obviously protects the head, which governs the body. You obtained the helmet of salvation when you received Jesus Christ as your Saviour. During times of spiritual conflict, dependence upon Jesus Christ as your head will protect you from opposition.

Colossians 1:17-18, I Thessalonians 5:8, Isaiah 59:17

F. The sword of the Spirit, the word of God (verse 17)

This is your only weapon for offence. You must submit to the Holy Spirit, and learn how to handle the word of God in order to ward off the attacks of your enemy.

Hebrews 4:12, James 4:7, Psalm 149:6

G. Praying always (verse 18)

There are no coverings in the armour for your lower legs. This area of your body is protected when the battle is fought on your knees. There is also no covering for your back. You must face spiritual opposition in prayer.

II Corinthians 10:3-5, II Thessalonians 3:1-2, Philippians 4:6-7

5. Learning to see the world as God sees it will also help you to overcome opposition.

A. You are a pilgrim in a strange land.

Hebrews 11:13, I Peter 2:9-12

B. Your home is in heaven.

Ephesians 2:6, Philippians 3:20

C. Remember, this world is temporal; it will someday perish.

II Peter 3:10-13, II Corinthians 4:17-18, I Corinthians 7:29-31

This sets up lesson 16 & 17! Evangelism and discipleship is the greatest need for dealing with the lost world!

Points for prayer:

- A heart willing to suffer for Christ's sake! 2 Tim 2:12-13
- Our enemies – for God to work in their lives to show them their need for Christ.
- Make a list of those that need to hear the gospel. Pray for them by name.
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Lesson FIFTEEN – *RESOLVING CONFLICT*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson FIFTEEN:

- Answer any lesson FIFTEEN 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 include:

Day One: Human conflict is inevitable with both Christians and non Christians. Unjust anger often causes conflict. Can you identify some things that make you angry in your heart? Are they just reasons or selfish reasons? Discuss Ephesians 4:26-27.

Day Two: God is a God of reconciliation. Principle: humility can bring unity but pride causes division.

Jesus taught how to deal with an offense between two believers. (Matthew 18)

Can you remember offending someone or someone offending you? Did you approach them privately to reconcile and resolve the matter? Do you find this difficult to do?

Day Three: There are ways to minimize conflict beginning with your own life. Examples: be careful to weigh your words and refuse to engage in gossip. Be truthful and edify people. (Ephesians 4:29-32)

Pray for others.

Train: Illustration / Explanation: Give an example of an instance when you had to pursue reconciliation. Give an example of a time in which you had to "put distance" between yourself and another individual.

Day Four: Many people are unwilling to forgive themselves or others. Biblical forgiveness is understood through the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. (Colossians 3:12-13) Bitterness is a debilitating sin.

What does a lack of forgiveness reveal about one's walk and fellowship with God?

Task: Pray and give someone or something over to God. Ask forgiveness for your wrong attitude and forgive the person involved.

Evidence: Communicate your forgiveness to the other person. Next time you see that person will you approach them. Will you have a clear conscience and be able to edify them. Or will you need to fake it.

Day Five: It is unnatural to put others before oneself. But the Lord Jesus Christ gave himself for us.

Another word for sacrificial love is "charity" in 1 Corinthians 13.

Teachers Task: Both teacher and disciple identify which of the 15 characteristics they need more of.

Pick a relationship. How can we lay down our lives for this person just as Jesus models in Phil 2:1-8

Prayer: Pray together about the resolution of conflict facing the disciple.

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

(Prepare a 15 to 20 min study from the following notes.)

Follow up for Lesson FIFTEEN.

Understanding God's desire for unity in the body of Christ is a great motivation for pursuing reconciliation with the body of Christ.

1. God loves unity in His family! Psalms 133

A. Unity is commanded as a focus in **Scripture**. We are to keep the unity that we have of the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:2-6, 1 Corinthians 1:10

B. **Christ** prayed for our unity before he went to the cross and paid for it with His shed blood!

John 17:20-21

C. Division in the body of Christ grieves the **Holy Spirit**. Ephesians 4:29-32

What destroys the body of Christ isn't attacks from without, personal addictions, or the like. Nothing is more damaging to churches than division in the body of Christ! The devil knows that if he can deceive members into causing division in the body of Christ, then the church is greatly hindered!

Remember: Division is the opposite of multiplication!

2. Because conflict IS inevitable, there will be times in all our lives where we will have to guard against division.

A. The "Directions" study covers the biblical methods of seeking reconciliation in Matthew 5 and 18. Pages 188-190.

B. You can make decisions and have biblical attitudes that keep conflict from destroying you personally.

- You can forgive others (even if they haven't asked for it!) Until both parties are seeking reconciliation, it won't happen – but, the power of the situation to hold you in bitterness and hurt is nullified.

Luke 23:34, 2 Corinthians 2:10

- You can "take the wrong" just as Christ has done for us.

1 Corinthians 6:7, 2 Corinthians 5:21

- View your brother or sister in Christ as "better" and worth your own personal sacrifice or loss. View them with the same love that God had for us even when we were still His enemy!

You can lay down your rights and need for personal justice for your family in Christ.

Philippians 2:1-8, 1 Corinthians 13, Romans 5:8, 1 John 3:16

- Keep your mouth shut. Don't add to the problem by stirring up the conflict with others.

Psalms 101:5, Ephesians 4:29-32

KEY TEACHING POINT:

Never allow division to go unchecked.

If you see someone causing division in the body of Christ or hear someone slandering another member of the church respond – take God’s side in the matter.

- Don’t rush to judgment. Take God’s side when dealing with any and all parties.
- You can call all parties to repentance and back to a place of biblical accountability.
- Follow the plan outlined in the “Directions” study (pg 190) from Matthew 18.
- Pray for all parties involved.

A. Understand that division is a result of pride and carnality.

1 Corinthians 3:3, 11:18

B. A person that causes division, absent repentance, must be marked as a danger to the rest of the church.

Romans 16:17

Points for prayer:

- Determine if there is anyone in your life that you need to be reconciled to. Pray for them by name. Plan your approach for reconciliation.
- Ask God for strength and His grace to lay down you life seeking reconciliation! 2 Cor 5:17-21
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Lesson SIXTEEN—*My Testimony & Witness*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson SIXTEEN:

- Answer any lesson SIXTEEN 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 include:

Day One: Think about the character of God whom you represent? Are there areas of your character that are different today compared to years ago? Have you ever experienced any suffering (adversity, rejection, injustice or loss) because of your faith in and submission to Jesus Christ? If so, how?

(2 Corinthians 1:4-7)

Day Two: Consider – Is my faith and character a reflection of Jesus Christ to my family? Sure, we are to continue to grow and conform to His character. Even though conflict in families are common and run deep, am I willing to accept any personal responsibility, be willing to forgive or change any wrong attitude I may have toward a family member? (Colossians 3:18-21)

Day Three: We spend much of our lives working among various people. Has your place of employment become more of a ministry or another obligation? Can you remember a most difficult employee or supervisor to work with? If the circumstances were repeated, would you relate to them differently today? With patience and longsuffering toward them? (Ephesians 6:5-9)

Day Four: Our society and community has little awareness of or submission to God. Yet we are to submit to authority and respect the laws of our community and country. (Romans 13:1-10)

Teacher/Student Task – How do my neighbors see me? As a caring and trustworthy neighbor? Do I have a good conscience in submitting and abiding to the laws of society? What can I do differently? Examples: Taxes, vehicle, traffic, business practices or serving others.

Day Five: Have you ever shared your salvation experience with a nonbeliever? If you were saved as a young child, was there a period of time you turned away and rebelled against God and His principles? Could you share that experience? How God called you back and restored your life and fellowship with Him? (Luke 15:3-7)

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

(Prepare a 15 to 20 min study from the following notes.)

Teaching Outline for Lesson SIXTEEN.

- **Review the Acts 22 testimony assignment** from your first meeting (week one & day 5 from this week's "Directions" study).
- **Invite the disciple to go with you** on Invitation Ministry to evangelize. Encourage an evangelistic missions trip. These are great ways to "practice" opening our mouths to declare the terms of the gospel to others!

THE KEY TEACHING POINT:

You are an ambassador of Jesus Christ to the lost world. The world should know you love God by a valid presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ from your mouth, and by a vivid picture of him through your life. Your mission to reach the lost cannot be accomplished unless both of those things are done.

I Corinthians 8:3, I Corinthians 15:1-4, II Corinthians 5:20

1. As an ambassador of Jesus Christ, you are responsible to represent his life to the lost world by your character.

Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:21, John 12:21

A. The world should see a balanced life - not extreme in any areas. Your life should be separate in moral and spiritual matters, but not so radically different physically and culturally that you lose credibility and influence.

Philippians 4:5, II Corinthians 6:14-18, I Corinthians 9:19-22

B. The world should see you as open and honest in all matters, as a testimony of a "good report". If people cannot trust Christians, then who can they trust?

II Corinthians 8:21, Romans 12:17, I Timothy 3:7

2. As an ambassador of Jesus Christ, you are responsible to represent his truth to the lost world by your verbal witness.

A. Pray that God would give you opportunities.

Colossians 4:2-6, Ephesians 6:18-20

B. Depend upon the Holy Spirit to guide your witness.

Acts 1:8, Matthew 10:19-20, I Peter 3:15

C. Develop a simple presentation of the plan of salvation. There are many ways to present the gospel, but do not try to get "theological" with lost people.

I Corinthians 15:1-4, II Corinthians 11:3

D. There are some basic gospel passages to get you started. As your spiritual life grows, and you gain more experience in sharing the gospel, you will develop more ways to witness.

There are many methods to present the gospel, but no one can present a better message: Jesus died for sinners.

The "Romans Road" can effectively lead people to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

- Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
A person must realize he is lost before he can be saved.
- Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."
A person must see that his sin originated with Adam and sentences him to die and be separated from God.
- Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

A person must see that his sin will certainly be required of him, but that God offers him salvation as a free gift through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

- Romans 5:6-8: "For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

A person must know that Jesus died for his sins.

- Romans 10:9-10: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

A person must believe that Jesus died for him, and that he rose from the dead, and ask him to be his Saviour.

When a person acknowledges this, you can lead him to pray and receive Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

The simple prayer of faith for God's salvation results in a person being born again, based on his acknowledging the above facts.

Example:

*"Dear Lord Jesus,
I know that I am a sinner. I know that my good works cannot save me from sin. I believe that only You, Lord Jesus, can save me from my sins. I believe that You, Lord Jesus, died for me. I believe You rose from the dead on the third day. Please forgive me and save me from my sin. I will put my trust in You alone, Lord Jesus. Today I turn from a life of sin to call on You as my Saviour, and I will follow You as my Lord. Amen."*

1. The simple attitude of heart necessary for salvation is seen in Luke 18:13.
"God be merciful to me a sinner."
2. There are several places in the Bible where the gospel is concisely stated in a single verse or passage. These are effective scriptures to use in witnessing. *A list of a few...*
 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
John 3:16
 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9
 - "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we may be made the righteousness of God in him." II Corinthians 5:21

There are many great teaching tools available to help you learn and practice evangelism!

- Larry Smith has an excellent series online. Go to the "sermon finder" in the "audio" section on mbtkc.org and select "Evangelism: Our Earthly Mission."
- Ray Comfort has many excellent resources at livingwaters.com

Points for prayer:

- Make a list of those that you know need to hear the gospel from you. Pray for them by name.
- Ask for wisdom and boldness to speak the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 4:24-33, Eph 6:19-20
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Lesson SEVENTEEN – *Sharing My Faith*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson SEVENTEEN:

- Answer any lesson SEVENTEEN 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 include:

Day One: Since childhood, each of us had good and bad influences. Naturally, we each affect others in good AND bad ways. God desires you to grow spiritually and eventually help other believers in positive ways. Can you identify individuals you have intentionally taught with a specific purpose?
God desires to work in you and through you into the lives of people. (Philippians 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:2)

Day Two: Most likely, one or more people are following your example as a Christian. In spite of your imperfections, are you confident that people can benefit from watching your life? If the answer is "no" then why not?

1) Because you don't recognize the Lord changing your life? 2) No because you are struggling with a sin and need help? 3) No because you feel unworthy and invaluable from past failures or problems?

Answer – Accept that God loves you unconditionally and desires to work through you. Simply continue to follow and learn from the Lord Jesus Christ. Overtime, He will be manifested through you in various ways. (Phil.4:9; 1 Thes.2:13)

Day Three: We are to observe the teachings of Jesus Christ by following the earthly examples of other Spirit led believers. Always allow trustworthy believers in your life. People who will love you unconditionally, who will give you wise counsel and who bear good fruit.

Strategy for maturing: Be a Listener / Learner / Laborer / Leader (2 Thes.3:7-9)

Day Four: It is natural to connect with people you have the most commonality with. But the world around you is comprised of and divided into many unique groups.

Cultures, races, religions, languages, economics, etc.

Teacher/Student Task: Do I recognize and appreciate the unique differences in people around me? Do I see the mission field in my community? Do I see different people from God's view? Do I recognize that all people share the same problems and needs? Have I reached out and befriended someone of a different culture? Am I a respecter of persons or do I love all people equally? (1 Corinthians 10:31-33)

Day Five: Imagine, God wants to reach various people through your life! Take your mission to introduce Jesus Christ to people seriously. You can redeem the time (Colossians 4:4-5) by being watchful to keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:5-8).

This will set you up to cover the content in the teaching outline.
(Prepare a 15 to 20 min study from the following notes.)

Teaching Focus for Lesson SEVENTEEN.

This is a great time to review and refocus on the objectives and goals of discipleship. Is the disciple *BEING* established in the four goals?

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...

1. Be established in the **Word of God.**
 - Is the disciple regularly reading and hiding God's Word in their heart?
 - Do they understand that the Word of God is THE absolute authority for our lives?

2. Be established in the **Fellowship of Believers.**
 - Is the disciple developing healthy relationships in the body of Christ? If not why not?
Proverbs 18:24
 - Do they recognize that God desires to use them to establish others in fellowship as well?

3. Be established in the **Structure of Our Local Church.**
 - Does the disciple see their position of submission and accountability in the local church?
 - Are they a part? Connected? Rom 12, 1 Cor 12.
Attendance of services alone cannot truly make you are part of a local church. Are they "fitly joining" to the body of Christ?
 - Do they see their need to pray, attend, tithe and serve all within the context of the local church?

4. Be established with us in **Ministry.**
 - Are they serving?
 - Make sure each disciple understands that they are to have some part in the great commission with us!

We are Ambassador's for Christ. We are soldiers in the Lord's army. We are servants of the Most High God!

This is why our mission statement is:

To mold each individual into the image of Christ and to mobilize all to minister the Word of God to the world.

Our Ministry motto: Every Member a Minister!

The bottom line:

Is the disciple getting an enlarged ministry vision for their life? Do they see the vision that God has given their local church and how they can support and fit into that vision?

Prayer: Focus on the areas of lack or need where the four goals are concerned. Pray for God's help and encouragement to focus and engage our lives in His mission.

By the way, you be an encourager as well. You can't beat someone right. You can point out what's wrong, but encourage them to follow what's right!

Lesson EIGHTEEN – *Preparing For Christ*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson EIGHTEEN:

- Answer any lesson EIGHTEEN 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 include:

Day One: We each are on a life journey with our Lord Jesus Christ. He desires to grow in His image and character. Can you identify some changed beliefs and attitudes since the beginning of this Directions Study? (Colossians 1:9-11)

Day Two: How has your attitude and relationship toward your church body changed since beginning this Directions Study? Have you developed new friends? Have you been able to volunteer to help a special need in the church? Example: greeter, usher, special workday, sports ministry, etc.

Day Three: We all possess a sin nature and presser from the world. Have you become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's inner workings? Have you been more intentional about confessing your sins to God and reconciling problems with others? (1 John 1:9; Colossians 3:12-14)

Day Four: God continues to draw us to Himself: toward WHO HE IS thru WHAT HE SAYS. Have you changed some daily or long term priorities since beginning this Directions Study? Do you understand the need to focus on spiritual and eternal things as much as fulfilling physical or earthly responsibilities? (Colossians 3:1-4)

Day Five: It is true that every day that goes by is a day closer to finally meeting Jesus Christ face to face. The next big event on God's calendar is the rapture or resurrection of the church or "bride of Christ".

Teacher / Student: Am I preparing to meet my Lord and Savior? Simply stated, am I preparing for the Judgment Seat of Christ? The day when my service and ministry will be judged since becoming a true Christian. (1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 3:10-16)

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

(Prepare a 15 to 20 min study from the following notes.)

Teaching Outline for Lesson EIGHTEEN.

How Will I Be Judged as a Christian? Understanding the Judgment Seat of Christ

When you became a Christian and entered the family of God, you also assumed a role and responsibility in his mission. God has provided you with resources such as the Holy Spirit, the word of God and the local church to grow and participate in his work to expand his kingdom. One day, God will judge your Christian life, using the word of God as his “law book”. You should constantly be preparing for that day where you will be held accountable to Jesus Christ, who gave himself for you. This lesson is designed to keep your focus on eternity by detailing your final accountability to Jesus Christ as his servant.

1. One of God’s primary roles is being the judge of all things.

A. Every person in history will be judged by God.

Hebrews 9:27, 12:22-23, Proverbs 29:26

B. God’s judgment of human beings can be classified in two groups: saved and lost.

John 5:25-30, II Timothy 4:1

C. The lost will be judged for their sin, and will fail this judgment to face an eternity in hell. This event is often called the “Great White Throne Judgment”.

Revelation 20:11-15, Daniel 7:9-10, Matthew 25:41

D. God judged sin at Calvary when Jesus Christ bore it for mankind. By trusting Jesus as your Saviour, your sins were paid for, and you cannot be judged for them.

Galatians 3:13, I Peter 2:24, II Corinthians 5:21

E. Your judgment will be for your service to Jesus Christ AFTER you were saved. The Bible refers to this event as “The Judgment Seat of Christ”.

II Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10

2. Day 4 of this week’s study: Your WORK will be judged as a servant of Jesus Christ.

A. The only foundation of life is faith in Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 3:11

B. God will judge what you build on the foundation of your faith in Jesus Christ by a “fiery trial”. Some works will result in a reward. They are pictured by gold, silver and precious stones, which are purified when passed through a fire. Other works will be destroyed. They are pictured by wood, hay and stubble, which are consumed when passed through a fire.

I Corinthians 3:12-13

C. It is God who does the work through your life. Your service means to yield yourself to his control and leadership and let Jesus live through you.

Philippians 2:13, Galatians 2:20

D. Do not be deceived by appearances. Many people only APPEAR to be servants of Jesus Christ, but the true motives of the heart will be made clear when God judges.

Luke 16:15, Matthew 7:15-20, I Corinthians 4:1-5

THE KEY TEACHING POINT:

God will judge your Christian life based on the MOTIVE of your service to Jesus Christ. He will "...try every man's work of what SORT (kind) it is". God is concerned with the purity of your heart attitude first, then your actual "works" after that. The quality of your life in Christ is more important than quantity of your deeds, and love for Jesus Christ will produce the right kind of actions.

I Corinthians 3:13

3. There are rewards to be obtained at the Judgment Seat of Christ, evidenced by five crowns in the New Testament.

I Corinthians 3:14

A. *The Crown of Righteousness* - II Timothy 4:7-8

The servant's crown – available to those who love the appearing of Jesus Christ.

1. The Bible closes with, "*Even so, come Lord Jesus.*"

Revelation 22:20

2. Those who serve Jesus Christ should be eagerly awaiting his return. Your overriding desire at all times should be to be with the Lord. But while you wait, stay active in working for him.

Philippians 1:21-24, Matthew 24:42-47, Luke 19:13

B. *The Crown of Life* - Revelation 2:10

The martyr's crown – available to those who give their life for Jesus Christ.

1. This is a special crown and reward given to those who lose their lives in direct service to Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:25, Hebrews 11:35-40

2. However, this crown is available to any believer even if they are not martyred for their faith. This same crown is given to those who endure temptation to sin because it requires you to "die to self" to gain victory over sin.

James 1:12, Romans 6:6-11

C. *The Incorruptible Crown* - I Corinthians 9:25

The athlete's crown – available to those who are temperate or balanced in life.

1. The context of the passage deals with temperance in physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional matters to be a witness to others. If an athlete trains his body to master his profession, you should "train" to serve Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 9:18-27, II Timothy 2:5

2. Temperance is a component of the fruit of the Spirit. By walking daily with God, you can allow the Holy Spirit to balance your life.

Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:22-24

3. This is balanced by remembering that some people have infirmities for the purpose of bringing glory to God, and this crown is still available to them.

II Corinthians 12:7-10, John 9:1-7

D. *The Crown of Rejoicing* - I Thessalonians 2:19-20

The soul winner's crown – available to those who lead the lost to Jesus Christ.

1. The greatest joy in life is leading others to Jesus Christ. This is called the crown of rejoicing because heaven rejoices when someone gets saved.

Luke 15:7, Philippians 4:1, John 15:8

2. It requires wisdom to bring others to the "tree of life" on which Jesus died.

Proverbs 11:30, I Peter 2:24

E. *The Crown of Glory* - I Peter 5:1-4

The shepherd's crown – available to those who pastor believers in the word of God.

1. This is also a special crown, available to those who faithfully occupy the pastoral role and position in the local church and lead the spiritual lives of God's people.

Hebrews 13:7,17

2. However, all crowns are available to every believer whether ordained or not. The Bible is clear that every saved person is to be actively ministering the word of God and leading other believers in the faith.

Ephesians 4:11-16, Proverbs 4:5-9

The rewards you receive on earth are all temporal and will go to the grave with you. Rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ are eternal and will never perish.

II Corinthians 4:17-5:4

4. There will be negative consequences at the Judgment Seat of Christ, as well as the rewards just mentioned.

A. Loss of works

Things that do not contribute to God's plan for your life will not abide the fire of his judgment.

I Corinthians 3:15

B. Opportunity loss

Rewards you could have had but lost because of sin or missed opportunities will be revealed.

Receiving a FULL reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ should be your goal.

II John 8

C. Personal loss

Some Christians will suffer shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ because they will finally realize just what Jesus Christ did for them, and what they did in return. Disappointing Jesus Christ is perhaps the greatest loss of all.

I John 2:28, Revelation 16:15

5. The final result of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

A. **Then:** After all the crowns and rewards are obtained, you will have the privilege of presenting them to Jesus Christ. It is his work in your life that enables you to earn the rewards as you yield

yourself to his service. Although those rewards are yours, to offer them back is the ultimate expression of love for him.

Revelation 4:10-11

B. **Now:** The focus on the return of Jesus Christ is one of the most practical doctrines for daily living in the Bible. An eternal focus produces earthly benefits. Notice in the following verses how many practical daily character qualities are produced by focusing on the return of Jesus Christ.

1. Patience - James 5:7-8, II Thessalonians 3:5
2. Peace - I Thessalonians 4:13-18
3. Joy - I Thessalonians 2:19
4. Holiness - I Thessalonians 3:13, I John 3:1-3
5. Confidence - I John 2:28, Philippians 1:6
6. Diligence in service - II Timothy 4:1-8
7. Righteous living - Titus 2:11-14
8. Faith, even in difficult times - I Peter 1:5-7

Points for Prayer:

- Wisdom to work – to engage in the mission of Christ, making disciples!
- For the return of the Lord! Rev 22:20
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