

Lesson SEVEN– *Worship*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson SEVEN:

- Answer any lesson SEVEN 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: What are some of the things that our society tends to worship? (Psalm 115:1-8)

Review: the last point – have you identified any areas where your priorities have changed as a worshipper of the only true God?

Day Two: As a worshipper of God, are you going to be able to compartmentalize or hold any area of your life back for yourself?

Colossians 1:16-20, or Psalm 73:24-26 – discuss some of the ways God is worthy of our worship.

Day Three: Following the examples of David (2 Sam 12) and Job (Job 1), have you ever encountered a trial or hardship that has driven you to seek and pray to God.

Point: Hardship or suffering function to drive us to the Lord: To see that He is enough (sufficient)!

Day Four: Read together the passages in Rev 4:9-11, 5:8-14, 7:9-12, 15:3-4. What are the distinct points and attitudes of proper worship?

Point: As a member of God's kingdom, is your participation with God's people in worship an option? We will be worshipping God forever in His kingdom. His desire is for us to start now!

Day Five:

TASK: Have a time of prayer including praise and worship of God together with your disciple! Use Psalm 100 as a guide for points your prayer, praise and worship.

This will set you up for the following character study. David is recommended for study, however other Bible characters are excellent examples for study of personal worship. Abraham, Jacob, Hezekiah, etc... (Prepare a 15 to 20 min study according to the instructions following.)

Examine the life of the biblical character.

He that would rightly understand a man must read his whole story. – German Proverb.

1. KEY: Use an inductive approach. That means to start at the beginning with unrelated facts and then bring them together into an organized biographical outline.

Involvement in this are three exercises: reference, research and recite.

2. Build a list of Bible references with contribute to the knowledge of the person **and give understanding as to (1) when, (2) where, (3) how, and (4) why they were engaging in worship or a lifestyle of worship of God!**

- Just collect the references through use of a concordance. You can use a Bible dictionary or handbook of Bible names to help you sort out references to different individuals with the same name (for example: there are 20 Zacharias, 20 Nathans, 15 Johnathans, 8 Judases, 7 Marys, 5 Jameses and Johns).

Note: Many individuals also have more than one name. (Peter, Simon, and Simeon can all refer to the same person). Center- Column references taken from key passages may also be helpful. Put the references on the left half of a sheet of paper, leaving room for notes on the right.

- Read the passages and jot down the main information provided about the person on the right-hand column of your paper.

3. Organize the individual facts.

- You may do this in chronological or topical order or in some other way that is logical. ***For the purpose of seeing the quality of WORSHIP in the life of the biblical character,*** identify and group the events of their life that are related to their worship of God.
- Some keys for study may be found by answering as many of these questions as you can: This is valuable for any aspect of a character study.
 - Names and their significance (what is the definition)
 - Age (what years did they live)
 - Ancestry (who were their parents)
 - Progeny (what did their children do)
 - Environment (what was their training)
 - Traits (what was their character like)
 - Types (are they a type of Christ or instance)
 - Friendships (who were their alliances with)
 - Crises (when did they get saved, ***what happened to provoke worship,*** etc.)
 - Development (who were they influenced by)
 - Accomplishments (whom did they influence)
 - Sins (what were their shortcomings)
 - Summary (what is the Bible's evaluation of their life or work)

Out the examination of their life, draw up an outline of what lessons can be learned. Limit your study by focusing on the aspect or events of worship in their life rather than their life as a whole.

Tips for Completion:

1. Get the meaning of the person's name from a Cruden's Concordance, Dictionary of Scripture Proper Names (J.B. Jackson), Bible dictionary (e-sword.net is free) or some other source.
2. The meaning of the name will give you a clue as to the history and character of the individual. Note any change of names given to the person. (Jacob to Israel)
3. Note: is this person a type of Christ (like Joseph in 120 particulars)? Of God (like Abraham)? Of the Holy Spirit (like his servant Eleazar)?
4. A person is known by the friends he keeps. (Samson)
5. God can use imperfect instruments, so don't be overly negative when facing a long list of shortcomings. We are people of like passions.
6. What one main lesson can be found in their worship of God that was of special value to you?
7. If this person were in our church what are the ways we'd see them in worship of God?

Present a 15 to 20 minute study of worship in the life of David (or another biblical character) to the disciple!

Points for Prayer:

- Spend some time in adoration of God together.
- Invite your disciple to attend Prayer Ministry with you.
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Lesson EIGHT– *My Identification*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson EIGHT:

- Answer any lesson EIGHT 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.
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Examples include:

Day One: Rom 6:1-7 The moment you turned from sin and trusted in Christ as your Lord and Saviour you were immersed into Him by the Holy Spirit – AND, you were buried and risen with Him! Discuss the disciples testimony and new life in Christ IN LIGHT of this great truth.

Illustration: Get the picture: Do we sprinkle coffins?

Day Two: Your physical baptism by immersion pictures your identification with Christ in death, burial and resurrection – and illustrates the new life you received the moment you gave your life to Christ.

Have you been baptized in obedience to the Lord's command (Matt 28:18-20).

If not, what's holding you back? Questions? Fear?

Day Three: Point: Because physical baptism is your public profession of faith in Christ Jesus and the statement of your decision to be a disciple of Him, KNOW that you will encounter a trial or temptation designed by Satan to derail your walk with Christ. (Matt 4:1)

Examples:

An old girl or boy friend suddenly resurfaces.

A job change or opportunity that will pull you out of church.

Some financial, physical or relational hardship or loss. Etc...

Day Four: Point: The Lord's supper is the key to continuous revival in your life, because it is a time of continuous remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for you because of your sin.

Day Five: Point: Partaking of the Lord's table, is a time of self examination and confession of sin which results in proper fellowship.

1. A right walk with God.

2. Unity in the church family

Have you made partaking of the Lord's Supper with your church a personal priority?

Reinforce Goal #2: Fellowship of the Believer

Beware false doctrine surrounding the Lord's Supper.

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

The elements used in the Lord's Supper are a symbol, not the literal body and blood of Jesus Christ.

1. A literal body and blood would violate the law of God.
 - Eating human flesh is against the law of God.
Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 26:27-29, Ezekiel 5:8-10
 - Drinking blood is outlawed in the Bible, and connected with false worship.
Leviticus 17:10-14, Psalm 16:4, Deuteronomy 32:16-17, 31-33, 37-38
2. The specific elements used are a picture of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Unleavened bread is used to signify the pure body of Jesus Christ. Leaven in the Bible speaks of corruption and sin, and was forbidden in Israel's Passover feast.
1 Corinthians 5:6-9, Matthew 16:6-12, Deuteronomy 16:1-4
 - Grape juice signifies the blood of Jesus Christ. The juice is unfermented because every mention of the "cup" at the Last Supper is said to be the "fruit of the vine".
Matthew 26:29, Mark 14:25, Luke 22:18

Basic questions you may be asking:

1. Where should I be baptized?

Since baptism is a public profession of your faith in Jesus Christ, and an ordinance of the local church, most baptisms are done publicly at the church. But it does not have to be. For instance, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. Any public body of water large enough for immersion will suffice. The actual place of baptism is not as important as the public testimony of your identification with the Lord Jesus Christ.

If needed: give our handout on baptism to the disciple to inform them of baptism dates, what to bring, etc...

2. How often should we partake of the Lord's Supper?

The only instruction in the Bible is, "As often as you will". As an ordinance of the local church, it is the decision of each church how often they participate in the Lord's Supper. It should be frequent enough to maintain a proper reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, but not so often that it becomes a ritual or ceremony and loses its meaning.

3. Who is qualified to perform baptisms or serve the Lord's Supper?

Since these observances are an ordinance of the local church, it is the responsibility of the pastors and / or deacons of the church, as a public memorial of Jesus' sacrifice.

Do you have any other questions about this subject?

Points for Prayer:

- For God to open the disciples eyes for their need to follow the Lord in baptism.
- To recognize that personal revival is built into the Lord's Supper in remembering Christ's sacrifice for our sin!

Lesson NINE– *My Community*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson NINE:

- Answer any lesson NINE 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 #3: Established in the Structure of the Local Church.

Examples include:

Day One: Ephesians 5. Jesus not only died for you as an individual, but also for the entire church! How much more should we die to self and submit, engage, and serve Him in our local church?

Beware: in every generation, there is a strong movement to undermine the biblical function of the local church.

Day Two: The church is the physical representation of Christ on earth – SO, it is of vital importance for every believer to be engaged in God's church.

We don't follow and serve Christ individually only – but we're to be active members of a local church body.

Are you determined to faithfully attend when your church gathers?

Day Three: Your spiritual development is dependent on engagement in your local church. (Eph 4:11-12) This is where we are perfected as saints, equipped for ministry and edify one another.

What are some ways that you think you can serve here in our church?

(Remember the last goal of discipleship: to establish the disciple WITH YOU in ministry. Think about inviting them to join you in a ministry function area of service.)

Day Four: God places every member in the body to minister and serve according to their gifting and calling. You can be sure that God has a place for you here! Do you know what / where that is yet?

Day Five: God desires healthy relationships in His church body. We are warned in God's Word of things that will hinder our relationships. In this lesson, God's Word shows us how to have growing, fruitful relationships. Help the disciple work through any issues they are having (with others) in one of the areas listed.

What some ways that the disciple can be used of God to bless (edify) others this next week? Make sure that the disciple gets their focus off of themselves and onto others. The church is comprised of many members with both needs and gifts.

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

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

KEY TEACHING POINT FOR REVIEW: *The local church is the only institution ordained by God that can fulfill the Great Commission. The design of the local church is to educate, equip, and edify the saints for the work of the ministry. The local church provides spiritual leadership for you, and exists to prepare each believer to live for God and fulfill his individual role in the Great Commission.*

Ephesians 4:11-16, Matthew 28:18-20

Your role in the local church is vital. You should grow through three broad general stages, as outlined in Ephesians 4:12.

1. You are to be perfected as a saint. (A time to observe and learn.)

Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the word of God and the leadership of the church to learn to be the person God wants you to be. Even if you have some maturity in the Lord and in the Bible, you should understand that every local church is unique. You cannot serve effectively unless you follow leadership and prove yourself based on the particular ministry of that local church.

Hebrews 13:7, 17, I Corinthians 11:1, Matthew 11:28-30

2. You are to do the work of the ministry. (A time to participate.)

In time, you should naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve God by taking on some basic functions through the ministries that are already established in your church.

Matthew 4:19, James 1:22-25

3. You are to edify the body of Christ. (A time to lead.)

- As your spiritual growth continues, you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way others have ministered to you.

II Timothy 2:2

- These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of physical growth: childhood, youth, and adult. Be patient! This process takes time. Just be sure to remain faithful to God's established institution of the local church.

Basic questions you may be asking:

HOW CAN I TELL IF I AM IN A GOOD (BIBLICAL) LOCAL CHURCH?

Pray! Has God lead you there? James 1:5

In choosing churches, most people make decisions based on external matters such as location, quality of the building, style of music, available programs, etc. However, you should observe the spiritual qualities of a particular church above those things, and compare them with the Biblical qualities of a good local church:

1. Is the gospel of Jesus Christ the main emphasis, and are people being saved? Matthew 7:20, Acts 2:47
2. Is the Bible taught and believed as the pure word of God, and the final authority for life? Titus 1:9
3. Is the membership encouraged to read and study the Bible as well as the leadership? Acts 17:10-12
4. Do people genuinely care for others, and minister to their physical and spiritual needs? Acts 6:1
5. Does the church support and send out missionaries? Acts 13:1-3

Points for Prayer:

- God's grace to support, plugin, and pray for our local church.
- For strength to obey God in seeking reconciliation with another brother or sister in Christ.
- To be directed as to our fit in the body of Christ!
- Invite the disciple to attend Prayer Ministry with you.

Lesson TEN– *My Stewardship*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson TEN:

- Answer any lesson TEN 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 #3: Established in the Structure of the Local Church.

Examples include:

Day One: Recognizing that everything you are and have originates from God – this includes your vocation and place of employment. How has your attitude toward your job changed since you have discovered this truth? Discuss.

Day Two: As a manager and not an owner of your God given resources, are you content with what God has provided, or are you coveting more? Discuss.

Day Three: What is your plan to be an investor verses a consumer? ie: Getting out of credit card / short term debt. Investing to advance God's kingdom. Discuss.

Day Four: Many are afraid that God's provision will not be enough. (Discuss any areas of financial or provisional fear that the disciple might have. Have they learned contentment with what they currently have?) You can trust God!

Day Five: God is a giver. Man's nature is to take. Just like God gave Himself for us, God's desire is that we give ourselves to Him. This enables us to give of ourselves to others. Discuss the disciple's plans to become a giver of their life toward God, the church and 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 TEN.

You've learned in your lesson this week that as a believer, you must see yourself as managing your physical resources, instead of owning them.

Recognize: God will require an accounting of your stewardship of the resources that he gave you to manage. I Corinthians 4:1-5, Luke 16:1-12

1. Money is no indication of your true worth to God or man.

A. God does not condemn people simply for having money, or give special treatment just because a man is poor. Instead, he looks at their attitude. The Bible does not say money is the root of all evil, it says the love of money is the root of all evil, and poor people can love it as much as the rich.

I Timothy 6:10

B. Some people are poor because they violate Bible principles with their money. God delights in helping the helpless, but God does not bless those who are poor because of their own sin, laziness and irresponsibility.

Romans 12:11, Proverbs 13:4, 21:17, 25

C. Many Bible characters were wealthy and right with God.

1. Solomon was one of the wealthiest men in history, with a proper attitude toward his wealth.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11, 12:13-14

2. Job was the wealthiest man of his day, also with a good attitude, even when his wealth was gone.

Job 1:20-22

3. The Lord Jesus Christ was provided for materially by wealthy women.

Luke 8:1-3, John 12:3

D. Poor people who are right with God are better than rich people who violate the Bible and have no relationship with God.

Proverbs 15:16, 16:8, 19:1, 28:6

E. Realize that the most precious possession you have is your eternal soul, not your things.

Matthew 16:24-26, Job 27:8-9

F. There is always a proper balance to achieve in financial matters. The Bible does not contradict itself, but it deals with issues such as this with balancing truths.

- The Bible says not to worry about your physical provisions, but it also says you must work and provide for your family.

Matthew 6:25-34, II Thessalonians 3:10-12, I Timothy 5:8

- The Bible says the love of money is the root of all evil, but it also says the laborer is to be paid and honest work should be rewarded.

I Timothy 5:17-18, Proverbs 13:11, Ecclesiastes 3:13

2. The wrong attitude toward money will adversely affect your relationship with God.

A. Your heart should always be set on the things of God.

Matthew 6:19-21, Colossians 3:1-4

B. Possessions can get in the way of your relationship with God if you trust in them.

Mark 10:23-27, Proverbs 11:4, 28

C. You should always depend on God to provide your needs instead of thinking that you can provide for yourself without him. Self sufficiency gets in the way of God's blessings.

Philippians 4:19, Deuteronomy 8:10-18

D. When God blesses you materially, do not forget him.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12, Proverbs 30:7-9, Revelation 3:17

E. If you lose all your possessions, do not lose faith in God.

Job 1:20-22

3. The wrong attitude toward money will affect you personally.

A. If you make your goal in life to earn vast wealth, you will never be truly happy.

Ecclesiastes 5:10-15, Proverbs 23:4

B. Realize that the media and advertising have a negative and materialistic influence on you. Excessive advertising is designed to create covetousness and discontentment. Guard your heart. Make sure your major desires are spiritual more than physical.

Psalm 37:4

C. Guard against excessive debt. The lure of easy borrowing and purchasing is a snare that will put you in bondage if you are not careful and prudent.

Proverbs 22:7, Romans 13:8

D. The wrong attitude toward money will affect your relationship with other people.

- You cannot measure the character of people by the amount of their money. Basing your friendships on material possessions will lead to problems.

Luke 12:15, James 2:1-7, Proverbs 14:20, 19:4

- Do not be envious of someone else's wealth.

Exodus 20:17, Psalm 49:16-20

- Develop proper character with your personal finances. Your testimony for Christ will be hindered if you are not trustworthy in your financial obligations.

Psalm 37:21, Luke 16:10-12, I Timothy 3:7

- Be honest and ethical in your business dealings with others. Compromising Biblical principles to gain wealth will not bring the blessing of God.

II Corinthians 8:21, Proverbs 10:4, 22

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON:

Be content with what God has given you. To be content is not to have a sour attitude and grudgingly resign yourself to accept your state in life. Contentment is realizing whatever you have is a blessing from God, and to rest, satisfied in his provision. Contentment is a learned character trait, and sometimes requires adversity to learn it. Paul wrote about contentment while in jail!

Philippians 4:11-13

- Contentment is not found in things, but in God.
I Timothy 6:6-8, Hebrews 13:5
- Contentment results from a proper view of what are TRUE riches. Sometimes it requires sacrificing temporal riches for rewards only God can give.
Hebrews 11:24-26, Philippians 3:7-8
- One of the best ways to develop contentment is to focus on things in life that are far more important than money, and which money cannot buy.
 1. Wisdom & truth from the word of God. Psalm 119:14, 72, 127, Proverbs 23:23, 16:16
 2. A righteous life. Proverbs 16:8, 28:6, Psalm 37:16
 3. Quietness, peace, and a good night's sleep. Ecclesiastes 4:6, 5:12, Proverbs 15:6, 17:1
 4. Good health. Luke 8:43

Basic questions you may be asking:

1. Does God want all Christians to be rich?

Not really. God wants to bless you and entrust you with as much as you need and can be faithful with. In some people's lives, that can be a substantial amount. But some religious leaders promise you riches if you give them money, and that is a false teaching. If you give them money, THEY will be rich! In many cases, that is their motive. Guard yourself and avoid such teaching.

II Peter 2:1-3, Titus 1:10-11

2. What can I count on for God to provide for me?

God will provide your needs, but not always what you want.

Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:25-34, Psalm 23:1

3. What should I do if I am in serious debt and have made a mess out of my personal finances?

- People get in financial trouble for many reasons. Sometimes it is beyond their control, but most often it is due to violation of Bible principles. Most financial problems result from covetousness, which is sin. God equates it with idolatry because the desire for things is placed between you and God.
Colossians 3:5, Ephesians 5:3-5
- Like any other sin, confess it and ask God to cleanse you. I John 1:9
- Realize also that although God is eager to forgive every sin that is confessed, the consequences of that sin often remain. If it took years to get into this position, it will not disappear quickly or easily. A serious commitment must be made, and lifestyle changes are required to correct this situation. There are many Biblical programs available to help you. Begin by honoring God with your finances. Seek Biblical guidance from your pastor and from another brother in Christ who is skilled and knowledgeable in financial matters.

Points for Prayer:

- This is a time of proving God's Word – is there a faith that God will perform the promises found in His Word? Invite the disciple to take any need to the Prayer Ministry to lift up issues with some other brothers or sisters in Christ who will support any great financial needs in prayer.
- Eyes to see contentment in Christ!!

Lesson ELEVEN– *My Giving*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson ELEVEN:

- Answer any lesson ELEVEN 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 #3: Established in the Structure of the Local Church.

Examples include:

Day One: The act of giving is a part of worship and is a cause for joy in the life of any believer. What type of attitude do you have in worship? (Is it out of obligation, halfhearted, burdensome, begrudging - OR - joy, contentment, willing, blessed, thankful, etc...)

Day Two: Can you really say that everything you are and have belongs to God? Are you in control of your resources or is God? Which more important, God's control over your resources or His control over your life? If God has control of your life, He'll have control over your resources as well.

Day Three: Who benefits the most by your giving? God? / Others? / You?

Answer: YOU! Remember, God uses your giving to conform you to His image. Man's nature is to take. God's nature is to give.

Day Four: Is it difficult for you to give a tithe? What are the hurdles that need to be overcome in order for you to give?

(This may be a place to encourage the disciple to get some basic financial counseling – re: budgeting, reducing expenses, etc... Pray with the disciple to learn to trust God for provision, for help to obey this biblical principle, etc... *Caution: this can be a sensitive area for the disciple. Be careful not to overstep their privacy. Trust the Holy Spirit to bring conviction where needed.*)

Day Five: God's giving nature results in blessing in our lives. As you grow in Christ you are to follow His example. What are some ways that God can use you to give so as to be a blessing to others?

Challenge! How can God use you to give both in the church and in the world around you?
(Your time, talent and treasure?)

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

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

Points for Prayer:

- We are not our own! We need God's grace to live our lives to God's glory.
- Giving of ourselves, our time, etc...
- Putting our heart and treasure in the right place, in submission to God!

Teaching Outline for Lesson ELEVEN.

1. Giving is a reflection of the nature of God.

A. God's will is that you would be conformed to the image of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29-30

B. God's essential nature is giving, which is manifested in Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for your sins.

John 3:16, I John 4:10, II Corinthians 8:8-9

C. As a saved person, you are a "partaker of the divine nature" of God. A list of the qualities of his nature concludes with charity.

II Peter 1:3-8

2. Biblical giving begins by giving your life to God.

A. God bought you with a price, his blood, and everything you are and everything you have belongs to him.

I Corinthians 6:19-20, I Peter 1:18-19

B. God commands you to present your body as a living sacrifice, not just your money.

Romans 12:1

THE KEY TEACHING POINT:

True New Testament giving goes much further than money. It concerns turning over complete control of your life and resources to Jesus Christ, who gave his life for you. If God has control of your life, he will also have control of your resources. Principles of giving in this lesson can be applied to your time and service, as well as your money.

II Corinthians 8:3-5, Luke 16:10-11

3. Biblical giving benefits you personally.

A. God has the ability to bless both the gift and the giver.

- Money given with the wrong attitude can still be used for God's purposes.
- Money given with the right attitude results in a blessing for the giver also.
II Corinthians 8:3-5, 12

B. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 8:8

C. Giving develops an attitude of grace. It takes no special talents or abilities to give, only grace and a willing heart.

II Corinthians 8:6-7, 9:8

D. Giving helps you set Biblical priorities.

- Giving is an investment in eternal matters.
Matthew 6:19-21, II Corinthians 4:17-18, Colossians 3:2
- Giving increases your faith because it establishes your dependency on God. When you give, it requires you to trust God for your future provisions.
Hebrews 11:1, Luke 6:38

4. Biblical giving benefits the life of your church.

A. Biblical giving is built around the local church first and foremost. There are many worthy causes you can give to, but the church is God's structure through which he accomplishes his mission in the world and in your life.

I Corinthians 16:1-2

B. Biblical giving supports the leaders of the church, so they are free from secular work to devote their lives to ministering to you and others.

I Corinthians 9:1-14, I Timothy 5:17-18, Galatians 6:6

C. Biblical giving supports the missions work of the church.

Philippians 4:15-17, Acts 13:1-3

D. Biblical giving helps other believers in your church who may have special needs and are unable to take care of them on their own (benevolence). Those who receive such help should have proven themselves faithful under New Testament guidelines. These needs should be confirmed and managed by the leadership of the church, and handled in confidence.

I Timothy 5:3, 9-10, 16, Acts 6:1

E. Biblical giving supports other special projects as determined by the leaders of the church, as well as the general expenses of the church.

Acts 11:27-30, II Corinthians 8:4, II Kings 12:4-14

5. Biblical giving should be consistent, and grow as you grow spiritually. The amount of your financial giving is governed by Biblical principles.

A. The tithe

- A "tithe" is one-tenth of a person's income. The tithe was established in the Old Testament as a law for the Nation of Israel, but was practiced even before the law. Tithing is first seen in the Bible when Abraham tithed to Melchizedec.
Genesis 14:20, 28:20-22
- Although the tithe is not specifically discussed in the New Testament, the principles of the Old Testament establish patterns for your life.
I Corinthians 10:11, Romans 15:4
- A tithe is the starting point for your financial giving to your local church. The tithe establishes the lordship of Jesus Christ in your life in the area of finances. It is to be taken "off the top" as an indication of the priority of God in your life. Every believer should commit to a consistent and lifelong tithe to his local church to fund God's mission in the world.

Nehemiah 10:32-39, Proverbs 3:9

- Even though it appears not to “make sense”, the record and testimony of God’s people has proven that it is easier to live on 90% of your income than 100%. God promises to take care of faithful givers.
Proverbs 3:10, Malachi 3:8-12

B. Offerings

In addition to the tithe, voluntary offerings were given in the Bible by God’s people to fund special needs. If your life is given to the service of Jesus Christ, then your resources will be available to fund your ministry.
Exodus 25:1-2

C. Sacrificial giving

- As your spiritual growth continues, you should reach the point where you give not just out of your abundance, but to the point it will cost you in sacrifice. Jesus gave ALL for you, and he is your example.
Ephesians 5:1-2, II Corinthians 8:9
- Bible examples of sacrificial giving are abundant.
The churches of Macedonia - II Corinthians 8:1-4
The widow’s mite - Luke 21:1-4
David - II Samuel 24:24

D. Your giving is governed by other Biblical principles.

- Give as God has prospered you. Don’t compare yourself to others in giving or any other area.
I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 8:12, 10:12
- Give cheerfully. God wants giving people more than he wants gifts.
II Corinthians 9:7
- Remember the law of sowing and reaping. God blesses faithful givers. You should never give with the motive of receiving personal gain in return. However, if you prove yourself faithful with what God has given you, God may entrust you with more resources.
II Corinthians 9:6, Galatians 6:7-8

Basic questions you may be asking:

1. How can I be sure I am giving to the right things, and that my money and time is being used as God would have it?

Build your giving (time, service, and money) around the local church. It is God’s institution to accomplish his mission in the world. The leaders of your local church are accountable to the people of the church, as well as to God. As a member of the church, you can see personally how the money is being used. If you have followed the principles of the word of God in joining a local church, then you should be able to trust the leaders of that church to handle the resources in wisdom.

Acts 4:34-37, Romans 12:11, 17, II Corinthians 8:20-21, 6:3

2. My finances are a mess. How can I afford to give?

Prioritize God in your giving. You may say, “But, I cannot afford to do that!” You cannot afford NOT putting God first in your life!

Malachi 3:9-11, Proverbs 3:9-10, Haggai 1:6-11

Lesson TWELVE– *My Spiritual Gifts*

Agenda

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

Review of Directions lesson ELEVEN:

- Answer any lesson ELEVEN 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: Do you believe the Holy Spirit dwells inside you? Have you ever sensed God's Holy Spirit using you in a unique or unexplainable way? Explain when and how.

There IS a difference between your talents (your natural human abilities, training, experiences, and passions) and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God can and will use both your talents and gifts to serve Him and others.

Day Two: God desires to minister to you through the gifts of other believers. Likewise, God has gifted you to minister to them. Have you been able to identify one or more spiritual gifts? (Spiritual gifts listed on pg.151-152)

Day Three: The local church is compared to the human body in 1 Corinthians 12. Every member or part of your body has an important function that benefits your whole body. Do you see that your spiritual gift or gifts serve a benefit to your church body? Can you describe how with some specifics?

Day Four: God has given you spiritual gifts to minister to other members in the body of Christ. But does your value in the church depend upon how many people you touch or the amount of recognition you receive? Exercising your gifts will help strengthen the body and bring glory to God.
Does the disciples see that God has made them valuable to the church body, whether anyone else sees their value or not?

Day Five: God, through His grace, has given you both spiritual gifts AND human talents or skills. Being a steward of these for God's purposes requires daily faith, Romans 12:6. As you continue to grow in Jesus Christ, you will further exercise these and witness God working through your life.

This is a critical area of discipleship!

The Directions material is very comprehensive – take this normal "teaching" time and use it to plan with your disciple over how to "plug in" to ministry in your local church.

Reinforce Goal 4: Established in Ministry WITH YOU.

Task: Help the disciple begin to identify at least one area of spiritual gifting to serve others.

- Write down any spiritual gifts you have identified and be intentional to exercise them toward others this next week.
- Invite the disciple to start “trying” different ministry and service activities WITH YOU – with the goal of identifying some of their spiritual gifting.
- ***The key to discovering your gifting: is getting to work!***
Plug into to various ministry activities and opportunities as you are able. You’ll find the most fulfillment and fruit in the areas God has gifted you to serve. Remember the principle of Eph 4:16 – God fitly joins a member to the body!

Ministry

- Take them with you to witness: Invitation Ministry, door to door, jail ministry, etc...
- Missions discovery trip
- Serve in the children’s ministry
- Welcome ministry – greeter, etc...
- Visiting / Comforting those in need. Hospital visit, nursing homes, etc...
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Service

- Usher, security, etc...
- Cleaning, maintenance, etc...
- Audio / Visual
- Nursery
-
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-

Identify any human talents, skills or hobbies in your life. How will you use them to model Christ’s character to others and bring glory to God?

Points for Prayer:

- Courage to engage in ministry service.
- God to lead in the discovery of our spiritual gifts.
- To realize God’s promise of seeing us fitly joined to the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:16, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12