FRAMEWORKS

Ephesians 4:15-16
“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

4th Edition
Updated Summer 2017
Discipleship Materials Developed by Campus Ventures
Frameworks
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The CV Mission

To glorify God by knowing and loving Him and leading others to be devoted disciplermakers for Jesus Christ.

Matthew 22:37-40; 2 Timothy 2:2; Isaiah 26:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

WE ACCOMPLISH THIS BY PROVIDING

- Leaders that set the pace in living as devoted disciples of Jesus Christ
- A form of ministry that is culturally relevant and Biblically driven
- Worship that expresses our love to God and provides an environment for both believers and seekers to learn about God
- A place for students to love, encourage, support and help one another become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ
- Training opportunities which help students develop into fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ
- A vision for making disciples in an effort to send out leaders to create new disciple-making ministries/communities.
- An atmosphere that encourages students to penetrate their culture with truth

TO THIS END, SEVERAL VALUES ARE HELD IN HIGH REGARD AMONG US:

The CV Core Values:
1. Experiential Walk with Jesus (the Word & Prayer by Faith, walking in step with the Spirit, etc.) [Galatians 5:25; John 15:5]
2. Thriving in Community [1 John 1:3; Ephesians 4:13-16]
3. Spiritually Reproduce [Matthew 28:19; 2 Timothy 2:2]
4. Evangelize Peers [Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:28-29 JBP]
5. Worship (giving, serving, life, song, etc.) [Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10:31]
6. Commitment (faithfulness in following through) [Luke 16:10]
7. Thinking Critically [Proverbs 3:5-6]

The CV Heart Attitudes: (See next page)
7 Heart Attitudes of CV
for the Glory of God

I realize that in order to fulfill the core values of CV I will often need to:

1. Put the goals and interests of others above my own.
   “Each of you should look not only to your own interests but to the interests of others.” Philippians. 2:4

2. Live an honest, open life before others.
   “Do not lie to one another, since you are members of one another…” Ephesians 4:25

3. Give and receive Scriptural correction.
   “Warn (admonish, urge and encourage) one another every day…that none of you may be hardened (into settled rebellion) by the deceitfulness of sin…” Hebrews 3:13 (Amplified)

4. Clear up relationships.
   “…if you…remember that your brother has something against you…go and be reconciled to your brother…” Matthew 5:23,24

5. Participate in the ministry of CV and of my church.
   “Serve one another with your particular gifts God has given each of you…” 1 Peter 4:10 (Phillips)

6. Support the work financially.
   “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver..” 2 Corinthians 9:7

7. Follow spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits and make it a joy for them.
   “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority…so that their work will be a joy, not a burden.” Hebrews 13:17

I am willing to work together with CV and the church toward these, not only outwardly, but also in the attitude of my heart.

The Seven Heart Attitudes of CV developed by Harold Bullock, Senior Pastor of Hope Church
Frameworks Group Covenant

I, ___________________, dedicate myself to the leader and members of my group to practice the following commitments and confirm that it is the free and willing desire of my heart to practice these commitments:

1. Acknowledge and submit to Christ as Lord of my daily life.
   ○ **Reason:** Romans 14:9 - Jesus Christ is Lord of everyone.

2. Practice the Biblical Heart Attitudes.
   ○ **Reason:** Ephesians 5:25b, 29 - As Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for it, so we also love the body of believers as we follow Jesus’ example in interacting with that body.

3. Make a serious effort to attend all group meetings on time. If I must miss a meeting, I will do a makeup meeting with another member of the group.
   ○ **Reason:** The group needs you! The group will benefit by doing things together. Punctuality shows high esteem for others’ time.

4. Complete all assignments and participate in group discussions.
   ○ **Reason:** Colossians 3:23 and Mark 7:37 - Wholeheartedness and excellence are marks of a disciple.

5. Attend Fall Retreat
   ○ **Reason:** Relationships and “family” are developed on retreats. Retreats create unique opportunities for God to work in your life.

6. Attend graduation party.
   ○ **Reason:** Again, the group needs you! It will benefit you to do things together.

7. Keep what is shared in the group in confidence.
   ○ **Reason:** Deepens relationships and builds trust.

8. Make a serious effort to get to know and to pray for other group members (outside of group time.)
   ○ **Reason:** Deepens relationships and builds trust.
By signing this group covenant I affirm that:

- I have heard the introduction letter.
- I am requesting a more intense training opportunity than people usually associate with church training.

Therefore I am freely and willingly inviting immediate intervention by my leader if I am:

- Not fulfilling the covenant
- Missing the point
- Otherwise out of bounds

Signatures of all group members:

________________________________________  ______________________________________

________________________________________  ______________________________________

________________________________________  ______________________________________

________________________________________  ______________________________________

________________________________________  ______________________________________

________________________________________  ______________________________________
Contact List

Group Name:____________________________

Member’s Name:________________________
Cell Phone:____________________________
E-mail:____________________________

Member’s Name:________________________
Cell Phone:____________________________
E-mail:____________________________

Member’s Name:________________________
Cell Phone:____________________________
E-mail:____________________________

Member’s Name:________________________
Cell Phone:____________________________
E-mail:____________________________

Member’s Name:________________________
Cell Phone:____________________________
E-mail:____________________________
# Frameworks Schedule

**Week 1:**
- Go over the Group Covenant with the group and sign together.
- Come up with a time to meet every week.
- Review or revise your Scripture memory plan to stay fresh on Foundations verses while adding Frameworks verses.
- Go over next week’s unit (of your choice), the unit assignments, and the application assignments for your next meeting.

**Week 2:**
- **Unit: Grace vs. Law**
- **Application Assignments:**
  - **Bridge** - Section #1: Memorize the introduction and present it to at least two people, and anyone else who is willing to listen.
  - **Outreach** -

**Week 3:**
- **Unit:**
- **Application Assignments:**
  - **Bridge** - Section #2: Memorize Romans 3:23, 6:23, and practice with the new section.
  - **Outreach** -

**Week 4:**
- **Unit:**
- **Application Assignments:**
  - **Bridge** - Section #3: Memorize Hebrews 9:27 and practice with the new section.
  - **Outreach** -

**Week 5:**
- **Unit:**
- **Application Assignments:**
  - **Bridge** - Section #4: Memorize Isaiah 59:2 and practice with the new section.
  - **Outreach** -
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<th>Week 6:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unit:</td>
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<td>Application Assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Bridge - Section #5: Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9 and practice with the new section.</td>
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<td>- Outreach -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit:</td>
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<td>Application Assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Bridge - Section #6: Memorize Romans 5:8 and practice with the new section.</td>
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<td>- Outreach -</td>
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<td>Unit:</td>
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<td>Application Assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Bridge - Section #7: Memorize John 14:6 and present all you have learned to someone you know.</td>
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<td>- Outreach -</td>
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<td>Unit:</td>
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<td>Application Assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Bridge - Section #8: Memorize John 5:24 and practice with the new section.</td>
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<td>- Outreach -</td>
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<td>Unit:</td>
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<td>Application Assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Bridge - Section #9: Memorize John 1:12 and practice with the new section.</td>
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<td>- Outreach -</td>
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<td>Week 11:</td>
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<td>Unit: __________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td>Application Assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Bridge - Section #10: Memorize Romans 10:9 and practice with the new section.</td>
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<td>- Outreach -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit: __________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td>Application Assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Bridge - Section #11: Memorize Revelation 3:20 and practice with the new section.</td>
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<td>- Outreach -</td>
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<td>_____________________________________________________________________</td>
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<th>Week 13:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unit: __________________________________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Assignments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bridge - Section #12: Read through conclusion to the Bridge and practice sharing with at least 2 pre-Christians.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Outreach -</td>
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<th>Week 14:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unit: Frameworks Party</td>
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GRACE VS. LAW

Galatians 5:1
“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Disciples who follow Jesus...
- Know they are saved by grace, not by their own effort. Eph. 2:8, John 3:16, Romans 5:2
- Trust God’s love for them, and boldly follow the Lord out of love for Him. 2 Timothy 1:7, John 16:33, 1 John 4:18
- Faithfully share the grace God has given them with others. 2 Timothy 2:2, Matthew 28:18-20
- Know the Lord and relate to Him personally every day. John 17:3

... Therefore, your commitments are:
- Video: “Motivation Seminar” by Brenda Lewis (https://youtu.be/i0O0FXSxO-Y)
- Read through the “Motivation” handout and write out at least 3 questions or observations that you have - Note: This handout goes along with the video.
- Pray through Truth/Lie grid and write on a 3x5 card one of the truths (with one of the corresponding verses) God speaks to you about. On the other side of the card, write down the lie. Carry it around with you this week to remind you of God’s truth in this area.
- Memorize one of the following with the topic “Grace”:
  - 2 Peter 1:3-4
  - Galatians 2:20
  - Romans 11:5-6
- Pray daily to understand the deep love of God (Eph 3:17-19), and pray to love Him back.
- Work on the first section of the Bridge.
- Think about the following phrase: “...I think many Christians today come to Christ on the basis of faith but then try to be perfected by their own effort....” What do you think this means? Is this something that you do?
- In your daily Quiet Times, ask God to reveal His grace to you, and write down what He shows you.
- Attend CV, take notes, and record your key thought
- Meet with your Frameworks leader or a member of your group and share your Key Thought from the Action Plan page.
- Additional Optional Resources: (see Appendix)

BEFORE MOVING ON:
How is God’s character exemplified when I am motivated to obedience by His love and grace?
Motivation Seminar

What is your motivation for participating in a Discipleship Group? This seminar will hopefully help check your motives and set them on the right course.

The end purpose of Discipleship Training is to know Christ, not to “do things” such as Devotions, Scripture Memory, etc.... You don't have to do any of these things to gain Christ's approval.

By grace, through faith in Christ, you already possess some amazing things from God. It can be viewed as if your Salvation is a large gift from God containing many more gifts inside. This is not a comprehensive list:

1. **Righteousness** Rom 3:20-26
2. **Forgiveness** Rom 4:7-8
3. **Redemption** Rom 3:24
4. **Inheritance with Christ** Col 1:12
5. **Glorification** 1 Cor 15:50-56
6. **Justification** Rom 3:20-26, 28
7. **Peace** Rom 5:1-2, Phil 4:7
8. **Spiritual Understanding** 1 Cor 1:30, 2 Cor 3:14
9. **Adoption** Rom 8:23, John 1:12, Gal 3:26
10. **Eternal Life** John 3:16, 5:24, 17:3
11. **Sanctification** Heb 10:14, Rom 8:19, Phil 2:13
12. **Holy Spirit** Eph 1:13-15
14. **No Condemnation** Rom 8:1
15. **Purpose/meaning/significance** Eph 2:10, Matt 28:18-20
16. **Acceptance** Rom 15:7
What does the Law tell us? (See Galatians 3)
- We begin by reading the Bible, and realize we are sinful, we don’t measure up, etc…
- So we try harder to do the law, fail, realize we are sinful, try harder, fail, etc… until we eventually give up.
- Then we read the Bible again and understand the Word and Grace.
- What does Grace tell us?
- We read the Bible, and realize we are sinful, we don’t measure up, etc…
- Then we realize that Jesus measured up, so we are able to “do” the law (it releases us to do the law, we want to do it). It releases the ability and desire that God has already given you.

![Diagram showing the contrast between Law and Grace]

**Law vs. Grace**

**Law - God Curses**
Performance, “false obedience”

- Maximizes Me
- Minimizes Jesus

I can do it. **Wrong motive**

**Grace - God Blesses**
Trust, true obedience

- Belief I already have by grace through faith in Christ.

I could never do it (Only Jesus). **Right motive**

- Maximizes Jesus
- Minimizes Me
- John 3:30

**DO**

- Earning
- Fear motivation

- Get/not get + -

**DO**

- Same stuff
- Different motives

**DO**

- Accepting
- Love motivation
Grace Perspective

2 Peter 1:3-4
Because of God’s Nature - Divine Power
  ↓
  He has given us
  ↓
His Precious Promises
  ↓
If we know/believe/accept/receive
  ↓
Everything we need for life and godliness

2 Corinthians 7:1
Because of these promises, make every effort to:
  1. Purify
  2. Perfect holiness

Start with God & His promises, then we are able to DO.

Motivation: love (out of reverence for God)

Living in the Flesh vs. Living in the Spirit
Jeremiah 17:5-8, 2:13

Eventually:
Die to Flesh
Yield to God
The Christ Life
And it gets easier!
Matthew 11:28-30

Feed Flesh
On False Life
Reducing Time Spent in Guilt/Law
Renewing the Mind - Romans 12:1-2

Looking Back
Guilt/Death
Doubt Grace
Regret
Fear

Confess Sin (1 John 1:9)
Grace/Life
Believe God
(Gift Box)
I'm Restored
I'm Okay
I'm Back!
Live by Grace
Live by Faith
Without Regret

Look Ahead to God’s Work

John 16:8
The Holy Spirit convicts of two things:
1. Sin (not condemnation)
2. Righteousness
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I feel or think about myself</th>
<th>What is true about me according to Scripture</th>
<th>Scripture References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I am unworthy/unacceptable.</td>
<td>1. I am accepted/worthy.</td>
<td>1. Rom 15:7; Ps. 139; Eph. 1:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I am alone.</td>
<td>2. I am never alone.</td>
<td>2. Heb. 13:5b; Rom 8:38-39; Ps. 139, 149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I feel like a failure/inadequate.</td>
<td>3. I am adequate.</td>
<td>3. 2 Cor. 3:5-6; Phil. 4:13</td>
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<td>4. I have no confidence.</td>
<td>4. I have all the boldness/confidence I need.</td>
<td>4. Prov 3:26, 14:26, 28:1; Heb. 10:19; Eph. 3:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I feel responsible for my life.</td>
<td>5. God is responsible/faithful to me.</td>
<td>5. Phil. 1:6, 2:13; 2 Thess. 3:3; Ps. 138:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I am confused/ I'm going crazy.</td>
<td>6. I have the mind of Christ.</td>
<td>6. 1 Cor. 2:16; 2 Tim. 1:7</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. I am depressed/hopeless.</td>
<td>7. I have all the hope I need.</td>
<td>7. Rom. 15:13; Ps. 16:11, 27:13, 31:24</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. I am not good enough/imperfect.</td>
<td></td>
<td>8. Heb. 10:14; Col. 2:13</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. There is nothing special about me.</td>
<td>9. I have been chosen/set apart by God.</td>
<td>9. Ps 139, 1 Cor 1:30,6:11; Eph. 1:4; Heb 10:10, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. I don't have enough.</td>
<td>10. I have no lack.</td>
<td>10. Phil. 4:19</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. I am a fearful/anxious person.</td>
<td>11. I am free from fear.</td>
<td>11. Ps. 34:4; 2 Tim. 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:7, 1 Jn 4:18</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. I lack faith.</td>
<td>12. I have all the faith I need.</td>
<td>12. Rom. 12:3</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. I am a weak person</td>
<td>13. I am strong in Christ.</td>
<td>13. Dan. 11:32; Ps. 37:34; Phil. 4:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. I am not very smart.</td>
<td>15. I have God’s wisdom.</td>
<td>15. Prov. 2:6-7; 1 Cor 1:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. I am in bondage.</td>
<td>16. I am free in Christ.</td>
<td>16. Ps. 32:7; 2 Cor. 3:17; Jn. 8:36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. I am miserable.</td>
<td>17. I have God’s comfort.</td>
<td>17. Jn. 15:6, 16:7; 2 Cor. 1:3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. I have no one to take care of me.</td>
<td>18. I am protected/save.</td>
<td>18. Ps. 32:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. I am unwanted/I don’t belong to anyone.</td>
<td>20. I have been adopted by God. I am His child.</td>
<td>20. Rom 8:16-17; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5; 1 Jn. 3:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. I am a sinner.</td>
<td>22. I have been declared holy, righteous, and justified. I am a saint.</td>
<td>22. Rom 3:24; 1 Cor. 1:30, 6:11; 2 Cor. 5:21; Col. 2:14</td>
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<td>23. I have no strength.</td>
<td>23. I have God’s power.</td>
<td>23. Acts 1:8; Eph. 1:19, 3:16; Rom. 8:9-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. I can’t reach God.</td>
<td>24. I have direct access to God as a believer-priest.</td>
<td>24. Eph. 2:6; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>25. I feel condemned.</td>
<td>25. I am uncondemned blameless.</td>
<td>25. Jn. 3:18; Rom. 8:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>26. There is no direction/plan.</td>
<td>26. I have been created for good works. God knows my way.</td>
<td>26. Ps. 37:23, 138:8; Jn. 10:10; Eph. 2:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>27. I feel like nothing will ever change.</td>
<td>27. I’ve been given a brand new life.</td>
<td>27. 2 Cor. 5:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. I am afraid of Satan.</td>
<td>28. I have authority over Satan.</td>
<td>28. Col. 1:13; 1 Jn. 4:4; Rev. 12:11</td>
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<td>29. Sin overpowers me.</td>
<td>29. I am dead to sin.</td>
<td>29. Rom. 6:11</td>
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<td>30. I live under standards of performance.</td>
<td>30. I am dead to the law.</td>
<td>30. Rom. 6:14, 7:4-6</td>
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<td>31. I have no spiritual inheritance.</td>
<td>31. a. I am an heir.</td>
<td>31. a. Rom. 8:16-17; Eph. 1:11, 14, 18; Gal. 4:7</td>
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<td>b. I have died with Christ crucified with him/buried with Him.</td>
<td>b. Rom. 6:4-8; Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:12, 3:3</td>
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<td>c. I have been raised with Him.</td>
<td>c. Rom. 6:4; Eph. 1:20, 2:6; Col. 3:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>32. I am afraid of death.</td>
<td>32. I have been made alive with Christ. I will be in heaven.</td>
<td>32. Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:15; 2 Cor. 5:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. I feel lost/apart from God.</td>
<td>33. I am assured of heaven.</td>
<td>33. 1 Jn. 5:11-15; Jn. 10:27-30; 2 Cor. 5:8</td>
</tr>
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<td>34. I have no abilities God could use.</td>
<td>34. I have been given spiritual gifts for His service.</td>
<td>34. 1 Cor. 12</td>
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BORN TO REPRODUCE

“Anyone can see the apples on a tree, but it takes vision to see the trees of the apple.”
- Avery Willis

Summary:
Discipling is at the core of the Great Commission.
If we truly desire to make a difference in this world for the cause of Christ,
we must be committed to Jesus and His mission:
to bring glory to God through investing in people who will faithfully carry out that mission.

Disciples who follow Jesus…
- Understand the importance of having Christlike vision in life. Philippians 2:1-2
- Faithfully pass on what God has given them by personally making disciples. 2 Timothy 2:2
- Eagerly dig into the Word to learn and grow. Acts 17:11

... Therefore, your commitments are:
- Audio “Vision for Disciple-making” Leroy Eims
- Read the booklet “Born To Reproduce” by Dawson Trotman
- Use the Thematic Method (found in the appendix) to study “Disciplemaking”
- Memorize the CV Mission Statement (see Introduction Materials)
- Memorize the next section of the Bridge
- Memorize one of the following verses with the topic Discipling:
  - 2 Timothy 2:2
  - John 15: 7-8
  - Matthew 9:37-38
- Pray for God to raise up laborers for the harvest (Matthew 9:37-38)
- Take your key thought from this unit or from CV large group and turn it into an application for the week. Record this in the Action Plan section at the end of Frameworks.
- During your Quiet Times this week focus on how Jesus interacted with his disciples.
- Bonus: Read Disciples are Made Not Born (DMNB) Chapter 1

Before Moving On
How does discipling fit with walking in step with the Holy Spirit every day? Whose idea is it anyway?
GROUP RETREAT

Disciples who follow Jesus...
- Love other followers of Christ deeply. *John 13:34-35*
- Desire fellowship and community with other believers. *1 John 1:3*

...Therefore, your commitments are:
- Do this commitment page any weekend where your group spends at least 5 hours together.
- Spend the time as follows:
  - Video Workshop & Study Guide “How to Solve Problems in Your Life” with group exercise (about 2 hours)
  - Do something fun together
  - Eat together
  - Attend the weekly CV meeting, take notes, and write down at least one key truth that God brought to your attention
I. A PERSPECTIVE ON TROUBLE

TROUBLE: a state or condition of distress, annoyance, inconvenience or difficulty: in trouble,

A Scriptural Perspective on Trouble:
- Troubles are a ________________________ of this life. *Job* 5:7; *Ecclesiastes* 11:8
- Life is ________; we do not know when troubles will occur. *Ecclesiastes* 9:1; *Proverbs* 27:1; *James* 4:13-15
- Troubles turn out to be a major source of our
- Faith Development 2 *Corinthians* 1:8-10
- Growth In ____________________________ *James* 1:2-4; *Romans* 5:3-4
- Incredible ________________ As We Respond Rightly 2 *Corinthians* 4:16-18
- Ministry To Others 2 *Corinthians* 1:5-10
  - When we have been resistant to God, troubles often come to ____________________and make us open to God and to learn his word. *Psalm* 119:75-76; 119:67; 119:71

Troubles can come from many sources:

Troubles often signal the existence of a PROBLEM.

II. UNDERSTANDING PROBLEMS

PROBLEM: any unsettled question or difficulty calling for a solution or causing concern.

The normal feelings that accompany a problem: ___________________ and ___________________.

The normal response to a problem: ___________________ and ___________________.

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Discipleship Training Program, Hope Community Church

HOW TO SOLVE PROBLEMS
You feel…
“There is a situation here that we’ve got to do something about. It puts me under strain and stress. I feel upset and maybe a little bit angry. I’m worried and uncertain about what to do. Whatever I try doesn’t seem to work. I am confused and puzzled over what to do.”

The frequent **reaction** to problems: __________________ or __________________.

The usual **results**: the problem ______________________

**PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY?**
The Importance of Attitude and Perspective

**OPPORTUNITY**

1. A favorable juncture of circumstances (the halt provided an opportunity for rest and refreshment)

2. A good chance for advancement or progress.

**Two attitudes toward trouble:**
- Troubles are the swamp where ____________________.

- Troubles are the forerunner _____________________. *James 1:2-4*

**TROUBLE: GOD’S OPPORTUNITY FOR ME __________________.**

**FACTS ABOUT PROBLEMS:**

Problems are usually not _____________________________.

Problems tend to be one of two types ___________________ or _____________________.

For the first type, important words are:
- **Goal** the end toward which effort is directed; what one intends to accomplish or attain, often only by prolonged effort and hardship (*worked years to reach her goals*).

- **Solve** (from Latin solvere to loosen, as a knot) to find a *solution*, *explanation*, or *answer* for *solve a problem*, *solved the crime*

- **Resolve**: to deal with successfully.
For the second type, important words are:
  - **Endure**: to put up with something trying or painful; to undergo (as a hardship) especially without giving in: continuing firm or resolute through trials and difficulties *endured years of rejection*.
  - **Bear**: to move while holding up and supporting, sustaining without flinching or breaking *forced to bear a tragic loss*.
  - **Cope**: to deal with and attempt to overcome problems and difficulties — often used with "with."

One way or the other, a person needs a ________________, a careful plan or method. *Proverbs 14:8; 15; 22:3*

**GENERAL OUTLINE FOR PROBLEM SOLVING:**

1. **Pray for wisdom.** *James 1:5*

2. ________________ the problem or the goal (opportunity). *Proverbs 18:13*

3. **Find** ________________ (usually 6) to solving the problem or exploiting the opportunity—get plenty of advice. *Proverbs 15:22*

4. **Select the best, based on prayer, study and advice.** *Proverbs 20:18; 24:5-6*

5. **Work out a strategy for implementation.**

6. ________________ your way to the Lord. *Proverbs 16:3, 9*
III. BASIC TYPES OF STRATEGIES

One has to construct a way to go from the current mess to the “ideal.”

S—T—R—A—T—E—G—Y

There are two broad categories of strategies:
_________________________ and _____________________.

ORIGINATION STRATEGIES
(What Caused This Situation?)

THE NATURE OF CAUSES

A. Problems are Multi-leveled:
   I. Presenting Problems (Symptoms—these are the “pains” that show up)
   II. Secondary Causes: (When these are treated, symptoms may temporarily disappear)
   III. Primary or Root Causes: When these are dealt with, the problem dries up.

B. How Problems Develop Over Time
   P = Problem  R = Response

Like a huge ball of snarled twine some problems must be unraveled
_________________________ at a time.
C. Three Sources For Discovering Causes: Experience, Advice and
_________________________.

For example, dissension in a group (family, church, business) may flow from people who practice
- Hatred (Proverbs 10:12)
- Pride / Lack of Teachability (Proverbs 13:10)
- Hot-temper (Proverbs 15:18)
- Quarrelsome (Proverbs 26:21)
- Perverse / Gossiper (Proverbs 16:28)
- Mock (Proverbs 29:8, 22:10)
- Greed (Proverbs 28:25)

DESTINATION STRATEGIES
(Where Do We Need To Go?)

A GAP ANALYSIS can help design a strategy for where to go: one asks
- Where are we now? Proverbs 13:16; 14:15
- If we keep on going, where will we be in the next time frame (days, months, years)?
- Do we like that?
- If not, where do we want to go in the next amount of time (days, months, years)?
- What would we have to change about what we are doing in order to get there by then?
- What are the barriers to making these changes?
- How can we overcome them?
- If we cannot, how do we need to change our expecta- tions such that we can improve, but can also accomplish the needed change?
- How can we prioritize our steps so that we can get going to where we want to be?

A GOAL ANALYSIS can help improve the clarity of your strategy:

Goal: what you want to accomplish
Fuzzy: abstraction whose occurrence is not observable
Goal Analysis: an iterative process for sharply defining abstract goals in terms of observable events

THE STEPS OF GOAL ANALYSIS

1. Write down the goal in terms of results you want to accomplish.
   - Write it down
   - Check to make sure it describes an outcome rather than a process, so:
     - "have a favorable attitude toward carbuncles" rather than "learn to have a favorable attitude toward carbuncles"
2. Jot down in words and phrases the performances that, if achieved, would cause you to agree the goal is achieved.
   ● Answer the question - How would we know if we had done this?
   ● At this point do not worry about duplication or fuzzinaciousness—just jot away!
   ● You might use one of 4 strategies:
     ○ Answer the question, “What evidence would prove that my goal has been achieved?”
     ○ If I had to sort between people who had done this and people who had not, what indicators would cause me to put a person in one pile or the other?
     ○ Suppose you were in charge of instructing the person who would determine the goal had or had not been met. How would he/she know the accomplishment of the goal has taken place? How would he know one (an accomplished goal) if he saw one?
     ○ Think of someone who is one or who has done this and write down why you think so.
     ○ Also, think of both positive performances you would want to see—and negative ones you wouldn’t want to see (non-examples).

3. Sort and trim:
   ● Sort out the jottings.

   ● Delete duplications and unwanted items.

   ● Note that the behaviors you write must be able to be performed by the people pursuing the goal
     ○ (for example, an individual can’t achieve a goal that talks about the performance of a group—or a group of students the performance of an institution over them -"reduce absenteeism.")

   ● Trim any remaining fuzzies considered important (Re-do steps one and two repeatedly).

4. Write a complete statement for each performance:
   ● describing the nature, quality, or amount you will consider acceptable.

   ● coherent statements describing what you intend for each of the performances on your list.

5. Test the statements with the question, “If someone achieved or demonstrated each of these performances, would I be willing to say he has achieved the goal?”
   ● If the answer is no, you must decide what else is necessary before the list of performances is considered satisfactory.

   ● Critical minimum: Ask, “Is each of these performances necessary to say that the goal is accomplished?” Delete any unnecessary performances.
• When a list has been produced that satisfies you that the goal is accomplished, in which each performance is necessary, the Goal Analysis is complete.

IV. SOLVING RELATIONAL PROBLEMS

GUIDELINES

1. In general, solve your own problems, not those of others. Proverbs 26:17

2. Remove the ______________________ to communication.

3. Attack the Problem not the ______________________.

4. Deal With Persons, not just Ideas or Issues.
   • The Prior Question Of Trust—my actions and words must be ______________________. Proverbs 3:3-4; 16:6; 20:28
   • Answer the other person’s important question: Am I ______________________? Ecclesiastes 10:12

5. It’s What’s right, not ______________________ right.

6. Know that Conflict is the result of someone not getting ______________________ want. James 4:1-3

USE THE “SIX RESPONSES” WISELY

The Six Responses: Judge, Instruct, Probe, Understand, Identify, and Support

Judge: ______________________ the wisdom, value, or correctness of a statement

Instruct: to educate or inform a person on a matter

Probe: to try to get ______________________ information

Understand: to clarify what was said

Identify: Communicate that you have also have ______________________

Support: to communicate, not support for the statement, but for the person
We usually go “__________________.” We need to go “__________________.”
WHERE PERSONAL BEHAVIOR COMES FROM

Proverbs 20:11; Luke 6:45; Proverbs 23:7

Permanent behavior change usually requires a _______________ in perspective and/or values.

V. GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING

Guidelines:

1. Usually one uses group problem solving when the solution must have strong loyalty from the group in order for it to succeed.

2. It may be that the leader would better serve the group by making the decision.

3. Clarify for the group at what level they will be involved in solving the problem.

4. If the group is going to be operating at the level of “Delegating” or “Joining,”
   - The leader must be determined that it is important enough to have group loyalty that he will definitely live with the group’s solution or the exercise will be exasperating for the group.
   - The problem
     - Must not be trivial, something that could easily be decided by one person.
     - It ought to be worthy of spending time and emotional energy on it.
   - The group members need to be effective in problem solving
     - Have some competence in the area of the problem.
     - Be relatively at peace with one another, otherwise the “problem solving” becomes a conflict.

GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING PROCEDURE:

- State what the problem to be solved is.
- Introduce the guidelines on the group interaction.
- Brainstorm without criticism.
- Pick the four or five best options as agreed on by the group.
- Choose the one(s) the group feels most appropriate.
- Establish a plan for implementation.
- If the group gets stuck in process, take time to pray, take a break, etc.
VI. IDENTIFYING WISE STRATEGY

The Three Dimensions Of Wisdom
Proverbs 8:12-14, 20-21

Righteous Toward God

Effective Toward The Goal

Just Toward People

The Earmarks Of Godly Strategy
James 3:17-18

- **Pure**: it is clean, modest, and holy; it has one goal—to please God, not to please God and self.

- **Peaceable**: it looks for ways to be in unity and at peace, not at war.

- **Gentle/Considerate**: it is easy to question it for its supporting reasons and Scripture; it is appropriate in its approach, mild in its spirit and gentle in the way it handles people. It is not defensive, closed-minded or bull-headed.

- **Submissive**: it is compliant, obeys easily

- **Full of Mercy**: it has genuine compassion on others and desires to help them, especially those in difficulty (as one’s opponents might be).

- **Good Fruits**: as the strategy is implemented, good things keep happening for people, not bad things.

- **Impartial**: it does not play favorites and treat people unfairly

- **Sincere** (without hypocrisy): it does not play pretend, it is not two-faced, but is direct and honest.

Earmarks of Demonic Strategy
James 3:15-16

- **Earthly**: It is “earth based” in its approach, functioning entirely out of secular approach; it is just what ordinary, unsaved people would do in this circumstance.

- **Unspiritual**: it has nothing in common with the Holy Spirit in the way it handles matters, lacking His fruit and His touch.
• **Demonic:** it is ultimately characteristic of the way the Enemy would handle things.

• **Envious:** It sets out to get what others have and is fueled by an angry hurt that others have what it wants and it does not.

• **Selfish Ambition:** It operates for selfish goals by secretly electioneering and jockeying for position.

• **Disorder:** as the strategy begins to be implemented, people become confused and the organization starts to fall apart.

• **Foul Practices:** not good results but all kinds of hurtful things (deeds) are done to people. Damage to people

**THE FOOLISH APPROACH TO GETTING WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE**

• **Pethee (6612):** keep on believing life is not that hard to figure out (Pr. 9:6)

• **Eveel (191):** become reactive, upset, demanding, stubborn, manipulative (Prov. 1:7, 7:22,14:9, 15:5, 16:22, 20:3, 24:7)

• **Keseel (3684):** indulge in your lazy streak, don’t bother to work hard, lie a little and keep on looking for the magic key that will let you score big in life. (Ps. 49:10, 92:6, 94:8, Pr. 1:22,32; 3:35, 8:5, 10:1, 18, 23; etc.)

• **Sawkal (5528/5530 - Cakal):** forget your responsibilities and go for fun in the moment (Gen 31:28, 1 Sam. 13:13, 26:21; 2 Sam 15:31,24:10; 1 Chron 21:8, 2 Chron, 16:9, Isa.44:25).

• **Halall (1984):** promote yourself; bully and threaten others to get attention and power (Ps. 5:5, 73:3, 75:4).

• **Naball (5036):** harden heart, sear your conscience and become out for yourself alone. Take what you want from others without concern; it’s not your fault they are so stupid. (1 Sam. 25:25, Gen. 34:7)

[the words listed above are Hebrew words (OT) and the numbers are from Strong’s Dictionary]
BREAKING BARRIERS IN SHARING CHRIST

Summary:
Visual aids are frequently used to communicate messages to people (whiteboards, billboards, puppets, powerpoint presentations, etc…). People need a visual aid to God’s kingdom.

You are the best Christian somebody knows.
You are somebody’s “visual aid” to understanding the Christian faith.

Disciples who follow Jesus…

- Desire to bear fruit of Christlikeness and lead others to know Jesus Christ.
  John 15:8
- Love the people around them. John 13:34-35
- Have a heart for the lost and are willing to go all out to share the gospel, disciple converts, and teach them about everything God has given them.
  Matthew 28:19-20

…Therefore, your commitments are:

- Audio “Breaking Sound Barriers” Ryan McReynolds (1 hr 11 min)
  ○ BONUS: If you want more on this topic - there is an article that follows along with this audio in the Appendix
- Witnessing Worksheets
  ○ Memorize 2 evangelism questions from the Conversational Questions section. Write them on a verse card and add them to your Scripture Memory review. Practice them with 3-5 people.
- Memorize one of the following verses on the topic of “Evangelism”:
  ○ 2 Corinthians 5:20
  ○ Psalm 105:1
  ○ 1 Peter 2:9
- Pray for yourself and others to have faith and courage in sharing the gospel
- Write down a key thought (on the Action Plan page) that helps you remember the importance of taking opportunities to have spiritual conversations with people you know and consider how you can take opportunities to practice this
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day, and during one Quiet Time study the life of Andrew the disciple
- At CV this week, write down anything that makes you think/sticks out to you and write a sentence that summarizes the topic

BEFORE MOVING ON:
As I have gotten into spiritual conversations with others recently, does my Identity in Christ change at all depending on whether or not the other person responds well to God’s Truth? Do I have to be perfect in order to get a good response?
1. Christians often use “church talk.” To most unbelievers, “church talk” makes no sense and can be easily misinterpreted.

2. Circle the phrases you say often, and translate them so they would make sense to an unbeliever: (Refer to “Unlearning the Lingo” in the Witnessing for Christ section of Foundations)
   - Redemption:
   - Conviction:
   - Sin:
   - Saved:
   - Washed in the Blood:
   - Repentance:
   - The judgement:
   - I responded to the invitation:
   - Fellowship with God:
   - To surrender to Christ’s Lordship:
   - Born again:
   - Quiet Time:
Conversational Questions

Look up 1 Peter 3:15
- With this verse in mind, answer the following questions:
  - What is our part in the evangelistic process?
  - What is God’s part in people coming to a saving faith?

Asking questions can be very useful in getting to know the person you’re talking to and opening doors for spiritual conversations.
- A helpful tool is using the Three Categories of Questions: Start, Investigate, and Navigate (S.I.N.)

1. Start Questions - Starting questions that lead toward spiritual things
   - What three words would you use to describe your life?
   - What single thing do you want to make absolutely sure you do during your lifetime, if at all possible?
   - What do you see as the reason for the world’s problems?
   - What are some of lessons you have learned from your Dad’s life?
   - Where did you get married?
   - Have you ever had a friend with whom you felt completely accepted? What was it like?
   - Who or what would you be willing to entirely “sell out” for?
   - Based on the media presentation of things, what do you think they are pushing?
   - What is true happiness?
   - How do you deal with stress?
   - What motivates you to do what you do in life and to be who you are?
   - What was your childhood like?

2. Investigate Questions - Investigating the spiritual beliefs of others
   - Have you ever wondered why bad things happen to good people?
   - Do you believe in God?
   - How do you feel about a relationship with God?
   - Do you believe God works directly in people’s lives?
   - Do you think about spiritual things/have any spiritual/religious background?
   - What are your thoughts on the Bible?
   - Do you/did you ever go to church as a child?
   - Where did “all this/we” come from?

3. Navigate Questions - Navigating toward the gospel message
   - Have you ever thought about what happens after you die?
   - Do you believe in God’s control?
   - Do you have any spiritual resources to draw on?
   - What do you think God thinks about (your problem)?
   - What do you base your values on?
   - How can I pray for you?
   - What happens after death?
   - If you rated all your desires on a scale from 1-10, with those things you desire most being a 10 and the things you desire least being a 1, where would you put your desire to know God?
   - Your best friend comes to you and says, “I want to become a Christian, but I don’t know how.” What would you tell your friend? Assume your friend wants you to answer the questions, not be sent to a priest, minister or someone else?
Starting Spiritual Conversations

Colossians 4:5-6 says, “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer to everyone.”

This verse urges you to make the most of your time, seizing and buying up opportunities with unbelievers. It says your words have power. They can be pleasant and engaging, making Christ and Christianity desirable and appealing. Therefore, what you say is crucial as you relate to unbelievers.

Communication is a two way process. Effective communication occurs when you:

1. Ask questions then listen with sincere interest.
2. Offer information about yourself and your relationship to God.

Often we have opportunities to get to know people, but we miss them because we don’t know what to talk about with them. Many conversations can be opened up by initiating in the two areas. Below are some examples of ways to move the conversation toward sharing about Christ.

Conversation Project

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<th>Principle</th>
<th>Example</th>
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| 1. Dropping a “spiritual potato chip” (sharing bits and pieces to test for a spiritual appetite.) | ○ “Sometime I’d like to share with you how God has helped me with...”
○ “Sometime I’ll drop you a paper that explains what it means to be a Christian. The guy who wrote it explains it better than me.”
○ “Maybe we can get together and read the Bible sometime.” |
| 2. Contrast between life before Christ and life with Christ. | ○ “Before I became a Christian, I used to...”
○ “I certainly don’t have it all together, but my relationship with God has really helped me get control of my temper. Before I let Jesus Christ be the boss of my life, my anger ruled my life.”
○ Share things about how others have changed. |
| 3. Use your personal struggles as a springboard to sharing. | ○ “I’ve been pretty down lately. I’ve had to ask God to help me carry on with my job and responsibilities.”
○ “My critical attitude is an area that God has continually pointed out in my life as wrong. I really want to work on it.”
○ “I’ve wanted to share with you how God has changed my life, but I’ve been afraid to.”
○ “This is hard for me to say, but it’s important for me to be honest with you about my relationship with God.”
○ “Will you forgive me for...”
○ “If it weren’t for God, I think I would’ve gone under a long time ago.” |
| 4. Use circumstances as a springboard to sharing. | ○ (accidents) “That makes me thankful for the Lord’s protection.”
○ “You wouldn’t believe how I got this job. This sounds crazy, but I had been praying...” |
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<th>5. Ask leading questions.</th>
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<td>o “It’s amazing how my bills got paid last month. This check came...”</td>
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<td>o “You say the evidence for Christianity is insufficient. How did you come to that conclusion?”</td>
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<td>o “What did you think after investigating the primary Biblical documents?”</td>
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<td>o (hypocrisy) “Do you believe there is such a thing as a real Christian?” or “Isn’t it amazing how far they are from true Christianity” or “so what do you think is the solution?”</td>
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<td>6. Begin with general interest questions and then move toward more specific questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>o “What do you enjoy about your job?”</td>
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<td>o “What do you think God desires of us?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>o “How do you think God fits into the picture?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>o “Do you ever get really lonely?”</td>
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<th>7. Comment on their situation.</th>
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<td>o “It sounds like you’ve been under a lot of pressure lately.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>o “That’s a hard decision - how do you think you will decide?”</td>
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- Write at least two natural, inoffensive questions you can ask to start or advance a conversation about spiritual things.
- Share your questions with your group and use the group’s ideas and input to improve your two questions. After discussing and revising your questions, write them on Scripture Memory cards for regular review.
Three Questions
This section of the Witnessing Worksheets covers a practical method of approaching people on campus and starting spiritual conversations.

APPROACH
“Excuse me. Hi, we’re from the Campus Ventures and we’re on campus today talking to people about a relationship with Jesus Christ. May we ask you a few questions?”

DIAGNOSTICS
- “Have you given much thought to spiritual things?”
- “Have you ever come to a point in your life where you could say that you know for sure that you are right with God?”
- “Suppose you were to stand before God today and He were to ask you, “(use their name), what makes you right with Me?” What would you say?”

THREE QUESTIONS
1. What do you live for?
   - “What matters most to you?”
   - Follow up with discussion.
   - **Read a Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:15** (give them your NT & let them read the verse.)
     - What does that say to you?
     - Does it make sense?
     - How would you put it in your own words?
     - Does it fit into your idea of what life is all about?
     - Do you see that it puts living for self and living for Christ at odds with each other?
     - If you had to pinpoint where you are on that continuum (between living for self and living for Christ), where would it be?
   - **Verses to memorize and use as needed.**
     - John 10:10
     - Philippians 3:7-8

2. What causes all the world’s problems?
   - Follow up with discussion. This point will probably take longer to discuss than the first. Don’t cut it short.
   - Direction: Present sin as the cause of all the world’s problems. But lead into it. Don’t announce it.
   - Additional questions that might be helpful
     - What do you think is behind that? (whatever their answer may be: hate; greed; violence; people; lack of love, etc)
     - Do you think people are part of the problem? (people ARE the problem)
     - Do you know any perfect people?
     - How would you define the term, sin?
   - **Read a Verse: Romans 3:10-12, 23**
   - Use similar follow-up questions.
   - Discuss the separation that sin causes and how it is a serious offense to God.
   - It is critical to establish the personal problem of sin here, not just a human problem. If they don’t think they, personally, have a problem, the next question will be useless.
   - **Verses to memorize and use as needed.**
     - James 4:17
     - Isaiah 59:2
3. Is there one solution that works for everyone?
   - Follow up with discussion.
   - There are a lot of proposed solutions being offered (various religions; materialism; power; etc)
   - If there were one solution that really worked for everyone, would you want to know?
   - Are you familiar with the claims of Jesus Christ?
   - **Read a Verse: John 14:6**
   - **Verses to memorize and use as needed.**
     - Romans 4:25
     - Hebrews 4:15

**LEADING TO A RESPONSE**
- **Verses to memorize and use as needed**
  - Acts 3:19
  - John 1:12
  - Revelation 3:20
- Does this make sense?
- Do you think you understand what you would need to do be right with God?
- Can you think of any good reason why you would not be willing to receive Christ into your life?
- Are you willing to repent and receive Christ today?

**SAMPLE PRAYER**
“Dear God, I know that I’m a sinner and I need a savior. I know I can’t save myself. Please forgive me. I’m ready to ask Jesus to come into my life. I’m ready to turn away from my sin and turn to you. I want you to take control of my life. I receive you right now. Thank you for saving me. Amen.”

**FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS**
- Did you mean what you prayed?
- Where is Jesus right now?
- Where was Jesus 30 minutes ago?
- Do you see what just happened? Jesus just entered your life. You are now a child of God.
- **IMPORTANT: Arrange another meeting as early as possible. Get their name, phone, email, etc. Leave them yours, too.**
- Give them a gospel tract (whether they trusted Christ or not).
- Be tenacious in getting with them again.
- Pray for them.

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1/8/13
ARTICULATING THE GOSPEL & IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-UP

“I am convinced the world is more eager to hear our message than we are to deliver it.” - Howard Hendricks

Summary:
Many people who hear the Bridge respond, “Before hearing this I never knew what it took to become a Christian.” Knowing the verses and the story in The Bridge will give you confidence in sharing your faith and an evangelism tool you can use the rest of your life.

Disciples who follow Jesus...
- Are bold in their faith because of the reality of Christ’s righteousness in them. 2 Cor. 5:20
- Share the gospel with others because of the love God has shown them through Jesus. 1 John 4:10-12; Colossians 1:28-29 (JBP)
- Know they have been chosen to make Jesus known to the world. Col. 1:27
- Are filled with God’s love and they love others by following Jesus in “teaching [others] to obey everything” He taught them. Mt. 28:20

…Therefore, your commitments are:
- Read “The Bridge to Life: How to Become a Christian” by Billy Graham
- Review “Beginning with Christ” booklet and ask God how you might use it with a new believer, and then practice going through it with the newest believer you can find.
- Read: Chapter 7 in Disciples are Made Not Born (DMNB)
  - Write out your own personalized follow up plan based upon what you have learned from reading DMNB and any additional things you can derive from investigating www.everystudent.com
- Use the Thematic Bible Study Method found in the Appendix to study “Follow Up”
- Memorize one of the following verses about following up with new believers:
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:5 with topic: Follow-up
  - Colossians 1:28-29 with topic: Follow-up
  - Hebrews 10:24-25 with topic: Encouraging Others
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 with topic: Spiritual Leadership
- Record your KEY THOUGHT somewhere in social media this week
- Ask the Lord to show/remind you of His great love for you as you have your Quiet Time (Psalms 143:8)
- Get involved in the large group CV meeting, take notes, and write down at least one of the big ideas God gives you
- Bonus: Read “A Tool for Sharing the Gospel; How to use the Bridge Illustration” (see Appendix)

BEFORE MOVING ON:
Have you been seeking the Lord and listening to the Holy Spirit this week as you have practiced sharing the gospel with others and learning to follow up with them? (Lam. 3:40)
The Bridge to Life
How to Become a Christian

Billy Graham

The central theme of the Bible is God's love for you and for all people. God displayed His love at creation, when He made mankind to be loved by Him and respond in love and trust towards Him. In love, He allowed us the choice to receive His guidance or reject Him by living life as we see fit. In love, He allowed us to experience the consequences of sin. But then, His love was fully revealed when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world as a human being, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. Because Christ died, your sins can be forgiven, and because He conquered death you can have eternal life. You can know for sure what will become of you after you die. You have probably heard the story of God's love referred to as the "Gospel." The word Gospel simply means "Good News." The Gospel is the Good News that, because of what Christ has done, we can be forgiven and can live forever. But this gift of forgiveness and eternal life can-not be yours unless you willingly accept it. God requires an individual response from you. The following verses from the Bible show God's part and yours in this process:

We are all sinful
“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” - Romans 3:23

You may have heard someone say, “I'm only human - nobody's perfect.” This Bible verse says the same thing: We are all sinners. We all do things that we know are wrong. And that’s why we feel estranged from God — because God is holy and good, and we are not.

Sin has a penalty
“For the wages of sin is death.” - Romans 6:23
“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,” - Hebrews 9:27

Just as criminals must pay the penalty for their crimes, sinners must pay the penalty for their sins. If you continue to sin, you will pay the penalty of spiritual death: You will not only die physically, you will also be separated from our holy God for all eternity. The Bible teaches that those who choose to remain separated from God will spend eternity in a place called hell.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” - Isaiah 59:2

But we have created a chasm from God by our actions. As part of this love that God gave us with it came free will. The desire to choose God or the world. When we don't choose God that is sin.
Salvation is a free gift
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

The word grace means “undeserved favor.” It means God is offering you something you could never provide for yourself: forgiveness of sins and eternal life. God’s gift to you is free. You do not have to work for a gift. All you have to do is joyfully receive it, Believe with all your heart that Jesus Christ died for you!

Christ has paid our penalty!
“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, has paid the penalty for all your sins. You may think you have to lead a good life and do good deeds before God will love you. But the Bible says that Christ loved you enough to die for you, even when you were rebelling against Him.

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” - John 5:24

Jesus Christ wants to have a personal relationship with you. Picture, if you will, Jesus Christ standing at the door of your heart (the door of your emotions, intellect and will). Invite Him in; He is waiting for you to receive Him into your heart and life.

Who do I have to believe in?
Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. - John 14:6

How do I do it?
“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” - Romans 10:9

Not just saying the words but believing deep down that Jesus is the Lord and that Jesus didn’t die but came back to life.

You must receive Him
“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” - John 1:12

When you receive Christ into your heart you become a child of God, and have the privilege of talking to Him in prayer at any time about anything. The Christian life is a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. And best of all, it is a relationship that will last for all eternity.
ANSWERING BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRIST

“Of the hundreds of thousands of artifacts found by the archaeologists, not one has ever been discovered that contradicts or denies one word, phrase, clause, or sentence of the Bible, but always confirms and verifies the facts of the Biblical record.”
- J.O. Kinnamon, Ph.D.

Summary:
Apologetics: the branch of theology concerned with the defense or proof of Christianity.
(Webster’s Dictionary)

Disciples who follow Jesus...
- Bear fruit of Christlikeness and desire to see others know Jesus Christ. Jn. 15:8
- Pursue obedience to the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19-20
- Are always prepared to articulate the Gospel and participate in the Great Commission as a member of a team. 1 Peter 3:15

...Therefore, your commitments are:
- Audio “Answering Basic Questions About Christ” Bill Kraftson
- Article “Consider Jesus Christ” Harold Bullock
- Research www.everystudent.com to familiarize yourself with this resource for follow up with a new believer (there are emailing tools for follow up at the bottom of this website)
- Practice your testimony and share with 2-3 people, even those you might assume are already Christians
- Memorize one of the following verses:
  ○ 1 Peter 3:15 with Topic: Evangelism
- Pray for the large group meeting and its planning team
- Record your Key Thought on the Action Plan page and tell your roommate.
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day. (note what the text is saying about Christ or write down questions you have about how the text relates to Jesus)
- Attend CV, take notes, and record your key thought

BEFORE MOVING ON:
What is it about Jesus and His character that is REAL (not just TRUE) to you? How can you grow in a deeper experiential understanding of His nature?
Consider Jesus Christ
By Harold Bullock

Introduction

In the midst of all the options that you have in seeking a meaningful and fulfilling life, one in particular deserves your careful consideration. That option is the person of Jesus Christ.

Millions have searched Him out and have become His followers through the centuries. Unfortunately, many of the so-called followers have not presented a clear picture of Jesus to the watching world. Many of the pictures are fuzzy or even distorted. I wish it were possible to strip away the distortions and embellishments of the centuries and see Jesus for who He really was and is. I think this is more nearly possible when we go directly to the eyewitness accounts in the Gospels and examine them carefully at face value. This brief brochure entitled “Consider Jesus Christ” is designed to help you think through your responses to some of the questions raised by those of you who have not yet become His followers. We encourage you to examine the New Testament documents first-hand and check the material enclosed with the references to the Bible itself.

Many people make the mistake of rejecting a caricature of Christianity and missing the real thing. We encourage you to look directly at Jesus and make your response accordingly. Others simply do not have adequate information. It is not wise to follow anyone until you are sure who the person is and where that person is heading. We hope to provide you with accurate and relevant information for your search. As you examine this material, feel free to dialogue with the person who shared it with you, or contact someone you observe to be an exemplary follower of Christ.

Jesus made a promise in John 7:17, “If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own” (NIV).

May you find clarity and truth in your search.

Sincerely,

Milt Hughes,
Senior editor, The Student

The writer of the bulk of the following material is Harold Bullock. Harold was within a semester of earning his Ph.D. at the University of Southern California when he began to feel a deep need to communicate the message of Christ to college students. He left academia with a sharp intellect, an analytical mind and a love for students. He went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree and now serves as pastor of the innovative and visionary Hope Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas.
Consider Jesus Christ
by Harold Bullock

I have spent most of my adult life either as a student or working directly with students. I have listened to many serious and honest questions about the Christian faith. During my third year in graduate school the questions below became live issues for me. Others have written volumes on each question. Our space permits only a brief outline. Maybe it will help you decide if and where you need to do further study.

Why even be concerned about such complex issues?
Reality is a most persistent thing. It keeps cropping up and frustrating plans that are not consistent with it. Assumptions that do not take reality into account are time bombs destined to explode when the time comes that reality must be faced. When people build their lives on wrong assumptions about reality, sooner or later serious “stress fractures” appear. Some lives break up as the increasing pressures of later life crumble the inadequate foundations.

Reality does not bend to our emotional fervor or to our “beliefs.” Suppose someone gave you orange juice mixed with poisonous strychnine but assured you it was healthy orange juice. If you drank it, no matter how much you believed the drink was healthy; you would soon be dead. Reality takes a toll!

For many, the ticking time bomb of unreal assumptions about life reaches zero hour in “mid-life crisis”:

- marriages founded on the wrong assumptions about how marriage ought to be lived now come apart
- careers based on wrong assumptions about what brings real fulfillment in life become like vampires sucking life from people but giving little in return
- children raised on wrong assumptions about child rearing now begin to create tremendous stress in family life

Had the life been built on the right assumptions about the existence and importance of God, the correct basis for morals, the right set of priorities -- perhaps the foundations could hold the pressure.

Why be concerned about all the issues we are going to talk about? Because the best time to ask the deep questions about life is when the foundations are being poured -- so that they can be made strong enough to handle the stresses to come.

How can you tell whether or not something is the truth?
People tend to use three ways to evaluate whether or not something is true. Some rely on one way more than others.

1. The Intellectual: Is there good evidence for this? Is it logical? Does it fit together systematically?
2. The Pragmatic: Does it work? What trustworthy persons have tried this and found that it works?
3. The Emotional: How do I feel about this: Do I feel good when I consider this, when I am involved with it, or do I feel bad?
Through these channels people add up “evidence” and decide to accept or reject a claim to truth. Which channel is more important to you? Place the three in order of priority for you. Why did you choose this order?

**Is there evidence that God exists?**

Some of the major evidences:

**1. THE UNIVERSE** -- Mountains are caused by collisions of tectonic plates, gigantic pieces of the Earth’s crust floating on its molten rock core. Supernovas are caused by the explosion of stars. Stars themselves may have been caused by the contraction of material thrown out by the “big bang.” Anytime we see phenomena occur we assume they are caused by something: huge bones found in a quarry must be there because a gigantic animal (dinosaur) died there in ages gone by.

When one considers the largest phenomenon of all, the universe, the question naturally comes up: “What caused it?”

Is the present universe only one stage in an infinite series of exploding and contracting universes? If so, what caused the “infinite series”?

The proposed cause of the universe would have to be sufficient to account for the vast size, enormous amounts of power, and the fantastic complexity of everything (see below).

To the question above, most people have answered, “A god of sufficient power and ability.” When pressed with the question, “Then what caused God?” they answer, “Nothing, He always was, He had no cause or beginning.”

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**The best time to ask the deep questions about life is when the foundations are being poured.**

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One popular scientist quips that rather than assuming a god who had no beginning, he assumes a universe with no beginning -- it just always was!

On the surface his position sounds logical enough but the implications of “no god” for philosophy, the humanities, and the arts are devastating, as we will see later.

One evidence for the existence of God surrounds us: the universe itself.

**2. DESIGN** -- The universe is “patterned,” not chaotic in its arrangement. When we look at the universe and the world around us we do not find a kind of cosmic garbage dump with shreds and bits of things tossed randomly in chaos.

Rather, at a subatomic level, matter is quite patterned. On a stellar scale, matter is structured and behaves according to patterns in the solar furnaces. On a larger scale, stars are patterned into galaxies, galaxies into clusters, and clusters into super clusters.

At the organic level the detail and complexity of patterning is mind-boggling. Not only does life exist in a variety of forms adapted to their environments, but also the biochemical complexity of even the simplest forms of life is astounding.

The universe is patterned, not chaotic. And the patterns are extremely complex. Patterns imply a pattern maker, a designer. Indeed, the Bible says that one can look at
creation and see implicitly the mind and power of God (Romans 1:18-20).

3. OUGHT -- The Bible also says that God has written His law on the hearts of mankind, that mankind itself has a consciousness that some things are right or wrong in an ultimate sense. And, it is true. The specifics of right and wrong vary from society to society. But the sense of “right” and “wrong” is universal.

**What kind of a God is really there?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The universe indicates the Creator has:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Power</strong>: enormous amounts for creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Mind</strong>: great enough to design all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Personhood</strong>: God would not be less than his creation, mankind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Morality</strong>: at least as great as man’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The bible affirms that the above are true and that God can be known most fully by looking at Jesus Christ (see Colossians 1:15)

4. **LOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ATHEISM** -- If there is no god, it becomes logically difficult to avoid the conclusions of nihilism that there is no ultimate meaning to the things we hold dear:

a. No ultimate purpose to life. Purpose implies intent, design. Design implies a designer. If there is no designer, there is no purpose. I might choose a theme for my life or an accomplishment to pursue during my years on earth, but there would be no ultimate purpose to life.

b. No purpose to history. Like mankind, history simply “is.” The story of man is only a story—with no purpose. Mankind might choose a direction to move or nations adopt goals, but when “entropy death” finally takes over the universe there will have been no purpose to the age of mankind.

c. No ultimate wrong or right. Without a god who has given us standards to live by, there is no ultimate standard of “right” or “wrong,” only societal or personal standards. And that means that even horrible crimes, though perhaps personally distasteful or societally incorrect, are not **ultimately** wrong.

   Thus, the death of six million Jews by Nazi orders might not be acceptable to other societies, but it could be acceptable to the Nazi’s. And the Holocaust would not be **ultimately** wrong, for no god exists to decide which society is correct.

d. Empty ideals -- If there is no god, mankind is only a higher form of animal with the illusion of being “persons,” something more than mere living flesh. “Personhood” tends to shrink to zero. From a strictly logical basis, other great ideals shrink toward zero.

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*When mankind rebelled against God, evil and suffering entered the world.*

Suppose I am only a more complex form of animal, perceiving my environment through sensory stimuli and responding to those stimuli.

“Love” tends to reduce to a response I have when impacted by a certain set of
visual and auditory stimuli (the presence of my wife). To say, “I love you” to my wife is a statement about my response to a stimulus. It is not really different in kind from saying, “I itch,” or “I am hungry.” Both of these statements are also statements about a response to a stimulus. Yet most humans feel very deeply that “love” is different in kind from “itch.” “Freedom” and “justice” tend to become merely names one gives to different sets of pleasant stimuli -- not ideals worth dying for.

Few people can live consistently with such a grim view of life and tend to abandon strict logic at some point in their lifestyles. They will affirm there is no god, but then go on to illogically pretend that their kids are persons and love is immensely significant. If the God of the Bible is assumed, life, history, morals, persons, and ideals turn out to have a great deal of meaning. One can proceed logically from the starting point and construct a life that fits with reality.

5. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS -- which we will discuss below.

**Does it help get a grip on the real world?**

A question to ask yourself is, “Does commitment to Christ help people live well in the real world?” In other words, is Jesus Christ relevant in today’s world? Look closely at the lives of those who take Christianity’s teaching seriously and apply them -- and at those who do no. Those who take them seriously are not going to be perfect; they will have problems. But over time are they becoming better or worse family members, workers, or citizens? Are they able to function in the real world or must their religion or philosophy be in one compartment of their lives while logic, work and the real world exist in separate compartments? Relevance is a key issue.

**Ultimate Reality**

What is really behind the universe we observe?
Some popular opinions include:
- The God of the Bible: a personal God, the Creator and sustainer of the universe
- An unknown creator no longer involved with the universe (Deism)
- No god: only matter, plus time, plus chance (Naturalism, Existentialism)
- An impersonal god: not a person but an “it” beyond all consciousness or personality
- (Hinduism, Christian Science)
- The individual self: each human self creates its own realities (New Age)

Each viewpoint has a dramatic impact on how one goes about answering the giant questions of life: the purpose of life, the meaning of human persons, the meaning of history, the basis for morals, what has value in life, and so forth.

**Do all religions worship the same God?**

Actual study of the world religions shows:

1. **GOD-CONCEPTS ARE QUITE DIFFERENT.**

   The personal God of the Bible and the non-personal “it” god of Hinduism are enormously different. Buddhist thought affirms that it makes no difference whether god exists or not. Muslims are adamant that Jesus could not be the Son of God -- a concept key to the Christian faith.

2. **ONLY HINDUISM SAYS “ALL ROADS LEAD TO GOD.”**
Islam, Christianity, and Judaism each affirm their God is unique. Of course, all cannot be equally right. But each religion should be allowed to speak for itself and not be unintelligently painted over with a Hindu concept of god.

**Can the Bible be trusted?**
The Bible is actually a small library of books written by various people from several cultures over more than a thousand years. The library has two divisions:
- The Old Testament (OT), 39 books written mainly in Hebrew between about 1400 BC and 400 BC
- The New Testament (NT), 27 books written in Greek from the middle to the later part of the 1st century
AD Translations into English from Greek and Hebrew texts are usually done by teams of well-known linguistic scholars working together. Their academic reputations are at stake in the quality of work they produce.

**How did the ancient texts come into being?**
The books of the Bible were written by real human beings in different periods of history and in different cultures. The purposes of the various books differ: some are historical, others are more legal, others for worship, others are letters written to help churches solve problems.

In some places the authors say they are recording things God has said directly to them. In other places authors were led by God to do extended research to write an accurate report of what God has done (for example, Luke 1:1-4).

The biblical perspective on the writings is that, “Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21, NIV). For example, several times in the Book of Hebrews the writer quotes David, a writer of the Book of Psalms, and yet ascribes the quote to God.

**Don’t they contain inaccurate legends?**
Based on the assumptions that most of the content of the Bible was written generations after the fact, some have theorized that the miracle stories of the Bible are legends growing over long times. Some have also felt that hand copying through the centuries must have seriously distorted the original texts.

Some modern discoveries have lent great evidence for the accuracy of the Bible:
- A parchment fragment of the Gospel of John dated by carbon 14 to AD 115-125 indicated the New Testament was written comparatively soon after Christ’s death.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls are preserved texts from about 200 BC. They confirmed the effectiveness of copyists in preserving the original texts of the OT as they made new copies through the centuries.
- About five thousand portions and texts of the New Testament have been brought to light by archeology. Some date back as far as AD 175-200. Possession of so many copies and portions allows an extremely fine-tuned reconstruction of the original text of the New Testament.
Archaeology has repeatedly confirmed the accuracy of Old Testament and New Testament statements about ancient locations, customs, and governmental officials.
Ask a Christian friend or your director of Baptist student ministries to recommend a
book on archaeology and the Bible.

**What about the Bible and science?**

Science covers a wide range of studies that attempt to quantify and measure
details of reality and construct theories about how reality operates.

The Bible presents a view of the world in its entirety as created by God: the
inanimate world, the plants and animals, and mankind. It also occasionally mentions
supernatural events: healings; miracles, including the resurrection of Jesus Christ; and
phenomenal events of nature, such as floods and earthquakes.

Over the years, discussions have gone on about evolution and creation, the
biblical worldview and the scientific worldview, and the possibility of the miraculous. We
will take a look at the issue of the miraculous. You may want to try to locate a copy of
Bernard Ramm’s The Christian View of Science and Scripture (Grand Rapids: W.B.
Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1954)(op.) for greater detail on other issues. The library
on your campus may have a copy of this book.

Some people have objected to the miraculous in the Bible, saying that it goes
against what science has taught us about the nature of things.

Actually, that objection is based on an assumption: that there is no god, or if
there is, the god does not do the miraculous.

Now, if there is no god, then of course the miraculous would be highly unlikely or
impossible. However, if the God of the Bible is real, the miraculous is possible—perhaps
even probable!

For this reason, the resurrection of Christ is the key supernatural event of the
Bible to investigate. If Jesus Christ was actually raised from the dead (not just
resuscitated), then the God of the Bible is real and other supernatural events become
possible. If Jesus did not come alive from the grave, then the other miracles of the New
Testament are suspect and the religion of the NT is an empty pursuit (see I Corinthians
15:19-20). So we will take a look at the evidence for the reality of Jesus Christ and His
resurrection.

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**Serious Questions Or Smoke Screens?**

Some people use theoretical questions as smoke screens to cover up real issues
preventing their commitment to Christ. A friend once answered questions for a student until
late at night. The student finally said, “Well, you have answered all my questions.”

“Good!” said my friend. “Are you ready to commit your life to Christ?”

“No,” came the reply. “If I did that I would have to stop sleeping with my girlfriend.”

Questions had masked the key issue.

Are your questions sincere or smoke screens? You can tell by answering this: If this
question were reasonably answered, would I become a Christian?

If the answer is:
- Yes, it is a key question
- No, another question is the key question for you. What is it?

---

**Is Jesus really God? Did Jesus really exist?**

Even antagonistic scholars today do not doubt the existence of a 1st-century Jew
named Jesus, crucified by Pontius Pilate, declared resurrected by His followers, and
worshiped as God by a rapidly growing 1st-century movement.
The references to His existence include not only Christian authors in the 1st century, but ancient and pagan sources mentioning Him. These Sources include Josephus, a widely respected Jewish historian in the 1st century.

**What Kind of Evidence?**

The kind of evidence offered to prove an idea or hypothesis depends on the area of study involved. In mathematics, identity is important: an equation is proved when both sides of the equation are reduced to the same quantity.

The physical sciences look for reproducibility. Experiments are designed to produce a certain set of data if the hypothesis is correct. When the same confirming data are reproduced by different people running the experiments, the hypothesis gains credibility.

History looks for artifacts from the times (such as, letters, journals and objects), the reports of eyewitnesses, and the reports of historians near the times in question are weighed. In the court system, like history, artifacts, eyewitnesses, and so forth are important.

What kind of evidence is used to prove the Existence of God? Mathematical manipulation and reproducible experiments do not apply. Instead, proving the existence of God involves evidence much like that of history or law.

One looks at “artifacts” (like the universe and human existence) and “eyewitnesses” accounts (like the Gospel of the New Testament), and testimonies of people involved. Then one has to decide which hypothesis better explains the evidence that a god exists- or that no god exists.

**Access to the Facts**

The Gospels authors had access to the facts about Christ. Matthew and John were eyewitnesses. Mark was long-term companion to Peter, and Luke to Paul.

They present their Gospels as being the truth (for example Luke 1:3). In reporting about Jesus they were either lying, being deceived by Jesus, or accurately reporting.

**Is the New Testament merely myth?**

Academic skepticism until the mid-1900s assumed the New Testament was written many generations after the death of Jesus and contained legends that gradually grew up over the long period of time.

In this century a fragment of the Gospel of John, dated about A.D. 115-125 indicated that most of the New Testament was written within about 60 years of Jesus death. There was no long time for legends to grow.

**Your God, My God - No Big Deal!**

“You believe what you want to believe and I’ll believe what I want to believe. And we’ll both do fine.”

This statement is based on the assumptions that (1) religious beliefs have little to do with one’s ability to handle stresses and decisions of life, and/or (2) the god(s) who is(are) either not significantly concerned with our opinions, or unable to significantly affect our lives if they are angered.

If the God of the Bible is real, both assumptions are false.
Were the New Testament writers liars?
Consider the facts about the New Testament writers:

1. AVAILABLE CROSS-CHECKS - Many eyewitnesses to Jesus’ life were still alive while the New Testament was being written. Paul implies the Corinthians could check with those witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:6) about his accuracy.

2. PERSECUTION NOT PROFIT - The apostles received physical pain for their efforts, not wealth (see Paul’s recounting of his ministry in 2 Corinthians I-5).

3. HIGH ETHICS - The New Testament writers present a very high standard of ethics for followers of Jesus to live by. Would con artists create so high an ethical code knowing they would live with it for years to come?

4. NO RECANTERS - Though martyred, the apostles did not recant. Would self-interested liars consistently die for what they knew to be an empty lie?

It hardly seems possible that the NT writers were liars. They were reporting facts as they researched or witnessed them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leap/look, Look/Leap, or Look/Don’t Leap?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some feel that real faith does not need to ask questions and find answers, it simply “believes.” One needs to take a “leap of faith,” simply trust in God (whoever or whatever that is), and see what happens. They leap before they look.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others want evidence that leaves them no alternative but to believe in God, proof “beyond a shadow of a doubt”. These intend to look but not leap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between these two is the perspective of the Scriptures: you must trust God in order to relate to Him - but faith can ask for evidence before it trusts. One ought to look, then leap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You may indeed ask for evidence. But, when adequate evidence is given, you still must decide whether or not you will trust the One to whom the evidence points and trust Him with your life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which best describes our approach to faith: “leap, then look,” “look, then leap,” or “look, don’t leap?”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?
The Gospels make it clear that Jesus claimed to be divine (see Matthew 26:63-65; John 8:48-59).

In His claim, Jesus is either:
- a LIAR: deceiving people;
- a LUNATIC: deluded, Himself deceived;
- or, LORD: truly God.

Would a liar or a lunatic have given the world new heights in ethical standards? It seems improbable.

But, the greatest confirmation of Jesus’ deity lies in His Resurrection.

The Evidence For the Resurrection of Jesus
Jesus was arrested, kept up all night in mock trials, beaten till His back was a bloody mass, and then crucified by the Romans (Matthew 26-28). After His death a soldier rammed a spear up through Jesus’ rib cage to make sure He was dead.

His body was put into a tomb cut into rock about an eighth of a mile from Jerusalem. A huge rock disk that rolled into a trough in front of the cave sealed it from
intruders.

The hopes of Jesus’ disciples were dashed. Their leader was dead and they feared further persecution.

To make sure no one stole the body and proclaimed Him “risen,” the Romans placed a troop of armed soldiers to guard the tomb.

On the third day something happened and the tomb was empty.

Soon the demoralized disciples were boldly enduring persecution to proclaim Jesus had risen from the dead.

Even skeptics admit that the tomb of Jesus became empty. Some attempted explanations:

THE WRONG TOMB, an empty one, was found by visitors who mistakenly concluded that Jesus had risen. However, if this were true, public officials could have easily produced the dead body of Jesus from the correct tomb. They did not - because the body was not there!

THE BODY WAS STOLEN by the disciples while the guards slept. This theory ignores the importance of several facts:

1. The guards were soldiers, not volunteers, and faced serious consequences for such a dereliction of duty.

2. The disciples
   a. The disciples underwent a dramatic change. Demoralized fishermen were quickly changed into bold men willing to sacrifice their very lives for the principles they promoted. A jolting event is needed to make such a transformation - not a quiet conspiracy to lie about the resurrection of Jesus.
   b. Their character and integrity was challenged. Again, it doesn’t seem psychologically probable that a group of liars would live their whole lives under constant threat of persecution, continue to embody the highest ethics, and never recant, even at martyrdom.

MASS HALLUCINATION made the emotionally overwrought disciples think they saw Jesus. But over a 40 day period Jesus appeared, interacted with, and taught several individuals and groups - including a crowd of five hundred. It is simply incredible to believe that whole groups of people would: (1) have the same detailed hallucination and (2) hear the same detailed teachings.

JESUS ONLY SWOONED, passed out on the cross, and recovered in the refreshing cool of the tomb. He pushed away the rock, frightened off the soldiers, walked back to town, and persuaded the disciples He was the resurrected Lord of heaven and earth. There are several unanswerable points against this theory.

1. Roman concern for political stability demanded certainty of Jesus’ death.

2. The spear stab was deep, penetrating the sac around Jesus’ heart, accounting for the outpouring of “water and blood.”

3. The great strength needed by a severely wounded man to roll, from inside the tomb (without handhold), a stone disk so large that three women outside the tomb feared they couldn’t move it (Mark 16:3).

4. Shock. People who work with trauma victims know their greatest enemy is shock. If not kept warm, they die. Jesus would not have recovered from the beating, crucifixion, and spear stab while lying on a stone slab at 50-55 degrees. If not
already dead, He would have died!

**JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD.** The only explanation of the empty tomb that fits the data is that Jesus actually died and returned to life in line with the reports in the Gospels.

The subsequent dynamic movement built by His formerly demoralized disciples had a sufficient cause: Jesus had indeed risen from the dead!

For a very detailed investigation of all the possible alternative explanations to resurrection see *Who Moved the Stone?* by Frank Morrison. Morrison recounts how he spent 10 years trying to disprove the resurrection - and then finally became a Christian.

**SUMMARY:** Jesus really existed. The writers of the New Testament had access to accurate information about Him, and tried to honestly present that information. The crucial matters of the life of Christ are His death and resurrection. Logically, the best answer for the empty tomb is that Jesus rose from the dead, proving His divinity.

**What is Christianity All About?**

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<tr>
<th>The basic message of the Bible is that:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. The God who created the universe is still involved with it. He is kind, holy, just, and all-powerful. He is the Trinity and wants to relate to us as Father.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Humankind, created to walk with God, has chosen its own will and desires rather than obedience to God. That rebellion has cut humanity off from the original destiny and sets up the other problems of the human race: psychological, social, ecological, and economic struggles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. In Jesus Christ God came to earth and sacrificed His life for the rebels. His death paid the penalty for humanity’s rebellion. Jesus was raised from the dead and now rules everything. One day HE will end history and judge all the people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. People who yield the control of their life to Jesus Christ find peace with God and enter the relationship with God originally intended for mankind. They will be with God for eternity. Those who refuse Jesus Christ will lead increasingly empty lives now and be separated from God in eternity.</td>
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**Why doesn’t God end suffering and evil?**

According to the Bible, God is both good and powerful. He made the universe without the current evil and suffering. When mankind rebelled against God, evil and suffering entered the world. Harm, decay, illness, and death became a part of life (see Genesis 3 and Romans 8:18-24).

God will one day deal with evil finally: the new heaven and earth will have no tears. But God does not immediately remove evil because He is not ready to remove the human race. All humans sooner or later do wrong and hurt others. Were God to remove “all evil” He would remove those who do it. That includes all of us.

In the present God is:
- preventing evil from becoming all that it can be (see 2 Thessalonians 2:5-7).
- granting time for people to turn to Jesus Christ before He does remove evil from the earth.
- not aloof from suffering. Jesus, Himself, suffered and died at the hands of evil men so that we could be set free to know God. And Jesus shows the attitude of God toward evil and suffering: sickness He healed, death He reversed, and...
sin He forgave. God is in charge - and He does care.

**What about followers of other religions and those who have never heard of Jesus Christ?**

The followers of other religions and those who have never heard of Christ will be treated justly by God, for He is just.

According to Romans 2:14-16 all people are going to be judged by the extent to which they obeyed the revelation they received. Those who have:
- never heard of the true God will be judged by their obedience to what they knew about God from the creation and from His law “written on their hearts” (Romans 2:15, NIV).
- heard only the Old Testament law will be judged by obedience to it.
- heard the good news about Jesus Christ will be judged by whether or not they yielded to Jesus Christ.

Since you are investigating Jesus Christ, you are in the third category.

**What about hypocrites?**

An older female friend of mine invited a man to church who respected her life.

But he did not have the same respect for some of the people in her church.

“I don’t want to go to church with all those hypocrites,” he said.

With a twinkle in her eye she replied, “I’d rather spend time in church with them than spend eternity in hell with them!”

He decided she had a point!

1. **YOU MAY BE MISUNDERSTANDING WHAT A REAL CHRISTIAN IS:** Some think “Christians” are people accepted by God because they are morally superior. Thus, someone less than morally superior can’t claim to be a Christian without being a “hypocrite.” Actually, a Christian is someone forgiven by God even though they are not morally superior.

2. **YOU MAY BE LOOKING AT A CHRISTIAN WHO IS SPIRITUALLY IMMATURE:** Power for the change in behavior comes as a Christian studies the Bible, spends time in prayer, and yields to Christ in the details of life. Christians who neglect these channels of power continue relatively unchanged.

3. **YOU MAY BE CORRECT IN NOTING HYPOCRISY:** Some people are actually hypocrites. Christian, but they are not following Jesus Christ. And their behavior shows it. That is why it is important to get a clear picture of Jesus and His teaching in order to determine what real Christianity is and is not.

If you are aware of a church that has a large number of “hypocrites,” look for another church to attend. Know in advance, however, that since Christians are not perfect people, you will not find a perfect church.
Conclusion
Years ago, after much study, I felt that the evidence for the reality of Jesus Christ was compelling.
Should you agree, a further step remains for you - decide whether to trust Jesus Christ with your life.
Evidence can bring one to God, but trust enables them to know God.
May you have wisdom and integrity as you look for the truth.

Harold Bullock is a frequent speaker in student ministries across the United States. He is pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and the author of The Battle for the Worlds (Fort Worth: Summit Publishing, 1991), a juvenile fantasy adventure. He and his wife Deborah have three children: Jessica, Gina, and Jon.
ANDREW DINNER

“When people don’t gather in droves for stadium crusades, or tarry long enough on the sidewalk to hear your gospel spiel, what will you do? Where will you interact with the unbelieving about the things that matter most? Invite them to dinner.” - David Mathis

Summary:
Andrew dinners combine evangelism and hospitality. They are the most fun and rewarding when discussion is wide open about faith and spirituality.

Disciples who follow Jesus…
- Find opportunities to show hospitality. Romans 12:13
- Learn to clearly communicate the Gospel and make disciples, personally and as a member of a team. Matthew 28:19-20
- Grow in Christ-like character and are leading others to know Jesus Christ. John 15:8

…Therefore, your commitments are:
- Read: Planning an Andrew Dinner
- Conduct an Andrew Dinner
- Group Activity: Fill out Andrew Dinner Survey and deliver to your leader
- Pray: that the hearts of those attending the Andrew Dinner will be convicted by the Holy Spirit
- Review all D-group verses and Heart Attitudes with a group member.
- Remember Who you are meeting with in your daily Quiet Time
- During your weekly large group CV meeting, ask God to be drawing the hearts of the students to Himself, especially for those who don’t know Him yet. And remember to take good notes, and write down your key thought below.

Before Moving On:
How is inviting pre-Christians to meet and experience Jesus an extension of God’s grace to them?
Planning an Andrew Dinner

1. Make a list of people to invite.

2. Pray for those people daily.

3. Host a party in order for your potential guests to meet your Christian friends before the Andrew Dinner.

4. Consider creating a written invitation.

5. Invite your guests (communicate clearly that it is a Christian-themed dinner).
   - Pay for their dinner or cook it yourself
   - Set a time limit (ending time for the dinner)

6. Get a place for the dinner.

7. Fix it up (decorations, music, etc...).

8. Ride to the dinner together with your guest(s).

9. One person gives a short talk (testimony)
   - Start this talk as follows:
     ■ “I’ve been asked to describe how my faith has impacted my study habits, friendships, outlook on life etc...)
   - Finish with a transition to the Bridge Illustration

10. Share the Gospel (The Bridge Illustration or another you may know).
    - Keep it within 10-12 minutes
    - Don’t lead in prayer- stop after “accept”

11. Have Fun!!
## Andrew Dinner Survey

1. **Guest’s Name**  
   Was a Guest of  
   Relationship

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
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2. Where was the dinner held?

3. Describe the facility and atmosphere of the room/table/area where you held dinner.

4. Describe the order of events/agenda of the evening. Include what group member and/or guest took care of what responsibilities.

5. Describe the discussion during your Andrew Dinner.

6. When you followed-up with your guest, what was his/her response?
7. Please explain any other creative ideas or unusual events that you might recommend during an Andrew Dinner.

8. General comments.
HOW TO LEARN

“He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.” Proverbs 13:18

Summary:
Proverbs teaches us that there are two ways to learn. Either we can learn by “trial and error” (we try many things, some right and some wrong, and life punishes us for the wrong decisions we make), or we learn from the experiences of others and avoid the pain of wrong decisions.

Disciples who follow Jesus…
- Have humble and teachable hearts that willingly receive Scriptural correction. Hebrews 3:13
- Consider themselves nothing in comparison to the Lord and follow the authority God has placed over them with a joyful heart. Philippians 2:5-7; Hebrews 13:17
- Are learners who faithfully receive and live the Truth they receive, passing it along to other reliable followers of Jesus. 2 Tim. 2:2
- Understand that failure is a critical part of the learning process. They see that failure does not define them, they learn from failure, and live by faith in the reality of their transformed identity that is secure in Christ.

...Therefore, your commitments are:
- Audio & Study Guide “Becoming a Teachable Learner” By Harold Bullock
- Watch this short video clip and discuss with your group (or leader) what it means to reframe your definition of failure (from 4:32 to 5:06)...then write your reframed definition of failure as part of your Key Thought.
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGrueg5LTSc&feature=youtu.be
- Memorize one of the following verses about Learning:
  - Proverbs 1:7 with topic: Learning
  - Proverbs 13:14 with topic: Teaching of the Wise
  - Proverbs 12:1 with topic: Teachability
- Meditate: HA #5 & supporting verse about participating in ministry: 1 Pet. 4:10
- Pray daily for one another to develop a teachable heart
- Pray that God would show you a way He wants you to apply your Key Thought (recorded on the Action Plan page) from this unit
- Remember you get to have an encounter with the God of the universe daily
- Go to CV, take good notes, and share your best insight with your group

BEFORE MOVING ON:
How does being a lifelong learner reflect my identity as a new creation and follower of Jesus?
Becoming a Learner
© 2000 Harold Bullock

DEFINITIONS:

LEARN: To find out what one did not previously know; to gain knowledge or understanding of or skill in by study, instruction, or experience.
IGNORANT: lacking knowledge or awareness of a particular thing
UNLEARNED: suggests ignorance of advanced subjects

FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS...
LEARNING IS A TOP PRIORITY!

Learning Is the Key To:

- Discerning God’s direction for our lives.
  Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:10
- The freedom that we are seeking in Christ comes from continuing to learn and obey His word, so that we can see the truth about life. John 8:31-32

We Have To Learn Knowledge, Understanding and How To Obey. Matthew 28:19-20

The Goal of All Our Learning is, in essence, to live a life ______________________ like the Lord Jesus did. Any learning that ignores this goal is off-track. 1 Timothy 1:4-6, Ephesians 5:1-2

The True Mark Of Maturity is the ability to distinguish good ___________________________ in daily life, an ability gained by taking bits of the word of God, understanding them and learning how to apply them to daily life over time until the discernment grows. Hebrews 5:11-14

The Responsibility For Learning Is ____________________________ 2 Timothy 2:15

We Need To Learn the Scriptures so that we may learn how to __________________________ Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:2; 2 Timothy 3:15-17

WATCH WHERE YOU LEARN!
False Teachers And False Teachings
_____________________________ 1 Timothy 4:1-2; Colossians 2:8;
                                2 Timothy 3:6-7
Admit your ______________________ and learn from Safe Places, such as those who led you to Christ or from your own pastors. Ephesians 4:11-14;
Hebrews 13:7
To have an ______________________ Estimate Of Your Maturity will set you up for deception and confusion. Romans 12:3; James 1:6-8; Ephesians 4:14

Study Guide: “Becoming a Learner”
TIPS FOR LEARNING

1. Make a __________________________ decision to obey.
   John 7:17; Proverbs 9:10

2. Pray and Search __________________________
   James 1:5; Proverbs 2:3-5
   If we do not respect what is taught enough to pay attention and to apply it, we
   are "dogs" Matthew 7:6

3. Pay money to learn wisdom. Proverbs 8:10-11

4. Read the Word of God. Deuteronomy 17:18-19

5. Make yourself __________________________ to good teachers.
   (Sermons, Tapes, Books, Videos)
   Proverbs 13:14
   – Pay Attention Proverbs 4:1
   – Analyze For Application Proverbs 23:12
   – Memorize And Review Key Things Proverbs 4:13
   – Don’t Get Out Of The Habit Proverbs 19:27

6. __________________________ leaders and mature Christians.
   Observe The Example Of Leaders And Copy It
   Hebrews 13:7; 1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Hebrews 6:12;
   2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; Proverbs 4:1

Choose Your Associates Carefully; The People You Associate With Will Shape
You; You Learn From Them. Proverbs 27:17
   □ Form Friendships With Wiser People Proverbs 13:20
   □ Don’t Get Too Close To The Wrong People Proverbs 22:24-25;
   1 Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 13:20; 3 John 1:11

7. Seek __________________________ from wiser people. Proverbs
   19:20

8. __________________________ yourself to correction and discipline.
   By The Lord Through Circumstances And Other People
   Revelation 3:19; Hebrews 12:5-7
   By Friends Who Are Following Christ Hebrews 3:12-13
   By Wiser People: It Will Grace Your Life Proverbs 25:12; 15:31
   By Leaders 2 Timothy 4:1-2; Titus 1:12-13; 2:15

WHY CORRECTION IS HELPFUL: The Johari Window

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<tr>
<td>Not Known to Us</td>
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Study Guide: “Becoming a Learner”
CORRECTION / DISCIPLINE

– Is Crucial To A Full Life Proverbs 6:23
– Reveals What You Are By Your Response
  Proverbs 12:1; 1:7; 15:5,12; 9:7-8; 19:25
– Brings Blessing Or Disaster
  Proverbs 15:32; 13:18; 10:17; 15:10; 29:1

9. Learn lessons from observing ________________________________
   – The Consequences Of Wrong Proverbs 19:25
   – The Flow Of Cause And Effect Proverbs 24:30-34
   – God’s Wisdom Wrapped Into Nature Proverbs 6:6-8; 30:24-31

10. Learn for ________________________________ before you instruct others.
    Ezra 7:10; Matthew 7:3-5

SOME SUGGESTIONS:

– Keep a notebook of:
  □ Messages and Applications
  □ Life Lessons Learned

– On reading books:
  □ Scan the chapter headings
  □ Read the introduction and epilogue
  □ Read the first three and last three paragraphs of each chapter
  □ In the chapter, read the section heads
  □ Then, if necessary, read the chapter

Study Guide: “Becoming a Learner”
DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

“Ideas have consequences, and bad ideas have victims.”
- J. Stonestreet

“The basic problem of the Christians in this country in the last eighty years or so, in regard to society and in regard to government, is that they have seen things in bits and pieces instead of totals.”
- Francis Schaeffer

Disciples who follow Jesus...

- Understand that our battle is not against people but is spiritual. Eph. 6:12-13
- Remember that the enemy is out to deceive everyone, even, if possible, God’s children. Mark 13:22
- Are aware that the enemy will, then, use any tactic possible to delude, dilute and nullify our spiritual growth and any ministry that God invites us into. Col. 2:4, 8
- Live expectantly that this understanding of how the world is, will make noticeable changes in our life that will cause people to ask questions that allow us to point them to Jesus! 1 Peter 3:15

...Therefore, your commitments are:

- “How do Christians Shape Culture” by John Stonestreet (5 minutes)
- Take at least 3 of the logical fallacies from this website and write your own examples. (www.yourlogicalfallacyis.com)
- Memorize one of the following with the topic: Biblical Worldview
  - 1 Chronicles 12:32; Colossians 2:8; Deuteronomy 6:5-6; Mark 12:30
- Record your Key Thought from this unit on the Action Plan page
- Lay the foundation for a Biblical worldview by answering these questions:
  - Who/what is in charge of your life?
  - Why would having a mentor in your life be crucial, and what kind of qualities would this person need to have?
  - How important is it to regularly meet with a group of peers who are deeply committed to walking in step with the Holy Spirit?
  - Record this in your Action Plan at the end of this book.
- Listen to Breakpoint podcast for at least a week. www.breakpoint.org
- Look up headlines and compare the perspective of Breakpoint and that of mainstream news sources. Meanwhile, practice asking God the question, “What is your perspective on this situation, Father?”
- Every day this week you have an opportunity to meet with a personal God who loves you more you can know! Take advantage of this every chance you get.
- Write down a key thought from CV, and pray with a friend about living that out.

BEFORE MOVING ON:
In what ways does my worldview truly reflect the nature and character of God?
STEWARDSHIP & PRIORITIES - Part 1

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment is given to you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.” - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Summary:
How we perceive money and possessions reveals our attitude toward God.
If we truly desire to make a difference in this world for the cause of Christ, we must be committed handling these two items with Godly wisdom, in order: to bring glory to God and have an impact for His Kingdom.

Disciples who follow Jesus...
- Reflect a heart of cheerfulness and generosity as they support the ministry financially. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Recognize the need to steward their money and possessions according to God’s will and His Word, and with a thankful heart. 1 Thess. 5:18

...Therefore, your commitments are:
- Worksheet: “Honoring God with Your Money”
- List all your spending and income for a two week period (keep track as you go) on the “Personal Spending and Budget” worksheet. Another option to track your spending is www.mint.com. Share what you learned with group.
- Meditate on HA #6 and Memorize supporting verse 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- Develop a plan to start giving part of your income to God in accordance with HA #6.
- Pray for one another to develop a giving spirit.
- As a group take an offering and donate it to a group of your choosing.
- To help you develop a more godly set of priorities, take a close look at the way Jesus prioritized his life (i.e. stopping to heal someone or sitting with children)
- Record your Key Thought on the Action Plan page.
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day with an eye towards what God says about money.
- Go to CV, take good notes, and share your best insight with your group.

Before Moving On
Discuss the Holy Spirit’s role in guiding you through financial decisions, making a budget and tithing.
HONORING GOD WITH YOUR FINANCES

GIVING

● What three things are eternal?
  ○ Isaiah 40:8
  ○ Isaiah 26:4
  ○ Ecclesiastes 12:5

● According to 1 Timothy 6:7, how much of the money we earn and the things we buy can we transfer to eternity?

● We should invest in things that last, and what lasts longer than eternity? So, what should we invest our money, time, lives into?

● What are wrong reasons to give?
  ○ Proverbs 16:2
  ○ Psalm 50:10-12

● So if God doesn’t need our help, why should we give?
  ○ Deuteronomy 14:23

● Read Malachi 3:10 and compare that with 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. What is the difference between the two, what’s the same?

Giving Game—Match the verse with the way we can give to God by meeting other’s needs

1. Malachi 3:10a
2. 1 Timothy 5:17-18
3. 2 Corinthians 8:13-15
4. 1 Timothy 5:8
5. Matthew 25:37-40

   A. Support for ministries
   B. Helping needy relatives
   C. Supporting missionaries
   D. Funding church programs
   E. Sharing with believers
   F. Giving to the poor

SAVING

There are two things are huge in making good investments, and you have at least one of them—time!

● Summarize these verses:

  ○ Proverbs 21:20—How do fools treat their possessions?

  ○ What wisdom can we gain from the ant in Proverbs 6:6-8?

  ○ Proverbs 10:5
● Credit cards….UN-saving
Ron Blue tells us how credit cards encourage a consumptive lifestyle in *Master You Money* (pages 123-124):
“...I read somewhere that the more use of credit cards will cause a family to spend 34% more, regardless of whether the full statement is paid off each month or not. I found that totally unbelievable and spent a year trying to disprove it. The only way to disprove the information was not to use the credit cards and go on a straight cash payment system. So my wife and I put away our credit card and lived strictly on cash. We paid cash for everything.

By using cash throughout the year, my spending mentality changed. It was much more difficult to pay $25 for a tank of gas using cash than if I used a credit card. Paying cash at the drugstore caused me, at the very least, to hesitate, and in most cases, to eliminate those impulsive purchases at the checkout counter. Paying cash for clothes caused me to think very seriously about the need for such items. Paying cash for car repairs caused me to examine whether or not I could be done less expensively, either by myself or another place. Paying cash for airplane tickets while traveling caused me to think a second time about the trip I was taking.

The conclusion of the story is that after living on a straight cash budget for a year, without using credit cards at all, our living expenses decreased by 33% from a level I thought was “bare bones” to begin with.

I recommend this for everyone, at least for a year, until your spending habits are adjusted and you have set a budget upon a cash level rather than credit cards.”

● Write down some thoughts on debt and how God provides from these verses:
   - Proverbs 22:7
   - Philippians 4:19
   - James 4:13-14
   - Psalm 37:34
SPENDING
Something else that leads to debt is living without a budget. A budget is a way to live within what God has provided.

- Read Proverbs 21:5 and answer the following:
  - What does a “hasty” person look like? How do they spend their money?
  - How would a “diligent” person spend their money?

- Some tips on making a budget:
  - Be realistic. Don’t budget 50 cents a day for food, for example.
  - Live within your means. God has promised that He will meet every need. Be careful not to get needs and selfish desires mixed up.
  - Don’t neglect to budget irregular expenses.
    For example: Just because you pay car insurance every six months, that doesn’t mean you don’t need to factor that into your monthly budget. Allot enough in your budget to save for that. Add up your costs for the year, and then divide by 12 to determine how much you should save each month for irregular expenses.
  - Stick to it! It might mean you have to skip out on pizza or not see a movie, but if your budget for “eating out” is ZERO, bust out the ramen!
  - Ask assistance in putting together a budget from someone wise with finances. Also, check out DaveRamsey.com, Compass1.org or Mint.com
## Personal Spending and Budget

**Date:**  

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<th>Monthly Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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### Fixed Expenses (don't change)

- Rent/cost of dorm  
- Car payment  
- Credit card payments  
- Cell phone  
- Utilities (Gas, Electric, Internet)  
- Taxes  
- Child care  
- Cable TV  
- Insurance (auto & property)  
- Other

**Total Fixed Expenses**

### Variable Expenses (changes)

- Food (all including soda/snacks)  
- Clothing  
- Transportation  
- Laundry  
- Tuition & schooling  
- Other

**Total Variable Expenses**

**Total Fixed & Variable Expenses**  
(add the monthly & weekly expenses)

**Difference Between Income & Expenses**
**STEWARDSHIP & PRIORITIES - Part 2**

“Let me see your schedule and I’ll tell you what’s important to you.”

_Dave Medders, founder of Campus Ventures_

**Summary:**
Disciplemaking is at the core of the Great Commission. If we truly desire to make a difference in this world for the cause of Christ we must be committed to Jesus and His mission: to bring glory to God through investing in people who will faithfully carry out that mission.

**Disciples who follow Jesus...**
- Are clothed with compassion, kindness and gentleness as they participate in the ministry. _Col. 3:12; 1 Peter 4:10_
- Allow Christ’s love in them to ignite a desire for demonstrating good stewardship in all areas. _2 Tim. 1:13_
- Acknowledge the Holy Spirit’s guidance in the wise use of their time, money, possessions, and love for others. _Ps. 119:36_

...**Therefore, your commitments are:**
- Audio, video or article: “Stewardship of Love” by Janelle Weeks (choose your preferred method of learning). An outline is included to accompany the audio. Discuss in group the things we have stewardship over.
- Booklet: “Tyranny of the Urgent” by Hummel
- Bible Study: “Goals, Priorities and Use of Time”
- List all your activities for a one week period (keep track as you go) on the “Time Management Worksheet.” Share what you learned with group.
- Continue listing all your spending/income (keep track as you go) on the “Personal Spending and Budget” worksheet, in Stewardship- Part 1.
- Memorize one of the following verses: w/ topic: Priorities,
  - Psalm 39:4 or Psalm 90:12
- Record your Key Thought from this unit on the Action Plan page
- Ask God to show you how He wants you to apply “takeaways” from this unit
- Seek to meet with the Lord of the universe every day
- Go to CV, take good notes, and share your best insight with your group

**BEFORE MOVING ON:**
How does the concept of grace fit into stewardship and where could you see yourself becoming too legalistic with your time? finances? possessions? priorities? love?
The Stewardship of Love
(outline to accompanying audio)

What is good stewardship?

What things did God make us stewards over?

Is there such a thing as altruism?

Regarding returned love: Are you still “giving” love if you trade it for an equal measure? Would that be better labeled comfortable love? Doesn’t cost anything; no risk; no sacrifice. Is comfortable love really love or just comfort?

Matthew 5:43-48 Defining the word LOVE
v.45 Love unlovables “that you may be sons of your Father.” Who does the Father love?

Redefining the word love: The love GOD gives us to manage (stewardship) is NOT comfortable. It reaches far beyond those who might return it, to those who can’t, won’t or don’t know how. Define Christian love (by Gene Warr):

Is there a sacrifice in your love-giving?

Matt. 25:14-27 Love is an investment
v.14 “entrusted his property to them.” What is this except a definition of stewardship? Now imagine this story with the word “talent” being replaced by “a measure of love.”

v.15 according to their “ability.” Ability to do what?

Gave smallest amount to the one considered least _________ & _________. God risked putting His love in me. Will I obey His command to _______it in__________?

v.18 “dug a hole and hid.” Where are you digging holes and hiding God’s love?

v.26 “lazy.” God entrusted His love to us. Are we going to invest it or be lazy & bury it?

v.27 Why does God place His “stock” of love in us?

Loving others with God’s love, moves them to love God.

Love is the most important thing we’ve been given stewardship over!

Matthew 25:29 “he who has will be given more – an ____________________!”

God has an endless supply – there is no need to bury or hoard or be stingy.
BE A RISK TAKER – THROW IN THE EXTRA MEASURE!

Can you think of someone that maybe you haven’t risked loving - one whose God-given love you’ve chosen to “bury in the dirt” of your busy life? Who? ______________
GO ON, TAKE THE RISK OF REJECTION.

**John 15:16-18 Chosen for fruit-bearing**

v.16 We have been chosen to go and bear fruit at will ________________.

v.17 How can we do it?

v.18 Even Jesus experienced unreturned love.
RISK BEING REJECTED-YOU'RE IN GOOD COMPANY!

**James 1:17-27 A Lesson on Pollution**

v.17 Every **perfect** gift is from above. Perfect love, untainted & unpolluted by the world.

v.18 We are the ________________!

v.27 What is true religion; pure & undefiled? Two things: to love the ________________, and not pollute the ________________ ________________given to us from above.

**1 John 4:7-12 Complete Love**

Love is NOT us loving God. It’s ________________! As His steward, I must invest it wisely. ONLY IF WE LOVE OTHERS IS GOD’S LOVE MADE COMPLETE IN US!

God endorses “Triangular Love”… What is it?

v.19-21 Do you truly love God? Then love your brother, so he can learn to love God.

James 4:17- Now I have another great opportunity to quit ________________!

Luke 6:38- The measure I receive is in direct proportion to ________________!

1 Peter 4:8 - Love covers over a ________________!

There **will be** a record of how you spent your life this day, this month, this year. It’s not too late to make a resolution! Write it out here:

I, ________________, resolve to ________________

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

beginning this day, ____________, and continuing for the rest of my God-ordained years!
1. Define the words “priority” and “goal”:

2. Luke 10:38-42 & 14:18-20 warns against enemies of the wise use of time. According to these verses, what should you be careful to avoid?

3. What are the things in your life that you find distract from using time wisely? (Consider what motivates you and how that can cause distraction at times.)

   a. Questions about the verse:
   b. How is the surrounding context significant?
   c. Define key words:
   d. Cross reference verses: thoughts:
   e. Message of the verse:
   f. Application: What has God said to me? What will I do about it?

5. What does Ephesians 5:15-17 have to say about the wise use of time?

6. List 5 goals of which you are most conscious:
   a.
   b.
   c.
   d.
   e.

Prioritize them by putting a number in front of each according to their importance to you.
Now, re-number them based on their priority according to your current schedule. You may want to ask others for input on the order that they observe in your life.

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  

Do these goals all match the priorities you think you should have?

What would it take to align what you want or should have for your goals in life, with what you do have?

You can tell what’s important to people by what they spend their time doing. If you ask someone to list their priorities, you’ll find out what they think should be important. If you want to know what their priorities really are, inspect their schedule - watch their life.

Assignment: Write out a short-term goal in each of the following areas (a worksheet has been included)...  
Financial -  
Evangelical -  
Spiritual Growth -  
Educational or Work-related -  
Social/Recreational -  
Health -  
Family -  

Make sure your goals are attainable, measurable, and will help you reach the long-term priorities you determined above. Put this goal sheet where you will be reminded to pray over it. There are seven areas, so you could pray for a different one each day. Praying over them regularly will also help hold you accountable to working on them.
SHORT-TERM GOALS
ending date: ___________ 

1. Spiritual Growth-

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2. Evangelical -

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3. School or Work-related -

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4. Health -

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5. Social/Recreational -

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6. Family -

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7. Financial -

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... put these in your prayer notebook and pray for one each day of the week.
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DECISION MAKING & GOD’S WILL

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”
- Jim Elliot

Summary:
When faced with decisions, too often people begin with the question, “What is God’s will for my life?” That is secondary. Only after we seek to know God do we discover His character, His plans, and His desire to include us in the process.

Disciples who follow Jesus...
- Value Jesus above self, family, and everything else. Luke 14:24,33
- Abide in God’s Word (continuing to learn and stay within its boundaries). John 8:31-32
- Learn to make decisions according to God’s will, not merely their own feelings or desires. Luke 22:41-43
- Faithfully pass on what God has given them. 2 Timothy 2:2

...Therefore, your commitments are:
- Listen to “Using Your Head” by Harold Bullock
- Read “The Glory of God’s Will” by Elisabeth Elliot
  - Optional: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_BJs1Stb_M
- Bible Study: “Will of God”
- Read “Procedure for Discovering God’s Will” by Gene Warr and discuss
- Use the Thematic Study Method for the theme “God’s Will”
- Memorize one of the following verses about God’s will:
  - Romans 12:1-2 with Topic: God’s Will
  - John 5:14-15 with Topic: God’s Will
  - Ephesians 5:17 with Topic: God’s Will
- Pray for one another to desire and understand God’s will
- In your Quiet Times this week, ask God to reveal to you how He wants you to apply your key thought from this unit. Then share this with your group.
- Attend CV, take notes, and write down the big idea from this meeting.
- Record your Key Thought from this unit on the Action Plan page

BEFORE MOVING ON:
How does walking in step with the Holy Spirit help you make wise decisions and glorify His Name?
The Glory of God’s Will

High in the mountains of North Wales in a place called Llanymawddwy lives a shepherd named John Jones with his wife Mari and his black and white dog Mack. I stood one misty summer morning in the window of the farmhouse watching John on horseback herding the sheep with Mack. A few cows were quietly chewing their cud in a nearby corner while perhaps a hundred sheep moved across the dewy meadow toward the pens where they were to be dipped. Mack, a champion Scottish collie, was in his glory. He came from a long line of working dogs, and he had sheep in his blood. This was what he was made for, this was what he had been trained to do, and it was a marvelous thing to see him circling to the right, circling to the left, barking, crouching, racing along, herding a stray sheep here, nipping at a stubborn one there, his eyes always glued to the sheep, his ears listening for the tiny metal whistle from his master which I couldn’t hear.

Mari took me to the pens to watch what John had to do there. When all the animals had been shut inside the gates, Mack tore around the outside of the pens and took up his position at the dipping trough, frantic with expectation, waiting for the chance to leap into action again. One by one John seized the rams by their curled horns and flung them into the antiseptic. They would struggle to climb out the side, and Mack would snarl and snap at their faces to force them back in. Just as they were about to climb up the ramp at the far end, John caught them by the horns with a wooden implement, spun them around, forced them under again, and held them - ears, eyes and nose submerged for a few seconds. I’ve had some experiences in my life which have made me feel very sympathetic to those poor rams. I couldn’t figure out any reason for the treatment I was getting from the Shepherd I trusted. And He didn’t give me a hint of explanation. As I watched the struggling sheep I thought, “If there were some way to explain! But such knowledge is too wonderful for them - it is high, they cannot attain unto it.” So far as they could see, there was no point whatsoever.

When the rams had been dipped, John rode out again on his horse to herd the ewes which were in a different pasture. Again I watched with Mari as John and Mack went to work again, the one in charge and the other obedient. Sometimes, tearing at top speed around the flock, Mack would jam on four-wheeled brakes, his eyes blazing but still on the sheep, his body tense and quivering but obedient to the command to stop. What the shepherd saw the dog could not see - the weak ewe that lagged behind, the one caught in a bush, the danger that lay ahead for the flock.

“Do the sheep have any idea what’s happening?” I asked Mari.
“Not a clue!” she said. “And how about Mack?”
I can’t forget Mari’s answer: “The dog doesn’t understand the pattern - only obedience.”

There are those who would call it nothing more than a conditioned reflex, or at best blind obedience. But in that Welsh pasture in the cool of that summer morning, I saw two creatures who were in the fullest sense “in their glory”: a man who had given his life to sheep, who loved them and loved his dog, and a dog whose trust in that man was absolute, whose obedience was instant and unconditional, and whose very meat and drink was to do the will of his master. “I delight to do thy will,” was what Mack said. “Yea, thy law is within my heart.”
Absolute Trust

The glory of God’s will for us means absolute trust. Did Mack’s response to John’s commands hinge on the dog’s approval of the route his master was taking? Mack didn’t know what the shepherd was up to, but he knew the shepherd. Have you and I got a Master we can trust? Do we ask first of all to be allowed to examine and approve the scheme? The Apostle Paul admitted the limitations of his own understanding. “Now we know in part,” he said. “Now we see through a glass darkly.” But he was absolutely sure of his Master. He never said, “I know why this is happening.” He said, “I know WHOM I have believed. I am absolutely sure that nothing can separate us from the love of God.” (2 Timothy 1:12).

We start, then, with the recognition of who God is. He is our Creator, the one whose spoken Word called into being the unimaginable thing called space, which scientists tell us is curved, and the equally unimaginable thing called time, which the Bible tells us will cease. This is the God who dreamed you up, thought of you before light existed, created you, formed you, and now calls you by name.

When the Apostle John was an old man in exile on an island called Patmos on account of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus, he was granted a vision of One like a son of Man - eyes like a flame of fire, voice like a waterfall, face shining like the full strength of the sun - and in His hand He held seven stars. Old John, who had known and loved Jesus, was overwhelmed. He fell at His feet as one dead. And then the hand that held the seven stars was laid on him and the voice that was like a thundering cataract said, "Fear not, I AM the first and the last. I died, I am alive, I have the keys. Now write what you see." What John saw turned out to be the Book of the Revelation, the most abstruse of all the books of the Bible full of bowls of wrath and bizarre beasts, of lightning and harps and smoke and seas of glass and rainbows of emerald. The courage it took to put all that down in writing for other people to read came from the vision John had had of who it was that was asking him to do it.

It is this same One who asks you and me to do what He wants us to do: the God of Creation who’s got the whole world in His hands; the God who in the Person of Jesus Christ “for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was made man and was crucified.” Those hands that keep a million worlds from spinning into oblivion were nailed motionless to a cross. For us. That hand that held the stars - laid on you. Can you trust Him? Two thousand years ago Paul said that the Jews were looking for miracles, the Greeks were seeking wisdom. Not much has changed, has it? People are still looking for instant solutions, chasing after astrologers and gurus and therapists and counselors; but Christianity still has only one story to tell - it’s an old story: Jesus died for you. Trust Him.

Karl Barth was once asked to sum up in a few words all he had written in the field of theology. This was the sum: Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Will to Do His Will

If you can trust that kind of God, what do you do next? You do what He tells you. You obey. This was the second thing I saw when I watched the shepherd and his dog. If you know your master, you will do his will. We identify ourselves with Christ or we deny Him. Jesus chose a path and went down it like a thunderbolt. When we say as Christ did, I have set my face like flint to do His will, we are baptized into His death; and like
the seed which falls into the ground and dies, we rise to new life. “We have shared His death,” Paul wrote to the Romans, “Let us rise and live our new lives with Him. Put yourselves into God’s hands as weapons of good for His own purposes.” I like that hard clear language: put yourself. Obedience to God is action. I can’t find anything about feelings in the Scriptures that refer to obedience. It’s an act of the will. “Our wills are ours,” wrote Tennyson, “to make them Thine.” God gave us this precious gift of freedom of the will so that we would have something to give back to Him. Put yourself in His hands. Choose. Give yourself. Present your bodies a living sacrifice. Until you offer up your will you do not know Jesus as Lord.

There are many who have made this choice and said the eternal Yes to God - “Thy will be done.” But you are wondering how you can know what it is that God wants you to do. If you can just figure out what the orders are, you are willing to obey them. You wish with all your heart that it was as clear to you as the pillar of fire to the children of Israel or the little metal whistle to the collie dog.

When the author of Christ the Tiger was a small boy, he used to pull out of the cupboard the paper bags that his mother saved and spread them around the kitchen floor. This was permitted on the condition that he collect them and put them away when he finished playing. One day his mother (who also happens to be my mother) found the bags all over the kitchen and Tommy in the living room where his father was playing the piano. When she called him to pick up the bags there was a short silence. Then a small voice: “But I want to sing ‘Jesus Loves Me.’” My father took the opportunity to point out that it’s no good singing God’s praises while you’re being disobedient. The epistle of John puts the lesson in much stronger language. He says: “The man who claims to know God but does not obey His laws is not only a liar but lives in self-delusion.

To will to do God’s will involves body, mind, and spirit, not spirit alone. Bringing the body under obedience means going to bed at a sensible hour, watching your weight, cutting out the junk food, grooming yourself carefully (for the sake of others). It means when the alarm goes off, your feet hit the floor. You have to move. You may remember hearing of Gladys Aylward, a remarkable little London parlor maid who went to China as a missionary. She spent seven years there in happy single life before an English couple came to work nearby. As she watched them she began to realize that she had missed out on something wonderful. So she prayed that God would choose a man for her in England, call him, and send him straight out to her part of China and have him propose. She leaned toward me on the sofa where we were sitting, her bony little index finger pointing in my face, and said, “Elisabeth, I believe God answers prayer. He called him. But he never came.” It’s a little like the alarm clock - the call to duty. But you have to put your feet on the floor.

Bringing the mind under obedience means, for example, doing that reading your professor has assigned. The will of God for a student is to study. Being in college puts you under a set of obligations. You must pay your tuition, you must go to classes, you must write that term paper. You don’t need to do any praying about whether you ought to do these things.

Being a Christian puts you under certain obligations, too. You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world - “My witnesses,” Jesus said. You don’t need to pray about whether this is your job or not, but bringing the spirit under obedience entails plenty of praying for understanding and for guidance about the how, when, and where. The Bible won’t tell you whom to marry or what mission field to go to; but I believe with all my
heart that as you seek honestly to do the things you’re sure about, God will show you the things you aren’t sure about. We might as well admit that most of our difficulties are not with what we don’t understand, but with what we do understand.

In preparation for writing the book A Slow and Certain Light, I read through the whole Bible to find out how He guided people in those days. I found that in the overwhelming majority of cases it was not through means - voices, visions, angels, or miracles - but by natural means in the course of everyday circumstances when a man was simply doing what he was supposed to be doing (taking care of sheep or fighting a battle or mending fishnets).

Just before he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, a group of ministers urged Abraham Lincoln to grant immediate freedom to all slaves.

“I am approached with the most opposite opinions and advice,” Lincoln wrote, “and that by religious men who are equally certain that they represent the Divine Will. I am sure that either the one or the other class is mistaken in that belief, and perhaps, in some respect, both. I hope it will not be irreverent for me to say that if it is probable that God would reveal His will to others on a point so connected with my duty, it might be supposed that He would reveal it directly to me; for unless I am more deceived in myself than I often am, it is my earnest desire to know the will of Providence in this matter. And if I can learn what it is, I will do it. These are not, however, the days of miracles, and I suppose it will be granted that I am not to expect a direct revelation. I must study the plain physical facts of the case, ascertain what is possible, and learn what appears to be wise and right. The subject is difficult, and good men do not agree.”

Lincoln said, “I must study the plain physical facts of the case.” If the case happens to be the matter of becoming a missionary, you have to believe that God has something to do with your even considering such a career. He may call to your attention preparation you’ve already had that you never thought of as being for a missionary career. You may seek the advice of godly people whose wisdom you need. You look at a particular need and you see that you could in fact fill that need. The timing is right. “My times,” said the Psalmist, “are in thy hands.” You have certain gifts, given to everyone according to His grace, for the sake of others. Circumstances may point the way. Even your own desires could be sanctified and used for God’s purposes.

Paul had a streak of romanticism in him, I think, when he said that he wanted to preach where Christ had not been named. Why shouldn’t God make use of a streak of romanticism? Study the facts. Use your head. Trust the Shepherd to show you the path of righteousness. Remember, nobody can steer a car that is parked.

One week before I graduated from college I learned that a young man named Jim Elliot was in love with me. I had been pretty sure for several months that I was in love with him, but kept telling myself that it would be fatuous to imagine that he could ever look twice at me. He was what we used to call a BTO - Big Time Operator - while I was a TWO - Teeny Weeny Operator. Furthermore, he was popular and attractive, and I was sure that every little sign that he might be interested in me was only my desperately wishful thinking. But no, he told me he loved me. My heart turned over and then sank like a stone when he went on to say that he hadn’t the least inkling that God wanted him to marry me. He was going to South America, I thought I was going to Africa; each of us had just been through months of heart searching in an attempt to accept the possibility of life as a single missionary. We believed we had reached that point, and then Wham! - here we were in love. How do you discern the will of God when your own feelings shout
so loudly? We prayed the prayer of Whittier's hymn:

_Breathe through the hearts of our desire_  
_Thy coolness and thy balm,_  
_Let sense be dumb,_  
_Let flesh retire,_  
_Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,_  
_O still, small voice of calm._

We prayed Amy Carmichael's prayer:

_And shall I pray Thee change Thy will, my Father,_  
_Until it be according unto mine?_  
_But no, Lord, no - that never shall be, rather,_  
_I pray Thee blend my human will with Thine._

And one evening as we talked about what was at stake, we agreed that it really was too big for us to handle. God’s call to the mission field was strong. Our love was, if anything, stronger. There seemed to be only one thing to do - put the whole thing back into the Hands that made us, the Hands that were pierced for love of us, and let Him do what He wanted with it. If He didn’t want us together, that would be the end of it. If He did, “no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.” We had to believe that promise. Some of you know the end of the story. We waited five years. Then God gave us to each other for two years. Does this make the will of God even more scary?

Joy

The glory of God’s will for us also means joy. It can’t mean anything less from the kind of God we’ve been talking about. He made us for glory and for joy. Does He ask us to offer up our wills to Him so that He can destroy them? Does He take the desire of our hearts and grind it to a powder?

Be careful of your answer. Sometimes it seems that He does just that. The rams were flung helplessly into the sheep dip by the shepherd they had trusted. God led the people of Israel to a place called Marah where the water was bitter. Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. The disciples were led into a storm. John the Baptist, the faithful servant, at the whim of a silly dancing girl and her evil scheming mother, had his head chopped off. More than twenty-five years ago five American missionaries attempted to take the gospel to a group of jungle Indians who had never heard of Christ. On the eve of their departure they sang together that great hymn by Edith Cherry:

_We rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender,_  
_We go not forth alone against the foe;_  
_Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender_  
_We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go._

One of the men was Jim Elliot, my husband by that time, who had written in his diary when he was a junior in college: “Father, take my life, yea, my blood if Thou wilt,
and consume it with Thine enveloping fire. It is not mine to save; have it, Lord, pour it out for an oblation for the world.” Could Jim have imagined how literally that prayer would be answered? Months of preparation went into the effort to reach the Auca Indians of Ecuador. The men prayed, planned, worked, dropped gifts from an airplane, and believed at last that God was clearly showing them that it was time to go. They went, and they were all speared to death.

Five men who had put their trust in a God who represents Himself as our Shield and our Defender were speared. They were speared to death in the course of obedience. Now what does that do to your faith? Does it demolish it? A faith that disintegrates is a faith that has not rested in God Himself. You’ve been believing in something less than ultimate, some neat program of how things are supposed to work, some happiness-all-the-time variety of religion. You have not recognized God as sovereign in the world and in your own life. You’ve forgotten that we’re told to give up all right to ourselves, lose our lives for His sake, present our bodies as a living sacrifice. The word is sacrifice. In one of Jim’s love letters - and his were different from most, I can assure you - he reminded me that if we were the sheep of His pasture we were headed for the altar.

But that isn’t the end of the story! The will of God is love. And the love of God is not a sentiment in the divine mind; it’s a purpose for the world. It’s a sovereign and eternal purpose for every individual life. We follow the One who said, “My yoke is easy”; yet His own pathway led straight to the Cross. If we follow Him, sooner or later we must encounter that Cross. So how can we say that the will of God leads to joy? We can’t possibly say it unless we look beyond the Cross. “For the joy that was set before Him Jesus endured the Cross.”

Last year my daughter and I had tea with Corrie ten Boom. As she talked about her own experience and that of my husband Jim she took out a piece of embroidery which she held up with the back to us - just a jumble of threads that made no sense at all. She repeated for us this poem:

My life is but a weaving betwixt my God and me.  
I do not choose the colors; He worketh steadily.  
Oftimes He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper and I the underside.  
GRANT COLFAX TULLAR

She then turned the piece over. It was a gold crown on a purple background.  
The dog doesn’t understand the pattern - only obedience. As George MacDonald put it, “Obedience is but the other side of the Creative Will.”

The will of God also means joy because it is redemptive and it transforms. It is redemptive, for it means joy not only for me as an individual, but for the rest of the world as well. Did it ever occur to you that by your being obedient to God you are participating with Christ in His death, and then in His redemptive work? Paul told us this: “We have shared His death...we are weapons of good for His own purposes.” Your response helps all the rest of us. Obey God, for His sake first of all. Obey Him for your own sake - if you lose your life, remember He promised you’d find it. But obey Him, too, for my sake - for the sake of others. There is a spiritual principle here, the same one that went into operation when Jesus went to the Cross. It is the principle of the corn of wheat. The
offering up of ourselves - our bodies, our wills, our plans, our deepest heart's desire - to God is the laying down of our lives for the life of the world. This is the mystery of sacrifice. There is no calculating where it will end. The bitter water, the wilderness, the storm, the Cross - all are transformed to sweetness, peace, and life out of death. God wills to transform loss into gain, all shadow into radiance. I know He wants to give you beauty for ashes. He's given me the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Jim Elliot and his four companions believed that "the world passes away and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:17 KJV). Another translation (Philips) says they are "part of the Permanent and cannot die." In Jim's own words, by giving up what he couldn't keep he gained what he couldn't lose. Because of Corrie ten Boom's obedience and that of her family, through the hideousness of a concentration camp, because they looked not at what's visible but at what's invisible, hundreds of thousands have seen the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. Jesus had to go sown into death and the corn of wheat had to be buried and abide alone in order to bring forth life.

The glory of God's will means trust; it means the will to do His will; and it means joy. Can you lose? Certainly you can. Go ahead and lose your life - that's how you find it! "My life," Jesus said, "for the life of the world."

What's your life for?
Procedure for Discovering God’s Will
By Gene Warr

Study the following outline carefully and keep it handy as a reference for discovering God's will for your own life or helping another to determine what God would have him or her to do.

1. Do you believe that God's will can be known definitely and accurately? Psalm 32:8, Isaiah 30:21

2. Are you willing to do God's will OR would you just like to have an option on it? John 7:17

3. Have you made a permanent decision of commitment to be yielded to God for the rest of your life? If not, meditate on Romans 12:1, 2 and seek counsel.

4. Is there any known unconfessed sin in your life? If so, STOP here and confess it and forsake it. If you won't do that, then do not proceed in seeking God's will. I John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13, Psalm 66:18

5. Are you obeying the known will of God for your life on a daily basis? If not, start today and demonstrate it before proceeding. Psalm 119:59-60

6. Are you in neutral, willing for the matter to fall either way? Ask God to reveal whether you are in neutral. If not, continue to pray that God's desires will be your desires. Philippians 2:13

7. Are you praying specifically and definitely about it in faith? Make a list of your specific thoughts and pray about them. Pray in faith. James 1:5-7, Mark 10:51

8. Are you fellowshipping with God daily through reading His Word and prayer? If not, commit yourself to begin today. Psalm 5:3

9. Has God spoken to you through His Word, in your regular reading, or your scripture review? Keep a written record of what God speaks to you about. If you have been in the Word and have no guidance from it, continue in the Word but wait. Psalm 37:34

10. Do you have all the available facts? If not, take action to get the facts. Proverbs 24:3-4

11. Make a list here of advantages and disadvantages about the issue:

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<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
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13. What do you want to do? Psalm 37:4

15. Is it of benefit to you (spiritually, physically, emotionally, mentally, socially)?
   I Corinthians 6:12


17. Will it be a weight? Hebrews 12:1, 2

   I Corinthians 10:31

19. Have you asked counsel from three spiritually mature people? If so, record what they said. If not, write the names of three you can ask (Proverbs 15:22):

   1) ........................................................................................................................................
   2) ........................................................................................................................................
   3) ........................................................................................................................................


21. Are you willing to wait in faith for God to line up His Word, your peace, and circumstances? Hebrews 10:36

22. Do you have inner conviction or peace about a course of action? If so, proceed with conviction. Romans 14:23


The Godly Man
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LIFE OBJECTIVE & COMMITMENT

Important Definition:
“A Biblical commitment is courageously sticking with a decision to do life God’s way regardless of pain, discomfort or that it puts you in the minority with other Believers.”
~ Dave Medders

Summary:
A disciple of Jesus must not live an aimless, random life. The life of a disciple of Jesus is meant to be Spirit led. That life is to be committed to obedience in all that He taught. The disciple lives out daily the purpose for which God formed him/her.

Disciples who follow Jesus...
- Are continually letting God change their heart. *Psalm 37:4*
- Are not tossed back and forth by life’s circumstances, but instead are developing a specific focus that remains steadfast. *Ephesians 4:14-15*
- Desire to glorify God by being who He called them to be and by doing what the Holy Spirit tells them to do. *1 Corinthians 10:31; Galatians 5:16,25*

...Therefore, your commitments are:
- This week ask 5 older Christians what their life objective is.
  - Journal their responses. Choose 2-3 from your campus ministry and 2-3 from your local church. Some supplemental questions would be: “What have you done to keep in line with that commitment? / Did you ever get off of that for a time?”
- Listen to audio, “A Reason for Living” by Tim Keller
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OU69so6VJHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OU69so6VJHA)
- Develop and record on a verse card your personal, biblical life objective (as a part of this week’s Bible study).
  - If you need more time to do this important task, keep accountable with your leader and group to get it done by the end of Frameworks
- Use the Devotional Study Method for the “Life Objective” concept.
  - (Optional...see Appendix) Bible Study: “Life Objective”
- Pray for one another to grow in commitment/purpose and perspective.
- Record your Key Thought from this unit on the Action Plan page and discuss how to apply it with a spiritual leader in your life.
- Use 2 Cor 5:14-21 as a focal point in a Quiet Time this week.
- Attend CV, take notes, and record your key thought

BEFORE MOVING ON:
What is it about being committed to God’s purpose for your life that will reflect God’s character and glorify Him?
VICTORY OVER SIN

Important Definition: Freedom
“Doing as we please is not “freedom” but “slavery to sin” (John 8:34, 2 Peter 2:19). Christ did set us free from sin, but we are free to love Him back with all our hearts.”

Summary:
Since God’s mercy is complete, a disciple is constantly submitting his/her will to God as an act of worship to Him (Romans 12:1-2). As the disciple offers his/her body as a living sacrifice God renews and changes his/her thought patterns to coincide with God’s will and His desires. God gives us the responsibility to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”
(2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

Disciples who follow Jesus…
- Are passionate about living a holy and pure life. Hebrews 12:14
- Live an honest, open life before others. Ephesians 4:25
- Must learn to use Scripture to replace sinful thoughts and habits. Romans 12:1-2

...Therefore, your commitments are:
- Audio: Listen to (at least the first 42 min...last 18 min are optional)
  ○ “How to Walk in Victory” by John Crawford (60 min)
- Sermon: Listen to “Get Real and Get Right” by Francis Chan (11 min.)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0s9sgnHeGQ
- Booklet “Changing Your Thought Patterns” by Sanchez
- Application: “Identifying Wrong Thought Patterns”
- Use the word study method (found in the appendix) to study the Greek word Eleutheria (Freedom). Ex. Gal 5:1,13.
- Complete all the columns on the “Thought Life Project” worksheet.
  ○ Identify at least three problem areas. Share these with your group in a way that is consistent with HA #2.
- Ask a mature believer about his/her victory over sin
- Memorize either: 1 Corinthians 10:13 w/topic: Victory over Sin or Psalm 37:23-24
- Pray for victory over sin for yourself and others for the sake of His glory
- Record your KEY THOUGHT on the Action Plan page and think of a way to challenge yourself this week and live it out
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day. How does Ephesians 6:10-20 tell us we should fight sin?
- Attend CV, take notes, record your key thought, and tell someone about the challenge you made
- Bonus: “Holiness & Purity” Bible study located in the Appendix

BEFORE MOVING ON:
What is the point of having victory over sin?
Identifying Wrong Thought Patterns

Summary
Goal: Take every thought captive to Christ

Steps:
1. Identify wrong thought patterns
2. Change them
   a. See “Changing Your Thought Patterns” by George Sanchez

STEP 1: Identify Wrong Patterns

I. Sources of Thoughts
   A. Self
   B. God: God is spirit. We are primarily spiritual beings. God can communicate directly with us.
   C. Demons: Also spirits. They can communicate thoughts to us directly.
      1. Whatever the thought (anger, etc.) the demonic goal is always discouragement
      2. Discouragement = “No fun in life so may as well satisfy myself”

II. More Obvious Thought patterns
   A. Lust
   B. Greed
   C. Control
   D. Anger

III. More Subtle Thought Patterns
   A. Pattern: Expectations
      1. Description: Expectations of life’s events are too high (usually disappointed) or too low (expect failure so failure self-fulfills.) Result= disappointment. Play through scenarios in your mind where expectations are selfishly high or you expect the worst.
         a) Examples:
            (1) Dating (women)
            (2) Dinner (men)
            (3) Job
         b) Key Words:
            (1) “Always”
            (2) “Never”
   B. Pattern: Denial
1. **Description:** Happiness and fulfillment can be had through achievement/circumstances. Thought scenarios include scheming to get the missing ingredient.
   a) **Examples:**
      (1) Marriage
      (2) $ 
      (3) The one thing God has not given me
   b) **Key Words:**
      (1) “If only…”

C. **Pattern: Fear of Man**
   1. **Description:** Worried about image, whether people will accept or reject me. Thoughts are “self”-centered, “self”-conscious.
      a) **Examples:**
         (1) Appearance
         (2) Maturity Status
      b) **Key Words:**
         (1) “What will people think?”

D. **Pattern: Creeping Pride**
   1. **Description:** Because of growth in Christian walk, I consider some sins “conquered.” Results in growing arrogance rather than growing humility.
      a) **Examples:**
         (1) Thought life: “I’ve conquered lust.”
      b) **Key Words:**
         (1) “I haven’t struggled with that for a long time, ha!”
         (2) 1 Corinthians 10:12

E. **Pattern: Special Case**
   1. **Description:** Thoughts are focused on “fact” that some Bible truth does not apply to my situation.
      a) **Examples:**
         (1) Giving/Tithing
         (2) Submission to Husband, leader, OR authority
      b) **Key Words:**
         (1) “Yes, but…”
         (2) “Devil’s advocate”
         (3) “I know that’s true but it doesn’t apply to this…”

F. **Pattern: Drag Heels**
   1. **Description:** Thoughts are about evaluating and critiquing leader rather than finding ways to help/plug in. Attitude is, to some degree: “when I get a good leader (always nice, out for me, omniscient) I’ll follow. Until then I’ll question and critique.”
      a) **Examples:**
         (1) Husband
(2) Boss
(3) Questions

b) **Key Words:**
   (1) “Why do we do it that way?”
   (2) “Why do they…”
   (3) “Devil’s advocate”

G. Pattern: **Failure to Engage the Mind**

1. **Description:** Failure to concentrate, focus on information. Mental laziness, not “alert.” Failure to “gear up mind for action.” 1 Peter 1:13

   a) **Examples:**
      (1) Indifferent about ideas
      (2) Passive entertainment No notes

   b) **Key Words:**
      (1) “Too hard”
      (2) “Too confusing”
### Thought Life Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem arises in my thought life:</th>
<th>Replacement thoughts for each problem:</th>
<th>Verse to use with each problem:</th>
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ENJOYING RELATIONSHIPS

Summary:
We are all members of one body (the body of Christ, which is the church), and thus we belong to each other (Romans 12:5). Therefore, let us exercise faith and serve one another in love, putting the goals and interests of others above our own (HA#1).

Disciples who follow Jesus…
- Commit themselves to loving “one another” as Christ demonstrated.
  John 13:34-35
- Humble themselves by putting the goals and interests of others above their own.
  Philippians 2:4
- Seek to serve God by using their unique spiritual gifts within the ministry.
  1 Peter 4:10

...Therefore, your commitments are:
- Video Workshop (during group meeting) and Study Guide: “How to Enjoy Relationships in a Group: Parts 1 & 2” by Harold Bullock
- Complete the Workshop Questionnaires and share one observation from the questionnaire with your group
- Turn in the Workshop Questionnaires to your leader before leaving the group meeting
- Use the Word Study Method (found in the appendix) to study the Greek word “Koinonia” (Fellowship)
- Memorize the next section of the Bridge
- Memorize one of the following verses:
  ○ Hebrews 10:24-25 with Topic: Relationships
  ○ John 13:34-35 with Topic: Love
- Memorize HA #3 with supporting verse: Hebrews 3:13
- Record your Key Thought from this unit on the Action Plan page
- Spend significant time praying for the relationships in your life (family, friends, classmates, professors, etc.) during your Quiet Times this week. Let God lead you to whom he wants you to reach out to this week.

BEFORE MOVING ON:
How can we glorify God by extending God’s grace to others when we don’t understand them, or they hurt us, or when we get angry?
How to Enjoy Relationships In A Group
© 2000 Harold Bullock

GOAL: to get practical insight on how to do the things that make life in a group a source of enjoyment over the years.

PART ONE

1. Put the goals and interests of others above your own
   Philippians 2:3-4; John 13:34-35; Philippians 2:20-21
   - There are going to be times you will have to ____________________________ yourself for the sake of the group.
   - When those times come
     ● Temptation - exalt self - who do these people think they are. My stuff is more important than theirs. I refuse.
     ● Instead - think of them as ____________________________ than you - and help.
   - Everyone has responsibilities that they must bear as an adult.
     Galatians 6:5
     ● We need to take care of our own responsibilities.
     ● Our care for others must recognize their responsibility to carry their own load.
   - At the same time, there are times life becomes exceptionally burdensome and we need to step in to help. Galatians 6:2
   - We need to meet the needs of others, yet keep healthy ____________________________.
     ● One person should not have to do all the sacrificing all the time - but you will probably have to do it more than you would wish.

2. Live An Honest, Open Life (Discretion with Integrity)
   Ephesians 4:25; I John 1:7; Leviticus 19:11; Ephesians 4:15
   - Since relationships are built on trust, lying or deceiving others in the group ____________________________ building satisfying relationships.
   - We are not looking for a regular “dirty laundry show.”
     ● The basic person inside should match the one presented on the outside.
     ● There are private areas of life, but if questions need to be asked, even in the private areas, they can be.

3. Give and Receive Scriptural Correction
   Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:15
   - We desire 90% encouragement, 10 % correction. If you feel you must correct, you have ____________________________ encouragements to go.
   - Correction needs to be
     ● Preceded by ____________________________.
     ● Based on Scripture, not just your preference or ideas
     ● Based on a pattern, not a single occurrence
     ● Done to help improve, not to devastate
   - If you feel you have a “prophetic” (corrective) ministry, check with those ____________________________ to see if you are in balance.
4. Clear Up Relationships

Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:31-32; Acts 24:16; Philippians 4:2-3; Matthew 6:14-15; Romans 12:18

- The _______________________________ lies with you.
- If you are unsure if there is a problem, explore:
  - “I wonder if I have done something to offend you. If I have I certainly would like to make it right. Have I done something wrong or out of bounds?”
- When you realize you have done wrong, regardless of the other person’s response (right or wrong) to you, you need to ask forgiveness for what you did.
  - Don’t blame.
  - Don’t say “If I offended you, I’m sorry.”
  - Say “What I did was wrong. It was sin. Will you forgive me?” Then wait until they respond.
  - If you should make restitution, do so - pay back money, etc.
- If you are asked for forgiveness, _______________________________.
  - Forgiveness is a commitment not to blame the other person any more, to release them from blame, and to not bring up the matter and rehearse it in your own mind again.
  - Forgive and forget does not work.
  - You will occasionally remember the offense, but you must not dwell on it and the hurt from it.
  - When it comes up in your mind, declare out loud: That is forgiven. I will no longer think of it.
  - Then turn your mind to the greatness of God’s forgiveness of you.
- Because you _______________________________, you are required to forgive.
  - If you do not forgive, God will deal with you with increasing severity over time.
- If the person will not forgive you, accept the situation and pray for them over time.
  - Make sure that the lack of forgiveness is not due to your attitude or refusal to make restitution.
- If the person is out of touch, pray for an opportunity and rehearse what _______________________________ when the time comes. Take the opportunity when God provides. Do not commit confessions to writing (letter); a phone call or personal contact is better. Do not damage others in the way you ask forgiveness.
How to Enjoy Relationships in a Group: Part One
Workshop Questionnaire

Give specific answers to the following questions. Be sure to establish a goal for increasing your participation (Question #3) and share your plan with your group leader so they can pray for you and check in on your progress.

Put the goals and interests of others above my own.
1) I have been failing to put the interests of others above my own by…

2) I have been putting the interests of others above my own by…

3) I plan to increase my participation in putting the interests of others above my own by...

Live an honest, open life before others
1) I have been failing to live an honest, open life by…

2) I have been living an honest, open life by…

3) I plan to increase my participation in living an honest, open life by...

Give and receive Spiritual Correction.
1) I have been failing to give and receive Scriptural correction by…

2) I have been giving and receiving Scriptural correction by…

3) I plan to increase my participation in giving and receiving Scriptural correction by...

Clear up relationships.
1) I have been failing to clear up relationships by…

2) I have been clearing up relationships by…

3) I plan to increase my participation in clearing up relationships by…
How to Enjoy Relationships In A Group

© 2000 Harold Bullock

GOAL: to get practical insight on how to do the things that make life in a group a source of enjoyment over the years.

PART TWO

5. Participate in Ministry
   1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:16; Galatians 5:13; 1 John 3:16; 3:18; Ephesians 2:10 James 2:17-18; Titus 3:8
   - Pull your own weight.
     ● If you have kids in the ministry, help out with kids’ stuff.
     ● If you are enjoying a group, help with dessert, cleanup, etc.
   - Don’t feel you are fulfilling your responsibilities simply by attending and praying occasionally.
   - Over time, discover your gifting and leadership from God and major in those arenas.
   - But stay open to help as needed.

6. Support The Work Financially
   2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Leviticus 27:30; Luke 11:42; Hebrews 7:1-2; Proverbs 11:25
   - When our financial priorities are out of line, God
     ___________________________ our income.
   Haggai 1:5-7; Malachi 3:10-11
   - Start with a percentage and trust God.
   - Increase it as fast as possible.
   - You have a responsibility to help ___________________________ the vocational workers in the church.
   1 Timothy 5:17-18; Galatians 6:6

7. Follow Spiritual Leadership Within Scriptural Limits
   Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5-8
   - God is the one who establishes authority and defines its jurisdictions. Romans 13:1-7
     ● One is to “put himself at the direction of” legitimate authority.
     ● To oppose legitimate authority is to oppose God and face the consequences.
   - God creates overseers who are to shepherd (pastor) his people. Acts 20:28

The Role Of These Leaders:
   - Shepherds: Supervise, (__________________) the work of the church. 1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28
     POIMAINO (poy-mah.-ee-no); to tend as a shepherd; to feed, to tend a flock, to keep sheep, used of Rulers, to rule, govern, (figuratively, supervisor): KJV - feed, rule.
     Supervise (Eng) : to have or exercise the charge and oversight of : DIRECT.
   - Overseers: See that things done by others are done rightly.
     (____________________)
   1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28
EPISKOPEO (ep-ee-skop-eh-o); to oversee; to look upon, to inspect, to oversee, to look after, to care for; by implication, to beware: KJV. look diligently, take the oversight.

EPISKOPOS (ep-is.-kop-os); an overseer, a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, any curator, guardian or superintendent; The Christian officer in charge of a (or the) church, the Superintendent, elder, or overseer of a group of Christians: KJV - bishop, overseer

- Managers: Preside over the church and its members.
  
  1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:4-5
  
  PROISTEMI (pro-is.-tay-mee); to stand before; to be over, to superintend, to preside over: KJV - maintain, be over, rule.

- Leaders: Lead the church and its members.
  
  Hebrews 13:17
  
  HEGEOMAI (hayg-eh.-om-ahee); to lead, i.e. command (with official authority), to rule, to have authority over, to be the chief spokesman: KJV- account, (be) chief, count, esteem, governor, judge, have the rule over, suppose, think.

- You see how this works out in Acts 6:1-7.
- So how does one “submit to leaders”?

**Hebrews 13:17** “Obey (PEITHO) your leaders (HEGOMAI) and submit (HUPEIKO) to their authority. They keep watch (AGRUPNEO) over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy (CHARA), not a burden (STENAZO), for that would be of no advantage to you.” (NIV)

1. Accept their position as leaders, direction-setters,

   HEGEOMAI- (hayg-eh.-om-ahee); to lead, to go before; to rule, to command, to have authority over; used of any kind of leader, a chief, a commander.

2. Be _________________. Raise questions and give input, but don’t be an anchor-dragger.

   PEITHO - (pi.-tho); be persuaded; to suffer oneself to be persuaded; to be induced to believe: to have faith (in a thing); to listen to, to obey, to yield to, to comply with.

3. ________________ authority if a difference of opinion continues.

   HUPEIKO-(hoop-i.-ko); to resist no longer, but to give way, to yield (of combatants); metaphorically, to yield to authority and admonition, to submit.
   - In addition
     - Make every effort for ________________________.
       Ephesians 4:1-3
     - Speak the same ________________________.

**1 Corinthians 1:10** “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree (LEGO AUTOS), and there be no divisions (SCHISMA) among you, but you be made complete (KATARTIZO) in the same mind (AUTOS NOUS) and in the same judgment (AUTOS GNOME).” (NAS)

- LEGO (leg.-o); to say, to speak.
- AUTOS (ow-tos,)1) himself, herself, themselves, itself; 2) he, she, it; 3) the same.
- KATARTIZO (kat-ar-tid.-zo); to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (literally or
figuratively) or adjust: KJV - fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect (-ly join together), prepare, restore.

- **NOUS** (nooce): 1) the mind, comprising alike the faculties of perceiving and understanding and those of feeling, judging, determining; 2) a particular mode of thinking and judging, that is, thoughts, feelings, purposes, desires.
- **GNOME** (gno.-may); 1) the faculty of knowledge, mind, reason 2) what is thought or known, one’s mind, including a view, judgment, opinion concerning what ought to be done.

**2 Corinthians 13:11** “Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind (AUTOS PHRONEO), live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.” (NIV)

- PHRONEO (fron-eh-o); -1) to have understanding, to be wise 2) to feel, to think, esp. to be of the same mind, that is, agreed together, to cherish the same views, to be harmonious.
  - Do all without ________________________ or ________________________.

**Philippians 2:14-15**

- The consequences of rebellion: ________________________.

**1 Corinthians 10:8-12**


- If a person is repeatedly divisive, they are to be put out of the church. Titus 3:10-11

The earmarks of God-approved plans (strategies).

**James 3:17** “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure (HAGNOS); then peace-loving (EIRENIKOS), considerate (EPIEIKES), submissive (EUPEITHES), full of mercy (ELEOS) and good (AGATHOS) fruit, impartial (ADIAKRITOS) and sincere (ANUPOKRITOS).

**v. 18** “Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

- HAGNOS (hag-nos.): properly, clean, i.e. (figuratively) innocent, modest.
- EIRENIKOS (i-ray-nee-kos.): peaceable, pacific, loving peace.
- EPIEIKES (ep-ee-i-kace.): appropriate, i.e. (by implication) mild.
- EUPEITHES (yoo-pi-thace.): good for persuasion, easily obeying, compliant.
- ELEOS (el.-eh-os): compassion; kindness or good will toward the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them.
- AGATHOS (ag-ath-os.): “good” good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy, excellent, distinguished, upright, honorable.
- ADIAKRITOS (ad-ee-ak.-ree-tos): properly, undistinguished; impartial, without dubiousness, ambiguity, or uncertainty.
- ANUPOKRITOS - unfeigned, undisguised, sincere.
How to Enjoy Relationships in a Group: Part Two
Workshop Questionnaire

Give specific answers to the following questions. Be sure to establish a goal for increasing your participation (Question #3) and share your plan with your group leader so they can pray for you and check in on your progress.

Participate in the Ministry
1) I have been failing to participate in the ministry by…

2) I have been participating in the ministry by…

3) I plan to increase my participation in the ministry by…

Support the work financially
1) I have been failing to support the work financially by…

2) I have been supporting the work financially by…

3) I plan to increase my participation in supporting the work financially by…

Follow spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits and make it a joy for them
1) I have been failing to follow spiritual leadership and make it a joy for them by…

2) I have been following spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits and make it a joy for them by…

3) I plan to increase my participation in following spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits and make it a joy for them by…

Workshop Questionnaire: Part 2
FRAMEWORKS PARTY

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” ~ Psalm 100

Disciples who follow Jesus...

- Love “one another” as they love themselves. John 13:34-35; Matthew 22:39
- Desire excellence in all they apply themselves to. Mark 7:37; Colossians 1:28-29
- Rejoice in what God has done, not self. Isaiah 26:12
- Finish well. 2 Timothy 4:7; Colossians 3:23

...Therefore, your commitments are:

- Meet with your leader and tie up any loose ends for Frameworks
- Pay for your materials if you haven’t already done so.
- Cover the appropriate parts of the Frameworks Test
- Praise God and celebrate all that He has done in and through you this semester
- Talk about your spiritual growth goals with your group leader
- Return all borrowed materials
- Have fun with the members of your group
Key Thought/Action Plans for Frameworks

Grace vs. Law:

Born to Reproduce:

Breaking Sound Barriers:

Articulating the Gospel and Immediate Follow-up:

Answering Basic Questions About Christ:

How To Learn:
Developing a Biblical Worldview:

Stewardship and Priorities:

Decision Making and God’s Will:

Life Objective and Commitment:

Victory Over Sin:

Enjoying Relationships:
# Frameworks Graduation Test

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<th>Leader’s Initials:</th>
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<td>Explain the HAND Illustration</td>
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<td>Explain the WHEEL Illustration</td>
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<td>Share the BRIDGE Illustration</td>
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<td>Share your testimony in under 3 min</td>
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<td>Discuss CV large group involvement with your leader. (Did you participate in the work of ministry over the course of this semester?)</td>
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<td>Describe to your leader one significant Quiet Time you have had this semester and why it was significant.</td>
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<th>Scriptures Memorized: (fill in memorized scriptures for each section)</th>
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My Prayer Requests

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Additional Optional Resources

**Grace vs. Law**
- “Walking in the Spirit” on Campus Ventures BHSU’s YouTube channel
  - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEo6_0b0uStQ8PVbA5S7dxA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEo6_0b0uStQ8PVbA5S7dxA)
- Read John. What does Jesus say is required for eternal life?
- Read Romans. What does it say about grace? Law? How does this relate to the “Walking in the Spirit” video?
- Read Galatians 3 (Message). How does it relate to Grace vs. Law?
  - Possibly use the Thematic Method of Bible Study with any of these 3 readings

**Developing a Biblical Worldview**
- Bonus: Read the book *Hidden Worldviews* by Wilkens & Sanford
A Tool for Sharing the Gospel: How to use the Bridge Illustration

Your non-Christian friends may have many questions before they are ready to trust Christ. But one thing all of them need at some point is a clear explanation of the Gospel and how they must respond to receive God’s gift. Are you ready to provide this crucial information clearly? This “Bridge Illustration” can be sketched out anytime, anywhere, in 15 or 20 minutes. It is just one of the tools I have come across. When a friend first showed it to me, I was amazed at the clarity of the message. I thought, “Why has no one shown me this before.”

As you draw out the illustration, turn to each Scripture reference and have your friend read it. Included with each step of the diagram are several questions for you to ask. These will help you understand what your friend thinks about his/her relationship with God and ensure that they are thinking clearly about the verse.

In the beginning, God. He has always been around and he always will be. He created us in his image.
Q. What kind of life were we created to have?
Q. What do you think it means to really live life to the fullest?
Q. How are God and mankind different?
Sadly we didn’t maintain that good relationship with God that a full life depends on. We became separated from God because of sin.
Q. What is sin? [consider discussing the ten commandments and their implication – see the Westminster Shorter or Larger Catechism for more details]

Let’s look into this problem.
Romans 3:23. So from this verse, who has sinned? Everybody.
Does that mean ________ (parents, president, pope, etc) has sinned. It means I have sinned. Does that mean you have sinned?

Romans 6:23 - What is a wage? … So what do we earn when we sin? Sin leads to death.

Q. When you think of death, what do you think of?... I wonder what kind of judgment this will be being separate from God. [Consider such passages as Revelation 20:13-15]
Hell.

Throughout history we have tried to bridge that gap on our own, by our own power. Can you think of any example of this?
But Ephesians 2:8-9 & Titus 3:5 explain that we are not saved by works.

The good news, though, is that God has always had a plan Romans 5:8.

Begin reading 1 Peter 3:18 Christ died for sin, to bring you to God.
So what is man’s response?

Believing means trust and commitment [Explain what it means to repent.]

Results
John 5:24 - What are the 3 results this passage talks about? Okay, so over here on the left we have all sinned and sin leads to death, on the right we have eternal life. Death leads to judgment, now we have “not condemned”. But what is this death to life? 
Q. Where would you place yourself in this illustration?
Q. Is there any reason why you shouldn’t cross over to God’s side and be certain of eternal life?

Once you’ve memorized and practiced this “Bridge Illustration,” invite a Christian friend out to lunch or coffee. Ask them to pose as a non-Christian friend while you practice drawing out the Bridge on a table napkin. Have your friend give you feedback. Then invite a non-Christian friend out for lunch and share the Gospel!
Bridge Illustration

Romans 10:9  
Jesus - Lord or Boss

John 1:12  
Believe = Receive

Revelation 3:20  
Jesus is knocking...

Jesus

John 14:6

Created to love God/  
Object of God's love
Given instructions for good
Free will
All have sinned Romans 3:23
Will be judged Hebrews 9:27

Romans 5:8  
Christ died for us
Ephesians 2:8-9  
Works
Religion
Morality
Etc.

John 5:24  
Crossing

1. HEAR
2. BELIEVE
3. ETERNAL LIFE
4. NOT JUDGED
5. PASS FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Romans 6:23  
DEATH

SIN
Separates
Isaiah 59:2

LIFE
Bridge: Section #1

If I could summarize the Bible in ten minutes, would you be interested?

To start, the Bible says that:

- God created all things and that He created us to have a Love relationship with Him.
- Because God created us He knows what is best for us and what will hurt us, He gives us instruction for our good to protect us and allow us to experience life as He intended.
- God gave us a great gift — free will — the freedom of choice. God could have made us robots but He wanted us to love Him. We can only love by choice, not by force, robots can’t love.

So we are described like this: (Draw)
Bridge: Section #2

But with our free will we decided to do our own thing. We did not love God or do what He said. God calls this sin and says that everyone has sinned, you and me included. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

To describe man further we would say all have sinned.

(Write) “All have sinned.”

The primary consequence of this sin is DEATH. Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death…”

(Write DEATH at the bottom of the diagram)

Created to love God/
Object of God’s love
Given instructions for good
Free will
All have sinned Romans
3:23

Romans 6:23 DEATH
God says that because of this sin He will judge us. Hebrews 9:27 states, “just as man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment…” This judgment isn’t to see who is guilty and who is innocent (remember Romans 3:23 — all are guilty). It is to assess or determine punishment.

(Write) Will be judged.

---

Created to love God/
   Object of God’s love
Given instructions for
   good
Free will
   All have sinned Romans
   3:23
   Will be judged Hebrews
   9:27

Romans 6:23 DEATH
Bridge: Section #4

Isaiah 59:2 tells us that one of the penalties of sin is separation from God. It says, “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God and your sin has hidden His face from you so that He may not hear.” This could be shown by drawing man on one side of a deep chasm and God on the other side.

(draw this) The thing that separates us from God is sin.

Created to love God/
Object of God’s love
Given instructions for
good
Free will
All have sinned Romans
3:23
Will be judged Hebrews
9:27

Romans 6:23 DEATH

←SIN→
Separates
Isaiah 59:2
Bridge: Section #5

Man has tried many things to bridge this separation and they all end in failure.

Ephesians 2:8,9 says, “by grace you have been saved by faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not as a result of works that no man should boast.”

Man has tried (draw this) works, religion, morality, etc. to reach God, but God says this won’t end the separation between man and God.

Created to love God/
Object of God's love
Given instructions for
good
Free will
All have sinned Romans
3:23
Will be judged Hebrews
9:27

Ephesians 2:8-9
Works
Religion
Morality
Etc.

Romans 6:23 DEATH

←SIN→
Separates
Isaiah 59:2
Bridge: Section #6

But God, because He loves us, did something to end the separation. Romans 5:8 tells us, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” When Christ died for us He paid the penalty for our sins and ended the separation sin causes.

(Write) Christ died for us.

Created to love God/
Object of God’s love
Given instructions for
good
Free will
All have sinned Romans
3:23
Will be judged Hebrews
9:27

Romans 5:8
Christ died for us
Ephesians 2:8-9
Works
Religion
Morality
Etc.

←SIN→
Separates
Isaiah 59:2
Because Jesus ended the separation between God and man, we say that Jesus is the Bridge to God. In John 14:6 Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me.” Jesus is not only a bridge to God, He is the only bridge.

(Draw a bridge across the separation)

(Write) Jesus

Jesus

John 14:6

Created to love God/
Object of God’s love
Given instructions for
good
Free will
All have sinned Romans
3:23
Will be judged Hebrews
9:27

Romans 5:8
Christ died for us
Ephesians 2:8-9
Works
Religion
Morality
Etc.

←SIN→
Separates
Isaiah 59:2

Romans 6:23 DEATH
Bridge: Section #8

The Bible tells us how to cross this bridge in John 5:24. It says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgement, but has passed out of death into life.”

(Write) Hear, believe, eternal life, not judged, and pass from death to life

Death is separation from God and life is a relationship with God. When we believe we pass from death to life.

(Draw an arrow from the word “DEATH” by Romans 6:23 to the word “LIFE.”)
Since believing is the key to crossing the bridge let’s look at this more closely. John 1:12 states, “yet to all who receive Him (Jesus), to those who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”

This says believe = receive. In other words, to believe is to actually receive or invite Jesus into your life.

(Draw) Believe = Receive
Bridge: Section #10

But Jesus only comes in on this condition: That we invite Him in as Boss or Lord. If He isn't Lord we haven't truly believed. We know that Jesus is boss if we do what He says.

(Draw) Jesus - Lord or Boss

Romans 10:9
Jesus - Lord or Boss

John 1:12
Believe = Receive

John 14:6
Jesus

Created to love God/ Object of God’s love
Given instructions for good
Free will
All have sinned Romans 3:23
Will be judged Hebrews 9:27

Romans 5:8
Christ died for us
Ephesians 2:8-9
Works
Religion
Morality
Etc.

SIN
Separates
Isaiah 59:2

Jesus - Lord or Boss

GOD

John 5:24 Crossing
1. HEAR
2. BELIEVE
3. ETERNAL LIFE
4. NOT JUDGED
5. PASS FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Romans 6:23 DEATH

LIFE
Bridge: Section #11

The Bible says every person must make their own individual decision about inviting Jesus into their life or not. Revelation 3:20 says, “Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.” To not invite Jesus in is to decide to keep Him out of our lives.

(Draw) Jesus is knocking...

We must decide to cross the bridge or not by deciding to invite Jesus into our lives as Lord or not.
Bridge: Section #12

Do you have any questions? Where are you on the bridge? (Give them some options—X’s—are you on God’s side?, in the middle?…) Do you know how to cross if you wanted to? How? Why not right now? (If they want to cross, you can review the key points of the bridge and have them pray these back to God.)

Father I believe that Jesus died for my sin and rose again. I admit that I have sinned against you and I agree to start doing what you say and stop doing what you ask me not to do because you are Lord. I accept your free gift of forgiveness and a relationship with you. (You might give them 1 John 5:11-13 to memorize)

1. **Romans 10:9**
   - Jesus - Lord or Boss

2. **John 1:12**
   - Believe = Receive

3. **Revelation 3:20**
   - Jesus is knocking…

4. **John 14:6**
   - X

5. **Jesus**

6. **GOD**

- Created to love God/
  - Object of God’s love
- Given instructions for good
- Free will
- All have sinned Romans 3:23
- Will be judged Hebrews 9:27

- Romans 5:8
  - Christ died for us
- Ephesians 2:8-9
  - Works
  - Religion
  - Morality
  - Etc.

- Romans 6:23 DEATH
- Isaiah 59:2

- **SIN**
  - Separates

- **LIFE**

- John 5:24 Crossing
  1. HEAR
  2. BELIEVE
  3. ETERNAL LIFE
  4. NOT JUDGED
  5. PASS FROM DEATH TO LIFE
The Thematic Method of Bible Study

Adapted from Rick Warren’s Bible Study Methods

In the thematic method of Bible study you decide on a set of questions to ask about the chosen theme before you look in the Bible. Using at least one, but no more than five questions, trace that theme throughout the Bible or a single book, asking only those questions; then summarize your conclusions and write out a personal application.

Tools you will need:
- Study Bible
- Exhaustive concordance (or use a website like bibles.org or biblegateway.com)
- Topical Bible or cross references (or use a website like biblegateway.com)

Steps:
- **Step 1 - Choose a theme to study.** If you are just starting out, pick a theme that is small or short. Below are some suggestions, including the questions, and the example gives you a completed study.
- **Step 2 - Make a list of all the verses** that are related to the theme you have chosen using your tools (a study Bible, concordance, etc.). Remember to consider synonyms and other similar words and concepts when using the concordance or searching online at biblegateway.com. Narrow down your verses to those most important to your theme.
- **Step 3 – Decide on which questions you will ask.** What are some things you would like to know about your theme? Make a list of your questions, at least one, but no more than five.
- **Step 4 - Ask your questions of each verse in your list from step two.** You may not be able to find an answer for each question in each verse, some verses may only answer one or two of your questions.
- **Step 5 - Draw some conclusions** from your study. Go back and summarize the answers to each of your questions; you may want to organize your study into an outline.
- **Step 6 - Write out a personal application** that is practical, possible and measurable and share it with someone who will pray for you and help keep you accountable.

Some Ideas to Get You Started: including sample questions you may ask. Don’t feel restricted by these suggested questions; make up some of your own for these themes.

1. **Theme: Knowing God’s Will.** (Look up the word will in a concordance and find the references to God’s will, will of God, will of the Lord, the Lord's will and any other related words.)
   - Suggested questions:
     a. What specific things are God’s will?
     b. Why am I to do God’s will? (motives and results)
     c. How am I to do God’s will? (attitudes and actions)

2. **Theme: Follow Up.** (Look up the words teach/taught, encourage/encouraging, preach, grow, etc… and find references to helping another person grow). Suggested questions:
   - What is involved in follow up?
   - What are the goals of follow up?
   - What is needed to do effective follow up?
Sample: The Thematic Bible Study Method

1. Theme: Jesus' Definition of a Disciple

2. List of References:
   - Matthew 10:24-25
   - Luke 14:33
   - John 8:31-32
   - John 13:34-35
   - John 15:8

3. Questions to be Asked:
   - A – What are the characteristics of a disciple?
   - B – What are the results of being a disciple?
   - C –
   - D –
   - E –

4. Answers to Questions:
   - Scripture Reference: Matthew 10:24-25
     A – A disciple will be like Christ (his Master)
     B – He should expect to be treated as Christ was by the world
     C –
     D –
     E –
     A – A disciple gives supreme love to Christ and bears his cross and follows Christ
     B – (no answer given)
     C –
     D –
     E –
   - Scripture Reference: Luke 14:33
     A – A disciple gives all to follow Christ
     B – (no answer given)
     C –
     D –
     E –
   - Scripture Reference: John 8:31-32
     A – A disciple continually abides in Christ's word
     B – He knows the truth and is set free
     C –
     D –
     E –
Scripture Reference: John 13:34-35
A – A disciple has love for others
B – Others will know that he belongs to Christ
C –
D –
E –

Scripture Reference: John 15:8
A – A disciple bears fruit
B – His bearing fruit brings glory to God
C –
D –
E –

5. Conclusion(s):
○ Characteristics I discovered:
  A disciple...
  - Is like Christ
  - Gives supreme love to Christ
  - Bears his cross and follows Christ
  - Gives up all to follow Christ
  - Continually abides in Christ's Word
  - Loves others
  - Bears fruit

Results I discovered:
- He should expect persecution
- He knows the truth and is set free
- He brings glory to God
- Others notice he belongs to Christ

6. Application/Evaluation
  a. Based on John 8:31-32 - I will look at the truth/lie grid again and pick 2 more truths I need to believe. I will write it down on a 3x5 card and memorize the truth and the verse over the next two weeks.
  b. Based on John 13:34-35 - I will demonstrate love to the girl in my biology class who irritates me by inviting her to join us for lunch after class. I will do this sometime this next week.
The Word Study Method of Bible Study

Adapted from Rick Warren’s Bible Study Methods

The Word Study Method of Bible study takes a close look at the origin, definition, occurrences, and uses of a particular word, especially as it relates to the context of a passage of Scripture. The purpose is to discover what the biblical writer meant by the word he used and enjoy the exciting insights that come from studying the original words.

Tools you will need:
- A study Bible
- Several Bible translations (no paraphrases with this study)
- Exhaustive concordance
- Bible dictionary or encyclopedia
- Set of word studies (such as Vine’s Expository Dictionary)
- English dictionary

Steps
- **Step 1 - Choose your word** you will study. Choose a word you’ve wondered about from a previous study or are interested in.
- **Step 2 - Find its English definition** in the English dictionary (or dictionary.com) and write it down. List with the definition any synonyms or antonyms of the word.
- **Step 3 - Compare translations** of the word. Read in different translations the passages where this word is used. Write down the different renderings of the word that you find.
- **Step 4 – Write down the definition of the original word.** Find out what the original Greek, Hebrew or Aramaic word is in your exhaustive concordance or word study and write down its definition. You may find it has a number of usages. (You can find an online version of Vine’s Expository Dictionary if you don’t have access to the book.)
- **Step 5 - Discover where the word is used in the Bible.** Using your concordance, find out how and where the word is used in the Bible. You can ask the following questions:
  - How often does it occur?
  - In which books is it found?
  - In which book is it used most?
  - Where does the word first appear?
  - Where does it first appear in the book you are studying?
  - Which writers used the word?
- **Step 6 – Find the word’s origin and root meaning.** Using your tools, find a fuller discussion of the meaning and the origin of the word you are studying.
- **Step 7 - Discover how the word was used in the Bible** and how it would have been understood in the culture to which the Bible was originally addressed. Try to discover how the word was used by the secular culture of the day. Do some research using online helps, a bible dictionary or encyclopedia, a word study set or other tools. Ask the following questions:
  - How was the word used in other writings besides the Bible? How was it used in the culture of the day?
  - How is the word used in the Bible? Find out how the word was translated every time it appears in the Bible.
  - How is the word used in the context of a passage? The context will be your most reliable source for insights into what the writer really meant.
- **Step 8 - Write out a personal application** that is practical, possible and measurable and share this with someone, (i.e. an accountability partner, your group leader or the group itself if you are doing this study in a group).
- **Step 9 – List the reference tools** you used in your word study. This will help you remember the most useful resources for use in the future.

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**Sample: The Word Study Bible Study Method**

1. **English Word**: Repent (noun – Repentance)

2. **English Definition**:
   - to feel sorry, self-reproachful, or contrite for past conduct; regret or be conscience-stricken about a past action, attitude, etc.
   - to feel such sorrow for sin or fault as to be disposed to change one’s life for the better; be penitent.
   - **Synonyms**: apologize, atone, deplore, regret, remorse, penitence
   - **Antonyms**: be happy, praise

3. **Comparison of Translations**:
   - Luke 13:3
     - “Repent” – NIV, NASB, KJV, Amplified, etc.
     - “Turn from your sins” – Good News Bible
     - “Leave your evil ways and turn to God” – Living Bible

4. **Original Word and Short Definition**
   - Metanoeo (Greek) “to change one’s mind”
   - Metamelomai (Greek) “to regret or show remorse”

5. **Occurrences in the Bible**:
   - Two different Greek words are translated “repent” in the New Testament:
     - **Metanoeo**
       - “Repent” (verb) 34 times
         - 5 x in Matthew
         - 2 x in Mark
         - 9 x in Luke
         - 5 x in Acts
         - 1 x in 2 Corinthians
         - 12 x in Revelation
     - “Repentance” (noun) 24 times
       - 3 x in Matthew
       - 2 x in 2 Corinthians
       - 2 x in Mark
       - 1 x in 2 Timothy
       - 5 x in Luke
       - 3 x in Hebrews
       - 6 x in Acts
       - 1 x in 2 Peter
       - 1 x in Romans
     - **Metamelomai**
       - “Repent” (verb – 6 times)
         - 3 x in Matthew
         - 1 x in Hebrews
         - 2 x in 2 Corinthians
   - **Interesting insights**:
     - The word is never used in the gospel of John; but he used it in Revelation 12 times.
- The author Luke used it the most (Luke and Acts).
- Repentance is not emphasized much in the Epistles because they were written to believers.

6. Root Meaning and Origin:
   - Metanoeo literally means "to perceive afterwards." It is made up of two Greek words: meta, "after," (implying change), and noeo, which means "to perceive;" (nous is Greek for "the mind, the seat of moral reflection").
      From this we get the meaning of "to change one's mind on purpose." In the New Testament this change is always involving a change for the better, and it denotes a genuine, complete change of heart and mind.
      Not only does it imply a turning away (negative) from sin, but a turning to (positive) that which is right and godly. It means more than just feeling sorry for wrong you've done. It also means to completely change your mind about the sin and go a different way.

   - Metamelomai comes from meta ("after") and melo ("to care for"). It means to regret or express remorse for something you wish you hadn't done. It means to have painful anxiety (sorrow) over a past deed. This is not genuine repentance. It means to regret something you did without ever really changing your mind about it. ("I'm sorry I got caught, but I'm not sorry I did it." Or "I'm not sure I wouldn't do it again.") The best illustration of this is Judas. He was regretful for betraying Jesus (metamelomai – Matthew 27:3), but he never genuinely repented of it (metanoeo).

7. How the Word was used:
   - In other writings:
      - Metanoeo was not used much in classical Greek literature. When the word was used, it did not mean the radical change of a man's life as a whole as it does in the New Testament.

   - Throughout the Bible:
      - Repentance (naham) in the Old Testament is seen most clearly in Ezekiel 18 and 33:10-20
      - "Repent" was the basic message of John the Baptist (Matt. 3:2), Jesus (Matt 4:17), the 12 disciples (Mark 6:12), and Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2:38)
      - It is commanded by God for everyone (Acts 17:30, 2 Peter 3:9)
      - It is part of saving faith (Luke 13:5, Acts 3:19)
      - It produces joy in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10)
      - It is proven by our actions (Acts 26:20)
      - Jesus used the word 17 times in the Gospels and 8 times in Revelation.
      - Three causes for repentance:
         - God’s goodness to us (Rom. 2:4)
         - Godly sorrow for our sin (2 Corin. 7:9-10)
         - God’s grace (2 Tim. 2:25)
      - It is a foundational truth of the Christian life (Heb. 6:1)

   - In the context of a passage: 2 Corinthians 7:9-10
      - This verse shows the difference between genuine repentance (metanoeo) and mere regret (metamelomai). Real godly sorrow brings about genuine repentance. This brings about a change of life, not just regret.
8. **Application/Evaluation:**

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?” (Romans 2:4)

I have held a personal grudge against John ever since the incident in the mountains last fall. It has put a strain on our friendship. The Lord has convicted me about this in the past, but I have put off making it right. I know I have sinned and I want to repent of this now. Tomorrow afternoon I will go to John and ask his forgiveness. I want to straighten this matter out.

9. **Resources used:**
   - Dictionary.com
   - Thesaurus.com
   - *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of NT Words* (used at https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved.html)
   - Young’s Analytical Concordance of the Bible Dictionary of NT Theology, Vol. 1
   - Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance (used at http://www.biblestudytools.com/concordances/strongs-exhaustive-concordance/)
Campus Evangelism - 3 Question Training
This section of the Witnessing Worksheets covers a practical method of approaching people on campus and starting spiritual conversations.

Approach and Diagnostic Questions

**Approach:** “Excuse me. Hi, we’re from Campus Ventures and we are on campus today talking to people about a relationship with Jesus Christ. Would it be alright if we asked you a few questions?”

- **Allow them to respond.**
  - If no - Be polite and say thank you. Be open to being turned down and don’t be discouraged. Getting this far is obedience.
  - If yes - Break the ice.

**Breaking the Ice:**

- **Get to know them:**
  - What are you studying?
  - What year are you?
  - Where are you from?
    - Hopefully this allows you to make the student feel more comfortable so they can be more honest with the Diagnostic Questions.

- **“Warning”**
  - Even though this step is very important, try not to get trapped in this section. Remember the conversation we are trying to have!

**Diagnostic Questions:**

- **After getting to know them and breaking the ice, transition into the 3 Diagnostic Questions:**
  - “Have you given much thought to Spiritual Things?”
  - “Has there ever been a time in your life you would consider yourself right with God?”
  - Suppose you were to stand before God and he were to say ‘(Their name), what makes you right with me?’ What would you say?”

**Assignment**
Begin to memorize and highlight in your Bible:

1. 2 Corinthians 5:15
2. Romans 3:10-12, 23
3. John 14:6
Question #1: “What do you live for?”

- “What matters most to you?”
  - Give them time to respond, this will be a question that will cause them to think.
  - Ask questions that allow them to explain and have discussion.
  - Read a verse: 2 Corinthians 5:15 (memorize)
    - (If they are comfortable let them read, but try to use your Bible)
      - Be ready to explain this verse but allow them to digest it.
      - Questions to ask:
        - What does that say to you?
        - How would you put this into your own words?
        - Does it fit into your idea of what life is all about?
        - Do you see that it puts living for self and living for Christ at odds with each other?
        - If you had to pinpoint where you are on that continuum (between living for self and living for Christ), where would it be?

Other Verses that might be helpful: John 10:10, Philippians 3:7-8

Assignment
- Memorize Question #1
- Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:15

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Question #2: “What causes the world’s problems?”

- Follow up with discussion. This point will probably take longer to discuss that the first. Don’t cut it short.
  - Direction: Present sin as the cause of all the world’s problems. But lead into it. Don’t announce it!
  - Additional Questions (about sin):
    - What do you think is behind that? (whatever their answer may be: hate, greed, violence, people, lack of love, etc.)
    - Do you think people are part of the problem? (PEOPLE ARE THE PROBLEM)
    - Do you know any perfect people?
    - How would you define sin?
  - Read a verse: Romans 3:10-12, 23
    - (If they are comfortable let them read, but try to use your Bible)
      - Be ready to explain this verse but allow them to digest it.
      - Questions to ask:
        - What does this say to you?
        - How would you put this into your own words?
Discuss the separation that sin causes and how it is a serious offense to God.

- The BRIDGE is a great tool for helping you with this section.

- It is critical to establish the personal problem of sin here, not just a human problem. If they don't think they, personally, have a problem, the next question will be useless.

Other verses that might be helpful: James 4:18, Isaiah 59:2

Assignment
- Memorize Question #2
- Memorize Romans 3:10-12, 23

Question #3: “Is there one solution that works for everyone?”

- Follow up with discussion.
- There are a lot of proposed solutions being offered (various religions, materialism, power, etc.)
- If there were one solution that really worked for everyone, would you want to know?
- Are you familiar with the claims of Jesus Christ?
- Read a verse: John 14:6
  - What does that say to you?
  - How would you put this into your own words?
  - A great place to finish up the BRIDGE illustration.

Other verses that might be helpful: Romans 4:25, Hebrews 4:15, John 5:24, Romans 10:9

Assignment
- Memorize Question #3
- Memorize John 14:6
Leading to a Response

- Verses to memorize and use as needed:
  - Acts 3:19
  - John 1:12
  - Revelation 3:20

- Useful Questions to get a response:
  - Does this make sense?
  - Do you think you understand what you would need to do to be right with God?
  - Can you think of any good reason why you would not be willing to receive Christ into your life?
  - Are you willing to repent and receive Christ today?

**Sample Prayer** - "Dear God, I know that I’m a sinner and I need a savior. I know I can’t save myself. Please forgive me. I’m ready to ask Jesus to come into my life. I’m ready to turn away from my sin and turn to you. I want you to take control of my life. I receive you right now. Thank you for saving me. Amen."

**Follow Up Questions**
- Did you mean what you prayed?
- Where is Jesus right now?
- Where was Jesus 30 minutes ago?
- Do you see what just happened? Jesus just entered your life. You are now a child of God.

**IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER!**
1. Arrange another meeting as early as possible. Get their name, phone, email, etc.
2. Give them the Campus Ventures gospel tract (whether they accept Christ or not).
3. Be tenacious in meeting them again.
4. PRAY FOR THEM!
Breaking the Sound Barriers
by Ryan McReynolds

What are the sound barriers? Sound barriers are the natural steps that all of us go through to move from being afraid to share our faith to being a Christ-centered laborer. At one time or another all of us have wanted to share the Gospel but the challenge is to know how to begin the conversation. Then after you begin to visit, the challenge becomes how to bring up spiritual issues without being manipulative or appearing to have a hidden agenda. Then, even if we accomplish these things we get confused as to how to explain the Gospel clearly and then how to ask people to respond to the Gospel. The sound barriers are as follows.

1. Having a conversation with a Stranger
2. Having a spiritual conversation.
3. Sharing the Gospel
4. Asking a person to respond to the Gospel

By identifying these natural steps in becoming an effective evangelist, we can help diagnose the needed steps of training in ourselves and those we are discipling. Some effective tools for breaking these sound barriers are the Quest survey, followed closely by learning the skill of guided conversations.

Often the main barrier is fear and inexperience. Perfect love casts out fear, so remind yourself of the love of God for you in Christ. And inexperience is just waiting to be left behind.

Commit yourself to a schedule of breaking these sound barriers. For example, on week one, make it your goal to simply have a conversation with a stranger on any topic. Don’t bring up Spiritual things, don’t bring up the Gospel. Just talk and more importantly listen.

This beginning goal is particularly important in training a fearful disciple. This first step becomes easier when you communicate confidence that you’re only going to go so far. This helps focus on overcoming initial fears and lack of skills. A step by step approach to learning evangelism is the most effective way to develop the art and science of sharing the Gospel.

On the second week, use the quest survey to initiate a conversation regarding spiritual things. Don’t feel the need to share the Gospel. Just have a conversation regarding spiritual things.

Then, on the third week make it your goal to have a conversation about spiritual things and look for an opportunity to bring up the Gospel specifically and then explain it clearly using the Knowing God Personally booklet. This should help you break the third and fourth sound barrier because the book-let leads to a point of decision.

On the fourth week, solidify your skill by breaking all four sound barriers again this
week. This kind of training is an effective way for you to grow as a Christ-centered laborer.

**Keys to “random” Evangelism**

1. If you’re weird, they’re weird.
2. Look eye, always look eye.
3. Introduce yourself and remember their name.
4. Listen (Fight Club). Listen carefully. Let them talk freely and completely. Invite them to tell you more. Desire to understand them first. Through that understanding you will often discern how the gospel relates to their life. After you listen express understanding. Affirm what you can agree with. Do not attack what you disagree with.

How do I start a conversation?
1. Can you help me out with something? (People like to help)
2. My name is “Ryan”, and I am involved with a Spiritual mentoring program here at CU called Fuel.
3. Each week we go out on campus do an informal survey. This is a great opportunity to develop Listening skills and to learn the art of conversation. It also helps to understand what’s on students’ minds.
4. Do you mind telling me what you think about a couple of things?

Most students haven’t had anybody listen to them this week, the way you will listen to them.

Most students haven’t talked about anything as interesting this week, as what you’re going to talk about.

Most students haven’t had a conversation potentially this important in their whole life.

What are you waiting for?

**Guided conversations**
The skill of a guided conversation is important because it can be used in any of the evangelism modes. You can have a guided conversation with the person that lives next door, some- one who comes to the weekly meeting, or a person that you intentionally want to share your faith with. The strategy of a guided conversation is:

- To bring up the Gospel in a relevant way in a relatively short period of time (i.e. Quest survey can take too long)
- To be able to find “the Glory of God” in all things and use this as a starting point engage in an interesting conversation that results not just in a spiritual conversation, but in an opportunity to share the Gospel.
- To listen to unbelievers and engage them honestly and thoughtfully
- To destroy the stereotype the Christians are dull, pushy individuals who can’t say anything interesting unless it’s specifically about the Bible.
Here are some examples of guided conversations. The following are written somewhat formally but you can adapt them to fit your personality and the context of your conversation:

Can you help us out for a second? We’re out on campus doing an informal survey for a Spiritual mentoring program here at CU called Fuel. Each week we go out on campus do an informal survey. This is a great opportunity to develop listening skills and to learn the art of conversation. It also helps to understand what’s on students’ minds. This month we’re talking about racism. Would you mind answering one question about racism? Here’s the question:

Do you think racism is a problem at CU?
Fuel is a Christian student group. Have you ever heard the Christian perspective on Racism?
Do you celebrate Memorial Day?
Do you know the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?
Do you know anyone who has died in service to our country?
As you rate holidays, how important is Memorial Day?

“I don’t think I gave Memorial Day a second thought until I saw the movie Saving Private Ryan. That movie showed me that many men died in order to give me freedom and safety. I think Memorial Day is also meaningful in light of September 11th, reminding me of the kind of world we live in and how unique America is.

I also take Memorial Day seriously because I am a Christian. Have you ever heard of the Christian Memorial Day? It’s called Easter. Have you ever heard the story of Easter?"

Probably the easiest way to explain it is in this 4 point outline. Read Through 4 Law. When you get to Law three, say “the day that Jesus rose from the dead is called Easter. On that day Christians remember that their freedom and safety is the result of someone who died for them: Jesus.”

Where were you on September 11 last year? What did you think about it at the time? Have you thought differently since? Do you think there is such a thing as evil? Do you think there’s any punishment for evil people? Have you ever heard the Christian solution to the problem of evil? Let me explain it in the form of a 4 point outline.

Let’s brainstorm a guided conversation on the topic of:
   Sex
   Do sex and love always go together?
   Drugs (including Alcohol)
   Rock and Roll

Part of the reason that the skill of guided conversation is so important is that you can use it anytime, anywhere, with potentially anyone. Next Memorial day you may be
talking with your Uncle Leon about Memorial Day and you might remember how to move from that to the Gospel. And you just might share your faith for the first time with Old Leon and see his life changed forever. You never know when a guided conversation can start and lead to sharing the power of God unto salvation for anyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

What is initiative evangelism?

“Initiative evangelism” in many Christian ministry circles has come to mean sharing the Gospel with strangers in a public setting. This is in contrast to “relational” evangelism which usually implies sharing the Gospel with an established friend, acquaintance or family member.

This distinction often manifests itself in statements like, “I don’t feel called to do initiative evangelism,” or “I prefer relational evangelism”.

Here’s why I have a problem with that…

__________________________ is initiative evangelism.

Sharing the Gospel always takes initiative. Even if someone walks up to you and says, “What must I do to be saved from my many sins?” you could still weasel out and tell them to go to a web site or talk to your pastor.

In order for you to share the Gospel, you must take the initiative not only to tell the story of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection; but also to learn how to tell that story well and bring them to a point of decision where you ask very clearly, “who do you say that Jesus is?” If it takes initiative to respond when someone asks you; how much more does it take to create opportunities to share your faith on a regular basis with your friends or strangers?

I personally find it much easier to take the initiative to share the Gospel with strangers than with friends. If a stranger is offended by my story of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, there are no long term consequences because even if I’m rejected I’ll never see that person again. However, if I take the initiative to share the Gospel with my roommate or a friend or a family member, I could put that relationship in serious jeopardy.

Do I believe that it is worth the risk to take the initiative to share the Gospel with friends and family? Absolutely. Ironically it is because of the greater risk of initiative evangelism with friends and family that learning how to share your faith with strangers is so important.

It is my contention that those who say that they are not into “initiative” evangelism are missing a tremendous opportunity to grow in their evangelism skills by only having conversations with people they already know. Most of us don’t know that many people and the opportunity to sit down with those that we do know is probably somewhat
infrequent. By contrast, I have learned the skill of evangelism by doing it repeatedly with strangers on campus so that when I have the opportunity to share with a friend, I'm far more clear and persuasive, not to mention relaxed and confident.

There is one great risk when sharing the Gospel with people you don't know: you can't predict what they'll ask or how they'll respond. This risk carries a great reward. By learning how to talk to many different kinds of people, you will grow in your skill as an evangelist. You don't have to have all the answers, in fact you should always take along something to write with in order to jot down thoughts or questions that come up in conversation. In fact, having the humility to say when you don't know how to respond to a particular question can actually be a great plus in an evangelistic conversation; certainly it's more honest. You will also be motivated to learn how to respond in the future, and therefore be better equipped as a Christ-centered laborer.

Finally, sharing the Gospel is always an end in itself because the Gospel "is the power of God unto salvation for anyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). This means, as Mark McCloskey put it years ago, that if you had to choose between raising someone from the dead and telling the good news of Jesus Christ, by Paul's own admission the Gospel would be more powerful for causing people to repent and believe in Jesus.

This Summer I had the chance to share my faith with Chris, a friend who is the most spiritually open non-Christian I have ever met. Even though I had every green light to begin talking about Christ, I was afraid. I was afraid of what he might think of me. So when it came right down to it, it took a lot of initiative to bring up the Gospel. I am convinced that a big reason that I did take the initiative was because of all the times I have shared my faith with strangers. If you want to be a growing laborer in the Harvest of calling people to be reconciled to God, you can start by taking the initiative with strangers and excel still more by taking the initiative with those you already have a relationship with.
The Need of The Hour
Dawson E. Trotman

Jesus . . . said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples” (Matthew 28: 18-19)

What is the need of the hour? That depends upon the person who is thinking about it. If I’m walking along the street and see a beggar with a tin cup, what’s the need of the hour? A dime. If a woman is being taken to the hospital, what’s the need of the hour? A doctor. But in Christian work, what is the need of the hour? I started to list the things that we often feel are the need - those things which if supplied, would end our troubles.

Some say, “Well, if I just had a larger staff . . .” Would more staff be the answer? Today many a minister would like to have an assistant and many a mission would like to have more missionaries. The cry of returned missionaries is always for more men and women to fill up the ranks. To them, this is the need of the hour.

Others say, “We don’t need more workers, but if we had better facilities . . . if we just had more office space and more buildings and bigger grounds and a base of operation . . . If we had an attractive conference grounds . . . then we could do the job.”

In certain areas of the world they say it’s communications we lack, or better transportation, or better means to take care of health. The need of the hour on many a mission field is merely a radio. But if you get that radio, then there’s another need followed by something else and something else. Many feel it is literature. I hear that in my travels all over the world, “We just lack literature.”

I know of people today who are saying, “If we could just get into a certain place.” For years people have been on the borders of Nepal saying, “If we could just get in.” To them, the need of the hour is an open door into Nepal. Right now hundreds of people are saying, “If we could just get into China...” The Bible says, “My God shall supply all your needs.” If the need were an open door into China, why doesn’t God open it? “These things saith He that is holy, He that is true. He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth . . . I have set before thee an open door.”

Paul found closed doors, but closed doors to him weren’t the problem. I believe those closed doors were used of God to show him the open doors he was to go through next. If God wanted to put His hand over the great country of China tonight, He could open the door in forty-eight hours.

Some say, “We need time. If we just had more time...” Others say, “If I just weren’t so old, if I were young again.” People have said to me, “Daws, if I had known when I was twenty years old what I know now, I could have done a 100 times more for the Lord. Why didn’t I?”

Often the biggest need of the hour seems to be money. “If we just had money . . . That’s the answer to a larger staff, more facilities, literature, communications, and transportation... If we just had money.”

What is the need of the hour? Frankly, I don’t believe it is any of these. I am convinced that the God of the universe is in control and He will supply all of these needs in His own way and in His own time, all else being right.

Let me tell you what I believe the need of the hour is. Maybe I should call it the answer to the need of the hour. I believe it is an army of soldiers, dedicated to Jesus Christ, who believe not only that He is God, but that He can fulfill every promise He has ever made and that there isn’t anything too hard for Him. It is the only way we can accomplish the thing that is on His heart - getting the gospel to every creature.

In 1948 I was in Germany for six days. I had been in touch with Colonel Paul
Maddock, Chief of Chaplains for all of Europe, and through his recommendation to the Commanding General, I got into Germany. I invited fifty German fellows to meet with me for three days, and twenty-five of them came.

I talked to them every evening for three hours, beginning to lay before them the Great Commission and the idea that I felt Germany not only needed to hear the Gospel, but that Germans themselves needed to obey the Great Commission by sending missionaries.

I gave them the opportunity to ask questions during the meetings and every once-in-a-while a hand would go up. I was trying to lay upon their hearts the very thing the Lord laid on the hearts of the disciples when He told them to go to every creature, make disciples of every nation, start in Jerusalem and go to the ends of the earth. One German spoke up, “But, Mr. Trotman, you don’t understand. Here in Germany some of us right in this room don’t even have an Old Testament; we only have a New Testament.” But I pointed out, “When Jesus Christ gave these commandments, they didn’t have even a New Testament.”

Later one of them said, “But. Mr. Trotman, we have very few good evangelical books in this country. In America you have this and so.” I asked, “How many books did the disciples have?”

A little further on one of them asked, “Is it true that in America you can hear the Gospel any day?” I answered, “Yes.” He said, “If we had that... but we can’t get the message out on any radio.” I said, “But the disciples had never heard of a radio.”

They said, “You have automobiles, we ride bicycles.” I reminded them, “The disciples didn’t have bicycles Jesus rode a borrowed burro.”

Now these questions didn’t come up one right after the other or they would have caught on, but arose during the nine hours together. Finally one fellow spoke up, “In America you have money. I work twelve hours a day for sixty cents. We don’t have much money.” I replied, “The disciples were sent out without purse and without script.”

Every excuse in the book was brought up. “We don’t have this, and we don’t have that. We don’t have buildings; we don’t have facilities.” Each time I replied, “But the Twelve didn’t and He sent them out.”

Then finally near the end one fellow, a little older than the rest and with almost a bitter expression on his face, got up and said, “Mr. Trotman, you in America have never had an occupation force in your land. You don’t know what it is to have soldiers of another country roaming your streets. Our souls are not our own.” I responded, “The disciples lived at the time Jesus Christ lived and their souls weren’t their own. The Roman soldiers were in charge.”

Then it dawned on me in a way I had never considered before that when Jesus Christ sent the Eleven out, He let a situation exist which was so bad that there could never be a worse one. No printing presses, no automobiles, no radios, no television, no telephones, no buildings, not one single church, no uniforms, nothing for the vestry... He didn’t even leave them a little emblem.

He left them only a job to do, but with it He said, “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore...” (KJV). What does the “therefore” mean? It means, “I have the power to give you the order and I have the power to back you to the hilt.” He was all power in heaven and earth... not just heaven, but in the earth; all power, not part of the power, but all power, which means power over the Romans and power over the Communists.

Earlier Jesus Christ had said to this same little group, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me...” He that what? “...believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do.” Do you believe this is true? Or must you say that for a moment it makes you stop to wonder. Could it possibly be true that the Son of God would say to a human being, “The things that I do, you shall do, and greater things than these you shall do”?

I believe with all my heart that the reason so many wonderful Christians don’t accomplish
more in their lives is they don’t believe Jesus meant what He said. They have never come to the place where they believe that the all-powerful One who commissioned them could enable them to do these greater works. The last thing He said was, “All power is given unto Me. I’m giving you your orders now. Go and teach all nations and see that every created being hears the Word.”

Now we think it is going to be a tough job, even with the printing press, the radio, the airplane, and modern medicine. What do you think the early disciples thought about it? When Paul wrote to the Romans he said, “I thank my God that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world” (1:8, KJV). When he wrote to the Thessalonian church he said, “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance” (1 Thessalonians 1:5, KJV). And he said to the Thessalonians, who were not even as strong as the Bereans, “From you sounded out the Word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad” (1 Thessalonians 1:8, KJV).

How did the message go? Not by telephone, not by television, but by tell-a-person. That’s the only method they had. It was as simple as that. Everyone was to tell someone else. “I cannot help but speak the things which I have seen and heard” was the impelling force. That’s how it spread, and it did spread. They didn’t need the printing press and they didn’t need materials.

Over in England they really went for Bible study and memory materials. It was hard to get them to see their value at first, but when they did, some of them felt they were a necessity. One rainy night during the Billy Graham crusade at Wembley Stadium, around three thousand came forward at the invitation. Two clergymen came running up to me, “Mr. Trotman, Mr. Trotman, we ran out of materials! What will we do?” I said, “Relax. They probably ran out of them at Pentecost, too!” They looked at me for a minute and, obviously getting the point, said, “That’s right!”

The answer is the man, not materials. Maybe the greatest problem today is that we try to put into printed form that which should go from lip to ear and heart to heart. We de-emphasize materials and people can’t understand why. Materials are tools. Tools by themselves are useless. If there were a young fellow beginning his study of medicine who had all the necessary instruments for a major operation, and an old doctor who just had a razor blade and a plain, ordinary crooked needle and some store string, I’d put myself into the hands of the old doctor for surgery rather than this boy over here with all his instruments, wouldn’t you? It’s not only the tools; it’s the man who has the tools in his hands.

What is the need of the hour? I’ll tell you the need of the hour. It is to believe that our God controls the universe, and when He said, “The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”, He meant it. That is exactly what is going to happen. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord!

Today more people than ever in a lot of our civilized countries know about Jesus Christ because of the radio, literature, mission societies, Billy Graham, etc. But they only know about Him; they don’t know Him. The Book says, “The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” How much does the water cover the sea? Do you think that every square inch of sea has water in it? Yes! You have no illustration more complete, “as the waters cover the sea.” That’s how every tongue and tribe and nation in every single nook and corner of this earth is going to hear about Jesus Christ and His glory.

What is the need of the hour? It is to believe that “Thy God reigneth.” The rain isn’t coming down like you feel it should in order to have good crops. Can He send it if it’s necessary? If He doesn’t, can you say, “Thank you, Lord”? That’s what He wants. “In everything give thanks.” You don’t need anything that He can’t supply. Is it knowledge? Is it strength? God can do more through a weakling who is yielded and trusting than He can through a strong man.
who isn’t. “For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God
by us” (2 Corinthians 1:20, KJV).

I want the fellows and girls to whom I minister always to go away with this thought
securely in their minds: “God, I’ll never come to the place where I’m going to let the lack of
anything persuade me that You are being hindered.” I would rather you would go away with that
in your hearts than with methods or materials or ideas that we may have to share with you,
because I know the potential of the man who will come to the place where he can say hour after
hour, day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year, “Lord, I believe my
God reigneth.”

Listen! You have an excuse if you want one. You have more than an excuse; you have
hundreds of them. That isn’t what’s holding us back. It’s that we don’t live and preach the fact
that He is on the throne. And when He’s running the show, He will take care of all the props,
even the transportation.

I was in Hong Kong on my way to India in 1948 when a Pan American flight was delayed
long enough to make me miss my connection in Bangkok. I inquired if there were any way for
me to get to Calcutta. The crew said, “No, not a chance in the world.” Then one said, “We do
have orders for this plane to go on to Calcutta, but because of regulations this crew can’t take
it.” So I prayed, “Lord, You know about the meetings in Calcutta, and it’s nothing for You to work
this out.”

We got to Bangkok and a radio message came, “We do not have a crew to bring this
ship to Calcutta. Your crew is ordered to bring it.” Only four people were on that big DC-6, and
the other three didn’t have to go to India for three days. I arrived in time for those meetings, and
as a result a man from Nepal came to know the Lord, a man who later became a key for getting
the Gospel to that closed country way up in the Himalayas.

The need of the hour, as far as I’m concerned, is to believe that God is God, and that He
is a lot more interested in getting this job done than you and I are. Therefore, if He is more
interested in getting the job done, has all power to do it, and has commissioned us to do it, our
business is to obey Him...reaching the world for Him and trusting Him to help us do it.

The Lord could easily have said to the disciples, “You fellows are only eleven men, and
you lack facilities and transportation, so all I want you to do is start the fire in Jerusalem.” But
He didn’t say that. The believers in South India testify they are glad Thomas believed Jesus
Christ that he was to go to the uttermost part of the earth. I understand that the Mar Thoma
Church, the largest in southern India, traces its origin back to the work of this disciple. Aren’t
you glad that Thomas didn’t say to Jesus Christ, “I don’t have a DC-6 yet”?

“Ye shall be witnesses unto Me in...” not either Jerusalem or Samaria or Judea or on the
foreign field. You are to be witnesses, when you have the Holy Ghost, “both in Jerusalem, and
in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Suppose you are a pastor. You have a responsibility to your people to be a shepherd to
the flock. You also have a responsibility for people in other countries. You have to be
concerned. The only reason you are not out there telling them about Jesus Christ is because
you’re training the lay people to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ in your city, your state,
and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

I used to have a map of the world that I kept before me. I’d put my fingers on some of the
islands - Australia, New Zealand, Okinawa, Formosa - and say, “Lord, let me win men for You in
these places.” I wasn’t challenged to do this by hearing a sermon, but by a verse of Scripture,
Jeremiah 33:3, “Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things,
which thou knowest not.” In the previous chapter Jeremiah had said to the Lord, “Ah Lord God!
behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm,
and there is nothing too hard for Thee.” Ten verses later the Lord says to Jeremiah, “I am the
Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for Me?” Then just a few verses later He
says, “All right, if you believe Me, call unto Me and I will answer.”

I asked a buddy, “Do you believe this verse?” He said, “Yes.” I said, “I do, too, but I’ve never seen these great and mighty things, and I’d like to.” So we started a prayer meeting every morning. We decided to meet at a certain spot, have a fire built, and be in prayer by five o’clock. Not one minute after five . . . we just made it a date. We prayed two hours on weekdays but met at four on Sundays to pray for our Sunday school boys by name and for the Sunday school. We prayed for Harbor City, Torrance, Long Beach, San Pedro, Los Angeles, Pasadena, and the surrounding cities from which I had received calls from young Christian fellows saying, “Come over here and show us how you’re reaching these boys.”

The third and fourth weeks we started to include cities up the coast - San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, and Portland. We said, “Lord, use us in these cities.” By the fourth or fifth week we had covered every state in the Union. As we listed them we prayed, “Lord, use us to win young men to You in the State of Oregon. Use us to win young men in Massachusetts.” Every morning we prayed for every one of the forty-eight states. Then about the sixth week one of us said to the other something like this: “If we believe God is big enough to let us win men in every one of the forty-eight states, let’s go all out!”

We bought a world map and left it up in the Palos Verdes hills. Each morning we’d pull this old map out and pray that the Lord would use us in China and in Japan and in Korea. At the end of forty-two days I felt a burden lift. We stopped asking God to use us and began thanking Him that He was going to do so. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,” and substance is substance. It’s reality; it’s something you can believe in. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. We claimed the promises as we prayed. These promises were the brick and prayer was the mortar that put them together.

What do you want? Do you want to win a few? You’ll have to start with the few, and you’ll have to be successful with the few. You can be because Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” No man ever followed Jesus who didn’t become a fisher of men. He never fails to do what He promised. If you’re not fishing, you’re not following. You have to win one before you can win five, and five before you can win five hundred. The world is before you. How big is your faith?

The need of the hour is men who want what Jesus Christ wants and believe He wants to give them the power to do what He has asked. Nothing in the world can stop those men. Do you believe that? Do you want to be one of them? You may, but you will have to ask, “Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Years ago when I prayed for Formosa I couldn’t have comprehended what I’m seeing now. But that’s the way He has promised it will be, so when you call, ask big!

After forty-two days we discontinued our prayer meeting. Three or four years later I was rummaging around in a drawer of the living room table when I found a little purple card “Washington, Oregon.” In another drawer was a list of names, Les Spencer from Illinois, John Ledrick of Texas, Gumey Harris from Arkansas, Ed Goodrick of Wisconsin. I discovered that men from every one of the forty-eight states had come to the Savior during those three or four years. God had answered, and these men were being trained as disciples. Then I thought of the world. “Why, Lord, am I permitted to have a part in this?.” For the same reason you are.

“All power in heaven and earth is Mine. It’s Mine for you to appropriate.” This is not only a privilege; it’s an order. He wants nothing less. God doesn’t want you to take an island. He wants you to take the world. For what are you asking God?
Answering Basic Questions about Christ
Supplemental Resources

The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?
F.F. Bruce
Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the New Testament
F.F. Bruce
Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions
by Peter Kreeft, Ronald K. Tacelli
True for You, but Not for Me: Deflating the Slogans That Leave Christians Speechless
by Paul Copan
First the Gospel, Then Politics Vol 1: Only Genesis (Vol 1: Only Genesis)
by John C. Rankin
Smart Faith: Loving Your God With All Your Mind by J.P. Moreland, et al

This is a short list of helpful books and internet resources.

If you have a significant resource, please e-mail jack.hall@campusventures.org
Life Objective Bible Study

A life objective is the purpose for which one is living, what one wants to accomplish in his/her lifetime. It has been said that he who aims at nothing usually hits it. This is why it is important for a Christian to have a life goal or objective. At the end of your life, what will you have had to accomplish in order to consider your life a success? Until this question is answered, you are not ready to live the next 50-60 years. Having the right purpose in life is essential because we all give ourselves to some purpose. A life based on truth results in fulfillment, meaning, and impact.

There are four possible types of goals one can have in his/her life:

1. No goal
2. Conflicting goals
3. Wrong goals
4. Right goals

Christ is an example of one with a set life objective. What would you say Christ’s life objective was based on Mark 2:17 and John 14:31? Did He accomplish it? See John 17:4.

What was evident in the lives of these Godly men who made a difference

- Moses: Exodus 14:13-16
- Jehoshaphat: 2 Chronicles 17:1-6
- Paul: Philippians 1:20-21; 3:7-10

In Ecclesiastes 12:13 what 2 things are considered the “whole duty of man”?

1. 
2. 

Your life objective should be in line with scripture. Following are some verses to consider before you determine your life objective:

- Matthew 22:36-40
- Matthew 28:18-20
• Ephesians 5:15-16 (Phillips translation) - “Live life with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not understand the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best possible use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days. And don’t be vague, but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of God.”

• 2 Peter 3:10

If you can think of any other verses that would help you determine your life objective, write them here along with any thoughts you have on them:

Application:

1. Explain the relationship between a life objective and everything you do in life.

2. Write out your own biblical life objective that you will live by. Consider the following as you develop it:

   a. When you finalize it, write it out on a verse card, show it to your leader and group members and keep it in your verse pack so you will frequently review it.

   b. Your personal, biblical life objective should be developed through prayer, principles learned through the word & wise Christian friends or mentors who know you well.

   c. While developing it, consider the implications it will have on your life: How will it affect your schedule and time use? How will it impact who you marry? How will it influence your finances? What will you do with your summers? What are you doing in your life that does not fit with your objective? How much time/money are you spending on video games? Movies? Outdoor gear? Your hobbies?

   d. Consider the life of an olympic athlete. They structure their life around training to compete and win. How much more important is this - to know the real purpose of your life so that when it is over you haven’t wasted it! Only when you know what you should do TODAY in the small things can you live a life that will accomplish the bigger things and will ultimately fulfill the purpose for which you were created.
Holiness and Purity Bible Study

1. Holiness has been defined as “becoming decreasingly like the world and increasingly like my Heavenly Father.” In order to truly understand holiness, we must look at one or more models of holiness. Is there a better model than God? What do the following verses teach about God’s holiness?
   ○ Genesis 17:1 -
   ○ Exodus 15:11; I Samuel 2:2 -
   ○ Leviticus 20:26; 1 Peter 1:15-16 -

2. The words for holiness in the Bible (“Kadesh” in Hebrew and “Hagios” in Greek) both mean “something that is cut off, separate or set apart.” What significance does this have in regard to your own personal holiness?

3. What is God’s desire for you, as seen in these verses?
   ○ I Samuel 16:7 -
   ○ 1 Corinthians 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:3-5 -
   ○ 2 Corinthians 7:1 -
   ○ Ephesians 4:25-26, 29, 31 -

4. Why is it important to lead a holy life?
   ○ Psalm 66:18 -
   ○ Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14 -
   ○ 2 Peter 3:8-13 -

5. According to these verses, how is holiness important in evangelism?
   ○ Ezekiel 36:23 -
   ○ Romans 16:19 -
6. Everyone makes daily decisions to be either a showpiece or a garbage can. We have a definite responsibility to be holy. What does that responsibility look like, according to these verses?
   - Daniel 1:8 -
   - 1 Peter 1:13-14 -
   - 1 Peter 4:1-5 -

7. In order to maintain holiness and purity in our lives, there are some things that we should do. What are they?
   - Proverbs 4:14-15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 -
   - Proverbs 27:17 -
   - ... Do you have a “sharpener” in your life?
   - Matthew 26:41 -
   - Romans 13:14 -
   - Philippians 3:4-8 -
   - 1 Peter 5:8 -

8. Often we aren’t sure about what we should do. Although morality is NEVER a gray area in Scripture, there are issues we face where we aren’t sure what the right action is. It is wise to base your life on the 6-8-10 rule. What questions can you ask yourself and others based on these verses?
   - 1 Corinthians 6:12 -
   - 1 Corinthians 8:10-13 -
   - 1 Corinthians 10:31 -
9. The world does not view things as God does (1 John 2:15-16). Below is a list of wrong thinking by the world. Look up the verses. Add to this list any additional wrong thinking you have seen regarding holiness and purity.

- Since everyone does it, it must be all right. Proverbs 14:12
- I only need to find out if this is right for me. Ecclesiastes 11:9
- As long as I don't hurt anyone else, it's okay. Leviticus 5:17; Proverbs 6:27
- Nobody will ever find out that I did it. Hebrews 4:13; Luke 12:3
- I'll stop after this one time. Galatians 6:7-8
- I didn't really do anything; all I did was think it. Matthew 5:27-28
- I can do whatever I want to. 1 Corinthians 10:31

10. What in your life should be changed, in order to offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1)? List one area you need growth in. What steps will you take to become holy in this area?

PURITY (in the midst of passion): The Greek term for purity means singularity of heart and mind. How does Psalm 86:11 define singularity?

PURITY OF HEART: According to 1 Timothy 1:5, true love can only come from a _______________ heart.

PURITY OF MIND: Purity results when we take thoughts _______________ to make them obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

How can you maintain purity of heart and mind?

Psalm 119:9-11 -

Philippians 4:8 -

James 4:7 -

James 3:13-17 -

God will provide strength for you to turn back the battle w/your thought life at the gate (Isaiah 28:6) The phrase "at the gate" refers to the first moment you sense a thought creeping in, this is when the thought is weakest!

PHYSICAL PURITY: How can you maintain physical purity?

Romans 6:13-14 -

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Ephesians 5:3 -

1 Timothy 2:22 -

1 Corinthians 7:1 “It is best not to touch a woman,” is the Greek translation of this verse. Why do you think Paul was so strong in his choice of words?
***Purity Test: Before you do or say anything, add the words “In the name of the Lord” to it. If the action and the Lord don’t go together, it is not in line with His best for you and you should stop right now!

There is restoration for those of us who have messed up already. It is necessary to know and believe what Christ has done for you on the cross!

Colossians 2:13-15 -

1 Corinthians 5:17,20,21 -

Philippians 3:12-14 -

*By God’s grace, we can do His will. Forget the past. Press toward the goal.*

**Questions for Reflection:**
1. Elisabeth Elliot has said, “Until Jesus Christ is Lord of the love life, He is not Lord of one’s life.” Do you agree with this statement? Is your love life under God’s control? If not, what steps can you take to change this?

2. Who do you have to keep you accountable in your relationships?

3. What are some specific standards, boundaries and guidelines you have made for yourself in order to stay out of compromising situations?

4. What are the benefits of total purity?

5. Is there anything that this study has brought up in your mind that you would like to study further? If so, write it down below and commit to studying it for yourself. Be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11.
The Ladder of Leadership at CV

1. Participant
2. Servant
3. Disciple
4. Pacesetter
5. Disciple-maker
6. Maker of Disciple-makers

1. Participant - *Hebrews 10:24-25*
   a. Committed to participation at large group or small group Bible studies or ministry teams
   b. Attends weekly meeting and/or a small group or team
   c. Desires and works toward knowing and loving God
   d. Becomes aware of Heart Attitudes and attempts to follow them

2. Servant - *Matthew 20:26-28*
   a. Intentionally chooses the Heart Attitudes
   b. Servant by choice: chooses to help in the ministry
   c. Serves in small group Bible study or ministry team by:
      i. Doing things when needed
      ii. Giving direction to others who are serving
   d. Knows the meaning of and actually employs the skills of a servant
   e. Desires and works toward knowing and loving God

3. Disciple: Developing the Intentionality of a Leader - *1 Corinthians 11:1; Luke 6:40*
   a. Practices the Heart Attitudes by preference
   b. Servant by preference (prefers to serve)
   c. Follows CV profile of a disciple (see appendix)
   d. Desires and works toward knowing and loving God
   e. Employs skills of: a learner and a follower

4. Pacesetter: Earning the Authority of a Leader - *1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 5:3*
   a. Practices the Heart Attitudes out of conviction
   b. Servant by conviction—serves joyfully even when inconvenient; can be called on at last minute if needed
   c. Follows profile of a CV Disciple (see appendix)
   d. Intentional, Motivated Pacesetter By Choice:
      i. Sets the example in: (1 Corinthians 10:31-33, 11:1)
         1. Heart Attitudes
         2. Speech, Conduct, Love, Faith, Purity (1 Timothy 4:12)
         3. Courageous, Joyful, Sacrifice (for the Gospel's sake)
            a. Philippians 2:29-30 (not reluctantly or under compulsion)
            b. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Philippians 2:14-15, also
Peter 5:2

e. Serves under CV Leader
f. Rounds up and rallies (internally motivates) others to serve and to follow Christ in the CV Ministry

   a. Pattern of life in (it is the path of his life, character)
      i. Heart Attitude
      ii. Servant (Philippians 2:20-21)
      iii. Follows profile of a CV Disciple (see appendix)
   b. Pacesetter By Preference Titus 2:7-8; 1 Timothy 3:8-13
   c. Leads a segment of the ministry faithfully by:
      i. Fulfilling his assigned duties and other duties as requested
      ii. Having a love for Christ and for one another
      iii. Showing loyalty among his followers to the overall organization and to the leaders over him
      iv. Having a vision and zeal for the ministry of Christ through CV in his ministry building

6. **Maker of Disciple-Makers: Leading Leaders - 2 Timothy 2:2**
   a. Pattern of life
      i. Heart Attitude
      ii. Servant (Philippians 2:20-21)
      iii. Follows profile of a CV Disciple (see appendix)
      iv. Pacesetter (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
      v. Faithful Stewardship
   b. Effective in teaching (1 Timothy 3:2)
      i. Has a heart to preserve Apostolic teaching intact but without being divisive (Titus 1:9)
      ii. Motivates others to action and application by teaching sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)
      iii. Effectively refutes those who contradict sound teaching (Titus 1:9)
   c. Effective in raising up other Overseers (2 Tim 2:2)