

Young Business Leaders
Concentrating on the Majors Bible Study

Leader's Guide

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Preface: *Questions* for Consideration and Discussion

Place yourself in the following situations and consider how you might respond (or would like to respond)

- A.** You have an attitude that you know is wrong (maybe prejudice or ill feelings toward a particularly annoying coworker). Reinforcing your feelings, many of your coworkers share the same attitude. How do you choose what is right?
- B.** Your new boss demands that you adhere to priorities, different from your own. You are required to work twelve hour days, including Saturdays, plus wrap things up for a few hours on Sunday. As a result, you are rarely able to spend time with your family. What could/should you do?
- C.** What is your idea of success? How would reaching that goal satisfy you?
- D.** Do consider your life as an investment? What is the one central value around which you structure your life?
- E.** You are on a business trip and have spent hours in meetings with clients and coworkers. The real challenge however comes after work. Many of your coworkers don't understand why you won't join them in the after-hours festivities and seem almost offended by your absence. How do you handle the situation?
- F.** How do you respond to the coworker who received "your" promotion by taking credit for your work or providing false reports to your supervisor?
- G.** Your boss has asked you to pad your division's annual results to impress the company president. What do you do or how do you respond? You have been asked to present your division's results in the most flattering way so that your boss might look good in the eyes of others. How do you respond?
- H.** As a Christian businessman, how are you helping to fulfill the Great Commission? Do you see your vocation as a means for ministry to others?
- I.** How does one learn to be a Christian businessman instead of a businessman who happens to be a Christian?

Introduction: The *Basics*

How can a loving God send anyone to hell? How can a holy and just God allow (send) anyone to heaven? Can't without great cost.

Answer the following questions in your own words. If you prefer, note any references (including Bible verses) on which you base your answer.

- I. Who is God? **Creator**-Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-5/ **Transcendent/ Immanent**—**Sovereign & Personal**—Acts 17:24 & 27 **The LORD**—Exodus 3:14; **Spirit**-John 4:24/ **Everlasting**-Isaiah 40:28/ **Omnipotent, Omniscience**-Psalm 139/ **Alpha and Omega**-Revelation 1:8, 2:8, 3:7/ **The Holy One**-Isaiah 6:1-5; I Peter 1:16/ **Righteous**-Psalm 145:17/ **God is Love**-1 John 4:8/ **He loves, has compassion**-John 3:16; Jonah 4:2; Psalm 145:8/ **God is great**-Psalm 95:3/ **God is good**-Psalm 145:9/ **God is judge**-John 5:27,30; Psalm 7:11
- II. Who is man? **Created in God's image** (Genesis 1:26-27). **Designed to know God and to reflect and represent His Glory. Given responsibility to fill the earth, subdue it and steward it. Created in God's image, we are profoundly good—but because we have fallen in sin (Romans 3:23), we are also broken in our purpose and practices.**
- III. What is sin? **Falling short, missing the mark**-Romans 3:10-12,23, Romans 14:23; Psalm 53:1-3; Psalm 14/ **Lawlessness**-1 John 3:4/ **All wrong doing**-1 John 5:17/ **Know the right thing to do**-James 4:17/ **Rebellion**-Isaiah 1:2
- IV. Who is Jesus Christ? **God's Son**-Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:17; John 10:30; Matthew 14:33/ **The Messiah**-John 8:58, 59; John 4:29,42/**The way, truth, life**-John 14:6/ **God in the flesh (incarnate)** John 1:14, 18/ **Deity**-Colossians 2:9-10; John 10:30/ **Lamb of God**-John 1:29; Hebrews 1:3/ **Our Savior**-1 John 4:14/ **Savior**-Isaiah 19:20/ **Mediator**-1 Timothy 2:5/ **Prophet**-Acts 3:22/ **High Priest**

Why did He come? **To pay for our sins, to lead us to Christ**-Matthew 1:21; Psalm 130:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17/ **to give eternal life**-John 3:36; 1 John 5:11-13/ **to give abundant life**-John 10:10/ **to forgive sin**-Hebrew 10:10, 12, 14; Colossians 2:11-14; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 1:7/ **to show us how to live**-Luke 6:27-36/ **to fulfill the law**-Matthew 5:17-21
- V. How should a person respond in order to become a Christian?
 1. Repentance – Confess that what was done was wrong, change direction (Acts 2:36-38)
 2. Faith (Hebrews 11:1,6)
- IV. What are some differences between Christianity and other religions?
 - A. Christ claimed to be God-John 8:58-59/Liar, Lunatic, Lord-John 14:6 (Mere Christianity-56)
 - B. Someone said with Christianity you have to answer the question how God allows pain and suffering. Any other religion has to answer everything else.
 - C. The resurrection-1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 12-19, 27
 - D. Free gift vs earned-Romans 6:23, [judge illustration], Colossians 1:15-20
 - E. God came down to us, not us to God-John 3:16-18; John 10:17-18
 - F. A relationship vs rules, ethics-John 15:13-15, Mere Christianity pp.182, 183
 - G. (Dependent) Based on historical fact-prophecies fulfilled, Jesus-Ninevah
 - H. What do you do with sin?
Trinity-Mere Christianity pp.142

Lesson I: Knowing You Are A Christian

I. There are three main indications (or evidences) of Christ's presence in your life.

A. Believing the Message of Bible

Assurance is based on the Authority of God's Word. 2 Peter 1:16-21

1. What is eternal life? John 17:3—connect with Acts 3:15

Knowing Jesus Christ (J.I. Packer-Knowing God)

Know Him and make Him known

2. In John 5:24, what conditions are necessary for a person to have eternal life?

a. Hears the Word

b. Believes-Colossians 2:1-3 ; John 3:16 –belief is not a complicated concept, but we confuse it with mere assent.

B. The Witness of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is the internal witness of our assurance. Romans 8:16.

Note: Subjective (personal) confidence in our salvation is a legitimate evidence. Feelings are not irrelevant—important, but not sufficient.

2. Who are the children of God? Romans 8:14.

Those led by the Spirit of God-Phil 2:13

3. What is one reason the Holy Spirit was given? Ephesians 1:13-14.

**Seal us by His Holy Spirit Like wheel bearings locked in
1 Corinthians 2:14**

C. A Changed Life

The proof that we have experienced a new birth and have become children of God will be demonstrated by our changed lives. (James 1:22-27, James 2:19)

If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict?

1. Refer to II Corinthians 5:14-17

a. What does it mean to be a “new creature”? (v. 17)

Brand new person--changes--old things passed away-Gal. 5:16

Change of command-new captain

b. What does it mean to be controlled by the love of Christ? (vs. 14-15)

Love for others--live for Him on His behalf-John 15:13

2. Compare John 14:15 with John 14:21. After considering these verses, briefly state the relationship between loving God and obeying God.

Love Him-obey Him/Colson-Loving God pp. 92,94-1Samuel 15

Go Free pp. 76-77

1) God's honor at stake

2) Christ's honor at stake

3. Look at 1 John 3:18-20. What is the value of obedience to our assurance of our relationship with Christ?
Obedience is a critical factor in our own assurance of our belonging to Christ when we do not feel saved. Salvation is not based on our works, but our assurance of salvation is.

One of the most striking characteristics of the Christians in the New Testament was the element of certainty in their relationship with Christ (see Acts 4:13). We need that same element of certainty in our lives today.

II. The Great Blessings of Christ's Presence

As a Christian, we have so many blessings and privileges. This is because Christ has satisfied **every** requirement on the cross for us to be perfect before the Father.

Understanding our position as a Christian is essential in experiencing to the fullest, all that is available to us through Christ.

- A. Read the following verses and discover just a few of the ways our lives are impacted the moment we receive Christ. List any others you might know.

1. Colossians 1:13-14

A new kingdom – a new loyalty and purpose

2. John 1:12

A new family and status as an heir—Revelation 5:10, 1:6

3. John 5:24

A new life – eternal life

4. Romans 6:17-18

A new record –freed from sin.

B. How to Deal With Inadequacy – Filling big shoes – we are all called to fill shoes too big for us.

You may feel inadequate in one or a number of areas in your life. You may feel inadequate in your job performance. You might feel inadequate to pray or to share your faith. You might be insecure as a father, husband or even as a supervisor on your job. How do you handle these feelings of inadequacy and insecurity?

1. Philippians 4:11-13
All things from Christ
2. II Corinthians 3:4-6
God confidence – not self confidence ; The danger of ‘believing in yourself’.
Read first page of Chesterton’s Orthodoxy, chapter 2 – ‘The Maniac’
3. Colossians 2:8-10
We are complete
Head over every power and authority
4. I Corinthians 2:14-16
Appraises all things
The mind of Christ

Do not neglect Christ’s presence in your life. Claim His presence and all the privileges and power that are yours in Christ. Out of a grateful heart for salvation He so freely gave to you, commit to live your life to do His will. (See Romans 12:1-2).

Lesson II: Knowing God's Forgiveness

What are some of the issues which are talked about as the biggest problems in our world?
What do you think is the biggest problem?

I. The Need for Forgiveness

- A. Why must we ask for forgiveness? I John 1:6-10
Because we all sin. Mickey Cohen Loving God-to experience His fellowship
- B. Write a definition of sin, based on the following verses: Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:23 and Romans 14:23.
**Turning our own way, whatever is not of faith, falling short of God's glory.
Sin is both an attitude of the heart and the actions that come from it.**
- C. Based on Galatians 5:19-21, list some acts of sin:
Adultery, drunkenness, immorality
- D. These actions are the result of an attitude of sin. List some attitudes of sin:
Jealousy, bitterness, anger, resentment, revenge, pride, greed, lust
- E. One definition of sin is: Doing what we should not, or not doing what we should, according to God's law. (Paraphrase of Westminster Shorter Catechism #14)

II. The Basis for Forgiveness

- A. Who was delivered up for our sins? 1 John 2:1-2, Hebrews 9:28; 10:10
Christ--My Utmost-October 29th
- B. How many sins did He forgive? Hebrews 10:12; Colossians 2:13-14
All of them
- C. Was the sacrifice sufficient? Hebrews 10:10-12,14 & 18
Yes
- D. What does He do with our sins? Psalm 103:12
**Separate as far as the east from the west
Puts our sins behind his back—Isaiah 38:17
Remembers them no more—Isaiah 43:25
They are really gone—not like the unforgiving forgiveness of the world that keeps a record of wrongs.**
- E. What must we do? I John 1:9
Confess our sins

Business Block: How do we need to set up our organizational structures if it is true that all people are sinners?

We need accountability. All of us are sinners and therefore our organizations are wise to incorporate checks and balances. Wisdom in tripartite government structure.

III. The Need for Confession

- A. Why do we need to confess our sins? I John 1:9-10
Makes God's forgiveness a reality in our experience, 2-Expression of faith,3-Restores fellowship,4-Obedience to claim God's promise
- B. What do you think it means to confess your sins?
1-Agree with God have sinned, 2-Call it forgiven, 3-Repent-(180°) Change of mind
- C. Can we be sure of God's forgiveness? **He said, spiritual shower [relationship with roommate whoever take a dollar]**

RELATIONSHIP... Controlled by God FELLOWSHIP/ASSURANCE...Affected by us

| | |
|---|---|
| ... begins when we receive Christ. | ... begins when we receive Christ. |
| ... is eternal. | ... is moment by moment. |
| ... is constant. | ... changes with sin. |
| ... is maintained by God. | ... is maintained by turning from sin. |

IV. An Illustration of Sin and the Blessedness of Forgiveness

- A. Read II Samuel 11:1-27.
 - 1. What was David's sin(s)?
Adultery, murder, cover up, covetousness, rationalization, false testimony, lust
 - 2. What caused him to commit this sin?
Lazy, idleness, not doing what he should be doing
 - 3. Did David admit (confess) his sin?
No 2 Samuel 23--Mighty Men
- B. Answer the following questions using the verses provided:
 - 1. When did David acknowledge his sin? II Samuel 12:1-13
When confronted
 - 2. What did he do about it? II Samuel 12:13
Confess, repent
 - 3. What was his attitude? Psalm 32:1-7; Psalm 51:1-5, 17
Thankful, grateful
 - 4. What was God's attitude toward David? Psalm 32:5
Forgiveness, love

V. Practical Aspects

- A. What about the “little” sins? Romans 14:23b
Any sin short circuits God's power (toy train)
- B. What about guilt after true confession? Psalm 103:12; Hebrews 10:17
Satan's lies
Illus: Give burdens to Lord--take them back
- C. What causes recurring sin? Romans 7:14-24
Lack of true repentance, don't appropriate God's power, wrong view of goals and perceived needs
- D. Can I forgive others? Ephesians 4:31-32
Yes, God does
- E. How often shall I forgive others? Matthew 18:21-22
70 x 7
- F. How important is my forgiveness of others? Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:23-35
Forgiveness is essential. We cannot truly experience forgiveness and not forgive others. This is not work—this is evidence that we have truly been changed by grace.
- G. Can I forgive myself?
Yes

VI. Application

- A. Pray
- B. Make a list of all the sins God brings to mind that you have not confessed.
- C. Write out I John 1:9 over the list.
- D. Thank God for His forgiveness and tear up the list.

Business Block: How do you bring together forgiveness with wise business practices that keep people from taking advantage of you?

Being a believer does not mean we stop doing credit checks or due diligence. It means that, when wronged, we forgive. We may not opt to do business with them again, but we will not pursue vendettas against those who do not keep their word.

Lesson III: Our Power Source

Yates--West Texas--Oil Well

I. Describe the lifestyle that God desires for us according to the following verses:

A. John 10:10

Life and life abundantly

B. John 15:5

Without Christ-do nothing, With Christ-do all things [Do I believe this?]

C. Galatians 5:22-23

Love, joy, peace, patience

II. Why can the Christian not live the abundant life in his own effort?

A. Galatians 5:16-21

Our fleshly deeds are evident

B. Romans 7:18-20

Do what I don't want, nothing good dwells in me (Do I believe this? 1 Cor. 3)--

Car permanently out of line

C. Romans 8:6-8

Death, hostile toward God, cannot please Him

D. Mark 7:21-22

Within the heart, evil thoughts, wickedness, pride, deceit, sensuality

III. Who is the Holy Spirit according to these verses?

A. Acts 5:3-4

God

B. Read John 16:7-15.

In the passage just read, what pronoun is used to describe the Holy Spirit? What does that mean about Him?

He – The Holy Spirit is a Person ; He is not a force like in Star Wars.

IV. What are the works of the Holy Spirit according to the following verses?

A. John 16:13

Guide us into all truth – to see the truth, and to walk in it

B. John 16:8

Convicts of Sin

Business Block:

What about things the Bible does not name specifically? What if I do not steal, but I sell securities or services beyond what someone needs? **The Spirit convicts us of sin—by applying biblical principles to our specific situations. As we come to see that embezzling is stealing, we truly grasp the depth of God’s commands.. Compare Jesus’ treatment of the law in Matthew 5:17-48 as he unpacks God’s law concerning murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, revenge and love.**

C. 2 Peter 1:21

Inspires Scripture

D. 1 Corinthians 6:19

Continually Indwells Believers

E. Romans 8:26

Helps us to Pray

F. Acts 1:8

Empowers our Witness

G. Galatians 5:22-23

Causes us to bear fruit – Produces good works and attitudes

H. Romans 8:16, 2 Cor 1:22, 2 Cor 5:5

Gives us assurance as a down payment – promise we will one day receive all God’s presence.

I. Mark 13:11, Luke 21:15

Gives us wisdom which those who oppose us cannot refute

J. Romans 8:13, 1 Corinthians 10:13

Enables to put sin to death, to stand up under temptation.

V. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

A. What analogy is used in Ephesians 5:18?

Drunkenness—When someone is arrested for drunk driving, they are said to be under the influence of alcohol. Here Paul is urging believers to live ‘under the influence’ of the Holy Spirit.

B. Does the term “filling of the Spirit” refer to the quantity of the Holy Spirit or the control and power of the Holy Spirit? Why?

Control and power; Illus: Sailboat--the wind

VII. Why are people not filled with the Holy Spirit?

Lack of knowledge, fear, sin, too busy ; Note 1 John 4:20 – All the things that hinder our relationships with others hinder our relationship with God. If we cannot love our seen brothers, how will we love the unseen God?

VIII. How can you be filled with the Holy Spirit? Consider the following points and verses of Scripture.

There must be a **desire** on your part to seek His fullness and to desire that Christ have control of your life. Desire leads to searching: “**Seek the things that are above, where Christ is**” Colossians 3:1, RSV.

After a desire is cultivated to seek His fullness, you may recognize obstacles to being filled with God’s Spirit. These impediments may include an unforgiving spirit or an absence of love. Sin also prevents us from being filled with His Spirit. Determine what is preventing the Spirit from working unhindered in your life.

Confession is next. Ask God to forgive you of sin you have recognized in your life. God will honor your confession with forgiveness and cleansing (I John 1:9). Accept God’s forgiveness (Psalm 32:1-2).

Surrender your life to Him. Offer everything you have without reservation for His use (Romans 12:1-2).

By **faith**, ask God to fill you with His Spirit, to take over every area of your life. God’s Spirit is already present in your life, so you need not ask God to send the Spirit. When sin is confessed and your life is made available to Him, He will fill you according to His command (Ephesians 5:18) and His promise (I John 5:14-15).

By faith, thank God that He has filled your life. Believe His word as promised in I John 5:14-15.

Being filled with the Spirit does not necessarily mean you will have a great emotional experience, as some people have. You will, however, begin to realize many things as God’s Spirit begins to work in your life. For example:

- A. You will have a continuing awareness of God’s presence (John 15:4; Galatians 2:20). You will also sense His involvement in the smallest detail of your daily life.
- B. You will have victory over sin and temptation (I Corinthians 10:13). You may face the same kinds of problems, but God’s Spirit enables you to realize the power God has provided in overcoming them.
- C. You will exhibit the fruit of the Spirit... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control (Galatians 5:16, 22-25).
- D. You will have boldness and power to witness for Christ (Acts 1:8; 4:31). You will not be afraid to speak up for Him.

- E. You will develop a desire to continue to live a Spirit-filled life daily. Having experienced being filled with the Spirit, you can never be satisfied with anything less. Begin each day with prayer: Lord, this is a new day and I belong to You. Fill me with Your Spirit and work through my life today to glorify Christ and to bring others to Him.

IX. Will I continue to sin, even though I now have God's Spirit? If so, how should I deal with it?

If an area of a Christian's life is revealed as displeasing to God, or if a definite act of disobedience is committed, what action(s) should be taken?

(Note—This is the same process by which we seek the filling of the Spirit)

- A. **Confess** your sin (I John 1:9).
- B. **Surrender** control of your life (Romans 12:1).
- C. **Claim** the filling of the Holy Spirit again by faith (Ephesians 5:18; I John 5:14-15).

Lesson IV: Knowing God

I. If we want to know God better, we should seek to know more about Him.

A. Read John 17:3.

1. How did Jesus describe eternal (or spiritual) life?

Knowing God

2. Spiritual growth is directly proportional to how well we are getting to know **God the Father, and Jesus Christ, His Son.**

B. How do we get to know God?

1. John 1:18, 14:8-9

Through Christ

II. Five Principles and/or Resources (Prayer, the Bible, Fellowship, Witnessing and Obedience) for Spiritual growth:

A. Prayer (speaking with God).

1. Pray about **everything** (Philippians 4:6-7). Dolls, etc.

2. Pray **specifically** (to gain specific answers). How can we not be anxious?

3. Pray **continually** (I Thessalonians 5:17; Mark 1:35).

4. Pray **according to His will** (I John 5:14-15).

5. Pray **honestly** (Luke 22:39-42, 18:1).

6. The Importance of **Private Prayer** (Matthew 6:5-6)

B. The Bible (God speaking to us).

1. What do these verses reveal about the Bible?

a. Colossians 3:16

The scripture should dwell in us richly

b. II Timothy 3:16-17

God's Word is adequate, equip us, teach, exhort

c. I Peter 2:2

We should long for the Word

d. Hebrews 4:12

It is powerful like a sword—can discern complex reality

These resources (prayer and the Bible) are very important to our daily walk with God. In the same way, our relationship with God should impact our relationships with people. Because men and women are made in the image of God, we learn about God from each other. The Bible distinguishes people into two distinct groups (Christians and non-Christians; note I John 5:12-13). We communicate daily with both groups.

C. Fellowship (our relationship with Christians)

1. Hebrews 10:23-25

a. What should we not fail to do?

Be together

b. What should we continue to do?

Fellowship

2. Proverbs 11:14, 27:17; Acts 2:42-47; Proverbs 13:20

Wisdom in a multitude of counselors; Iron sharpens iron ; He who walks with the wise grows wise

D. Witnessing (our relationship with non-Christians) Witnessing is communicating the Gospel to those who do not know Christ. What can we learn from the following verses about witnessing?

1. Romans 1:16, Luke 9:26

Not ashamed of the gospel

2. Romans 10:13-14

People must hear to believe—someone must speak for them to hear!

3. I Peter 3:15-16

Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that lies within you, and do so with gentleness and respect.

Witnessing is a natural result of growth from our time in prayer, Bible study and fellowship. Witnessing allows the opportunity to serve God, and helps keep our walk with God from becoming stagnant. The *Dead Sea* provides a relevant illustration: It has no outflow and therefore is stagnant, incapable of sustaining life.

E. Obedience: God gives us more light in which to walk only when we walk in the light we've already been given (Psalm 119:100).

1. John 14:21

Key to knowing God's will

2. We follow Christ out of love and appreciation. We see what He is like and desire to be like Him (II Corinthians 5:14-15).

III. Putting it into practice- A Quiet Time With the Lord. (For group discussion)

A lot like eating – some use a fork, others chopsticks, some their hand—some might even need an I.V.—whatever it takes, get that nourishment into you!

- A. What is a “quiet time”?
- B. When should we schedule our quiet time? (Morning hours are usually best, but you should choose a time when you are most able to concentrate on Him).
- C. What is the best location? (Where you can be alone and quiet).
- D. How should my time be structured? (To begin, choose an easily understood book of the Bible such John, Psalms or Proverbs. You might also consider a devotional or practical book like New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp or A Year With C.S. Lewis or A Godward Life by John Piper.

**See Appendix 1, (page 22) regarding *Quiet Times*
Appendix 2, (page 23) regarding *Witnessing***

Giving up something of value today for something of greater value later on

Option: Discuss the virtues of different bible translations for personal study.

KJV – Old English, beautiful style, challenging read

NKJV—Like the KJV, just removes the ‘archaisms’ –‘thees and thous’

NAS – highly literal, good for precise study—words always consistently translated the same way, even if it damages the flow of things like poetry.

ESV – Very solid, balanced translation

NIV – Readable, Dynamic Equivalent—thought for thought, not always word for word.

NLT—Even more readable than the NIV, sacrifices more on literality.

Paraphrase – Most readable, put in everyday terms. Not a true translation, and so not for primary study, can be good for assisting in understanding more difficult versions.

Lesson V: Christ as King – Our Worldview

I. Acknowledging His Lordship- Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords, has always existed and always will. That not all people acknowledge Him as Lord does not alter the fact of His Lordship.

A. What do the following verses tell us about Jesus Christ?

1. John 13:13

Teacher & Lord

2. Revelation 19:16

King of kings, Lord of lords

3. Colossians 1:16-18

Creator, Head of Body

4. Romans 14:9-11

Lord of living and dead

B. ‘Lord’ is not a commonly used term today. Why do you think this word seems foreign to us? How many times do you suppose this word occurs in some form in the Bible?

We live in a democratic republic – kings not so popular! We are also in an anti authority age, and the term communicates absolute authority.

The term ‘Lord’ appears over 9,000 times!

C. Write your own definition of the word, “Lord” as you feel it applies to Christ.

CEO, Boss, Lord over everything

D. Examine Philippians 2:9-11.

1. How has God exalted Christ?

Given Him a name above every name

2. How will every person exalt Him?

Bow before Him, confess Him

II. The Practice of Lordship- We prove that Jesus is Lord of our lives by submitting to Him hour by hour, moment by moment and by obeying Him in the daily affairs of our lives.

A. Since it is so clear in scripture that God is the Lord, what reasons might someone have for not submitting to His authority?

a) **Don’t believe – diversification good in investment, but not faith—got to be all in**

b) **Not fully aware –Matthew 15:1-6 – Did you realize intentionally draining your resources could lead you to break the command to honor your father and mother?**

1 Cor 10:31 – We will always be learning more fully how to do all to God’s Glory

1. Are there areas of your life for which you are not allowing Christ to control?
2. What can you do in these areas to acknowledge Christ's Lordship?
Gal. 2:20; Romans 12:2; 1 Pet. 1:14; Ephesians 4:22-24; Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 3:5-6, 16:9/QT

B. What does Romans 12:1-2 say you should do with your life as a Christian?
Present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice, holy acceptable, reasonable service, Gal. 2:20

C. What are some actions Christ calls us to take if we follow Him (Luke 9:23-26)?

| <u>ACTION TO TAKE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION OF ACTION IN YOUR OWN WORDS</u> |
|--|--|
| <u>Deny yourself</u> | <u>Serve Him when inconvenient, humble yourself before others.</u> |
| <u>Take up my cross daily</u> | <u>Identify w/Christ and His teachings</u> |
| <u>Follow Christ-Don't be ashamed</u> | <u>Spend time with Him-Stand up for Christ, look for opportunities to share</u> |

D. What happens when we fail?

1. John 13:37-38
Peter did--asked about forgiveness-Matthew 18:21-22
2. Psalm 37:23-24
Holds our hand-won't let us go-Philippians 1:6
3. I John 1:8-10
Confession, still sin

E. Is it worth it? **Yes**

1. Mark 10:28-30
100x along with persecution, present age and eternal life
2. Luke 18:29-30
Many times more
3. Mark 9:41
Reward for a cup of water, 2 Corinthians. 4:16-17, 2 Corinthians. 11:24-28, Matt. 6:14-16, Romans 8:18

III. Application

- A. Prayerfully mediate on the Lordship of Christ. Have you decided to acknowledge Jesus' Lordship in your life?

yes no

- B. What can you do to begin or facilitate the process?
Admit His lack of lordship, B/S, prayer, accountability, fellowship, 2 Timothy 3:16

- C. How can YBL help?

In all Christians, Christ is present.
In some Christians, Christ is prominent.
But in only a few Christians is Christ preeminent.

Lesson VI: Discipleship

God does not intend to reach the whole world through a single individual. His plan is to reach the world the same way by which it is populated... *multiplication*.

I. Discipleship- A way of life

A. Definition of a Disciple: *“One who follows closely the teaching of another.”*

1. What did Christ say characterizes a true disciple? (An action, an attitude)

a. John 8:31

Abide in my Word

b. John 13:34-35

Love for one another [how do we demonstrate love for one another?]

c. John 15:8

Bear fruit, by our character, conduct, converts

d. Matthew 10:24-25

It is enough for a disciple to be like his teacher.

e. Compare John 8:44 & Matthew 5:48

John—religious leaders like their father the devil

Matthew—We should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect

In both cases—there is a family resemblance!

B. The Cost of Discipleship: Not all who followed Christ were His disciples. When Christ explained the cost of following Him, many turned away. The same is true today.

1. Read Luke 14:25-33

a. What mistake was made by both the builder and the king?

Count the cost

b. What is the parallel to the Christian life?

Be strong at the finish

2. Read Luke 9:23-26. To follow Christ, you must deny **yourself**, follow Him and take up your **cross** daily. You give your **life** to Him.

3. In Philippians 3:8-10, what was Paul’s attitude toward the cost of salvation- to know God?

Willing to give it all up, 2 Corinthians 11:23-28, Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:16, 18, personal illustration of sacrifice

4. Jesus' teaching on discipleship: An extended look at John 6.

- a. Who did the people think Jesus was (6:14-15)?
A prophet, like Moses, or a King like David
- b. What did the people want from Jesus (6:26, 30-31)?
Bread like Moses gave them—signs and wonders
- c. What did Jesus urge them to want instead (6:27, 40, 47-50)?
Eternal Bread, Eternal Life—Himself, the Bread from Heaven
- d. 5000 people turn into 12 by the end of His sermon. (John 6:66) Why did they walk away? **They were unwilling to change their priorities to fit Jesus' call.**

5. Jesus' standards for His disciples are very high.

- a. What right does He have to demand these standards? **He is Lord**
- b. Why do you think it is important not to compromise these standards?
**You're only Bible that some people read,
No sin is done in isolation**
- c. Have you counted the cost to follow Christ? **Yes**
- d. What would it cost you to follow Christ daily?
Scorn, time, possessions, inconveniences
- e. Is it worth it to you? **Yes**

II. Process of Discipleship

A. What do the following verses tell us about our purpose in regard to the *Great Commission*? Authority-power to lead, right to lead

1. Matthew 28:18-20
Go and make disciples, baptize, teach, give us authority with us
2. Acts 1:8
Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost

Jesus saw the masses through the man. He loved the world, helped thousands, but trained twelve. The ministry of multiplying disciples is rooted in ministry through individuals. In Paul's letter to Timothy, Paul communicates the concept of *reaching the masses through the man* (II Timothy 3:10).

As you invest your life in one man and see him invest his life in another, you will become part of the spiritual multiplication process. God not only told us what to do, He has also provided a plan to accomplish that task.

1. Read Paul's instructions to Timothy (II Timothy 2:2).
 - a. What did Paul instruct Timothy to do?
Teach faithful men that will multiply

b. In what kind of man did Paul tell Timothy to invest?

One who will pass it on

c. Communication passes from one person to another. Fill in the blanks with people mentioned in II Timothy 2:2).

Paul to Timothy _____ to faithful men to others also.

2. The majority of Christ's time was spent training the disciples. Why was this so important?

Built His life into them, no plan B

It is a privilege and responsibility -John MacArthur

3. In John 21:15-17, Christ explained to Peter the natural response we will have if we love Christ. How does Christ's explanation affect your response to Christ?

Love others, feed the sheep

III. The Rewards of Discipleship

A. I Thessalonians 2:19-20

Thessalonians, his crown and glory

B. III John 4

See little children walking in the truth

C. Mark 9:41

Even a cup of water

D. The Discipleship Group: (a small group environment to help you become a multiplying disciple)

1. A Discipleship group will enable you to accomplish your ultimate goal as a Christian- that is, to glorify God. A Discipleship Group...

a. develops your **personal walk** through Bible study, prayer and interaction.

b. develops your **ministry** through sharing Christ with people, leading Bible studies and eventually, leading your own discipleship group.

c. builds **relationships** with people

d. facilitates our **reliance on the Holy Spirit** for our strength.

2. A Discipleship Group also enables you to participate in a worldwide ministry of evangelism and discipleship.

*Leave a legacy.

BENEFITS TO THE DISCIPLE

Personal

- Inner confidence (instead of peer pressure)
- Wisdom (as you study God's word)
- Positive attitude
- Leadership skills developed (as you influence others for Christ)

World

- Address and influence world's root problem (sinful man without Christ)
 - Take part in fulfilling the Great Commission
- Fulfill God's will/desire

See Appendix 3 (page 25)

Appendix 1 A 31-Day Experiment

“Taste and See that the Lord is good...” Psalm 34:8
“Be still and know that I am God...” Psalm 46:10
*“... Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things
will be given to you as well.”* Matthew 6:33

This “experiment” is designed to build a habit into your life that will greatly enhance and develop your walk with God. As Christians, we should seek God first each day of our lives. As a result of seeking God first daily, you will:

- develop a close personal relationship with God
- train your mind to daily consider God and His ways
- allow God to teach you about Himself and yourself
- allow God to lead you through each day of your life
- discipline yourself to grow consistently into the full maturity God has for you.

The **best investment** you could ever make **with the most profitable returns** will be the time you invest each day to be alone and communicate with your God. This time each day will not only give you a heavenly outlook on each day, but on you entire life and those people and circumstances around you.

Consistent, daily time alone with God requires effort and commitment. It does not happen automatically. You must set the priority to spend time alone with God. Everything else should revolve around that time. Satan can paralyze a Christian by providing “good” excuses for not communicating with your God. **Decide today and now to build and protect this habit in your life, for herein lies the secret to your own daily walk with God.**

GUIDE FOR EACH DAY

- 1) **Write in a notebook:** Day: _____ Date: _____ Scripture: _____
- 2) **Main thought:** Read the passage for the day. Pray for insight as you meditate on what the passage says. In one sentence, write out the main thought of the passage.
- 3) **Application:** Write out in less than 50 words how this Scripture applies to your life.
- 4) **Prayer:** Pray that during the day, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you will apply these principles from God’s Word to your life.

SCRIPTURE VERSES FOR EACH DAY OF THE MONTH

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Habakkuk 3:17-19 | 12) Psalm 37:3-5 | 22) Matthew 6:31-33 |
| 2) Isaiah 40:28-31 | 13) II Corinthians 5:15-17 | 23) Proverbs 3:5-7 |
| 3) Joshua 1:8-9 | 14) James 1:2-8 | 24) II Peter 1:4-8 |
| 4) Romans 12:12 | 15) Philippians 4:6-7 | 25) II Corinthians 12:8-10 |
| 5) Psalm 119:9-11 | 16) II Timothy 2:1-4 | 26) I Thessalonians 4:1-8 |
| 6) Matthew 7:27-27 | 17) Hebrews 12:1-3 | 27) Romans 12:9-14 |
| 7) Ephesians 5:3-5 | 18) John 14:12-15 | 28) Titus 2:11-14 |
| 8) Hebrews 11:24-26 | 19) Jeremiah 1:4-8 | 29) Ephesians 6:13-21 |
| 9) Psalm 63:6-9 | 20) Acts 4:24-31 | 30) I Samuel 15:22-23 |
| 10) Nehemiah 9:5-6 | 21) Philippians 3:7-11 | 31) I John 2:11-17 |
| 11) Colossians 1:9-13 | | |

Appendix 2 Illustrations of Multiplication

I. If you could choose between:

- A. an immediate one million dollars
- B. one hundred dollars for the rest of your life, or
- C. one penny the first day and double the amount each week for one year, which would you choose?

II. If you folded one page of most Bibles (.002 of an inch thick; approximately 500 pages equal one inch), 64 times (the number of squares on a checker board), and with each fold, the thickness doubles, how thick would the folded paper be when complete?

- A. 12 (folds) = 8,192 inches
- B. 24 = 33,554,432 inches
- C. 32 = 8, 589,933.6 inches (715,827.8 feet or 135.6 miles)
- D. 47 = 8,884,940.8 miles
- E. 50 = 71,079,524 miles
- F. 60 = 36,392,724,261.64 miles
- G. 64 = 291,141,794,092.64 miles !!!

After all the folding, there would be enough paper to stack from the earth to the sun and back, make another trip to the sun, and get a good start back home! The sun is 93,000,000 miles from the earth.

III. A while back, the Museum of Science and Industry displayed an interesting illustration for multiplication. It featured a checkerboard with 1 grain of wheat on the first square, 2 grains on the second, 4 on the third, 8 on the fourth, 16 on the fifth, 32, 64, 128, etc.

At some point down the board, there were so many grains of wheat on one square that some spilled onto neighboring squares, (at which point the demonstration stopped). Above the checkerboard was posted the question: *At this rate of doubling every square, how much grain would be on the board by the time the 64th square was reached?* The answer?

ENOUGH TO COVER THE ENTIRE SUBCONTINENT OF INDIA 50 FEET DEEP!

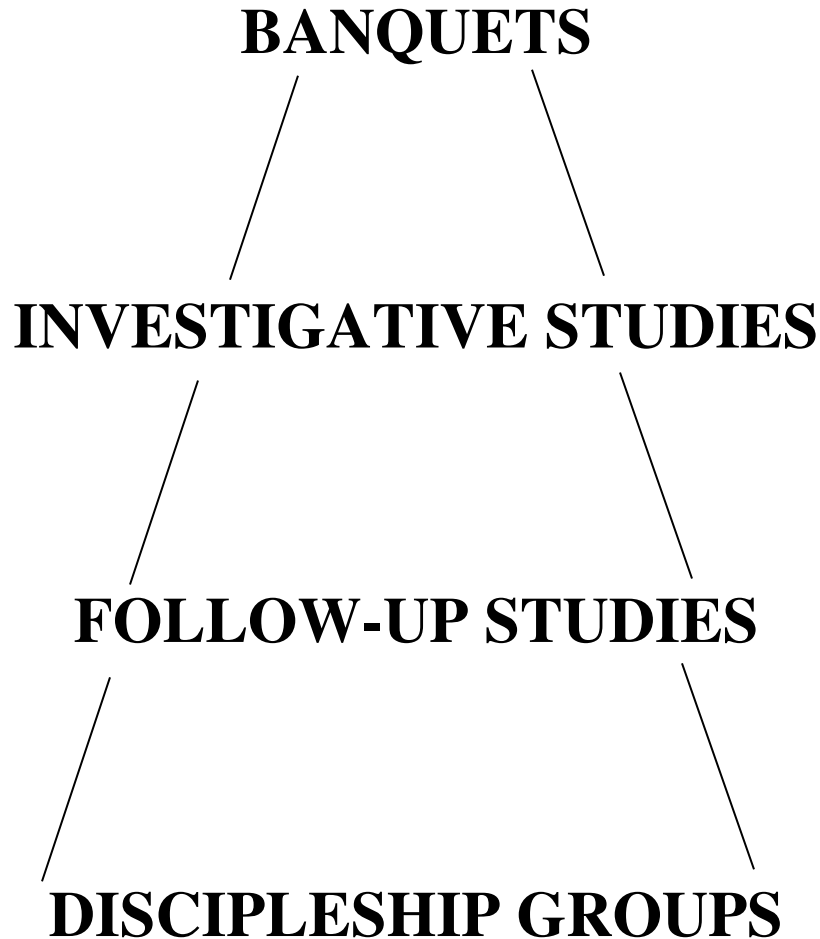
IV. An evangelist recorded 5,000 people won to Christ each year for his ministry. His ministry lasted about 25 years. His ministry won a total of 125,000 people to the Lord.

The second man's ministry involved discipling one person a year. Through the second man's ministry his one person was led to maturity in Christ to the point where he reproduced another disciple of equal maturity. By the end of the first year, this disciple is ready to disciple a person. In the second year, there are now two disciple makers. If each discipled one man a year, by the end of the second year, there will be four disciple makers. This process continues as each man multiplies himself by one each year.

In 25 years, the ministry of the second man (the disciple maker) would produce 33,554,432 disciple makers.

Appendix 3

**Young Business Leaders
Foundation of the Ministry**



LEADERS OF DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Discipleship Group Commitment

1. Commitment to come to the group prepared and ready to learn.
2. Commitment to a quiet time each day.
3. Commitment to accountability to each other in at least one personal goal.
4. Commitment to helping bring new people in the ministry (follow-up calls, evangelism, bringing people to banquets.)
5. Commitment to the leaders and the ministry.
6. Commitment to pray for the ministry.
7. Commitment to honesty and integrity in business dealings.
8. Commitment to stepping out in faith.
9. Commitment to memorize one verse each week.
10. Commitment to a local church.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

One-Verse Evangelism[®]

How to Share Christ's Love Conversationally & Visually

By Randy D. Raysbrook

Many people feel that to be effective in evangelism they must memorize a complex illustration and a multitude of verses. But the Gospel is most powerful when shared with love, clarity, and simplicity.

One-Verse Evangelism[®] is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. It is based on asking questions and sharing. It's easy to learn because it uses just one verse. One-Verse Evangelism[®] is also sensitive to peoples' busy schedules because it can be shared in just 10 or 15 minutes.

Here's a brief look at how it works. Let's say God's leading you to share the Gospel with your neighbor, Jeff.

Write out Romans 6:23 on a piece of paper or a napkin: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (NIV). Then put your Bible away. Ask Jeff if he would like to see a simple picture based on this verse that will explain God's relationship with people.

wages

Circle this word and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn wages from God for how we have lived our lives.

sin

Draw a circle around "sin," asking your friend what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or merely excluding Him from our lives. You can ask, "Has God ever seemed far away?" If he says "Yes," add that that's one of the things sin does—it makes God seem far away. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

death

Circle this word and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation.

but

While circling this word, mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in thought is coming. What we have just looked at is bad news; what follows is good news.

Resources

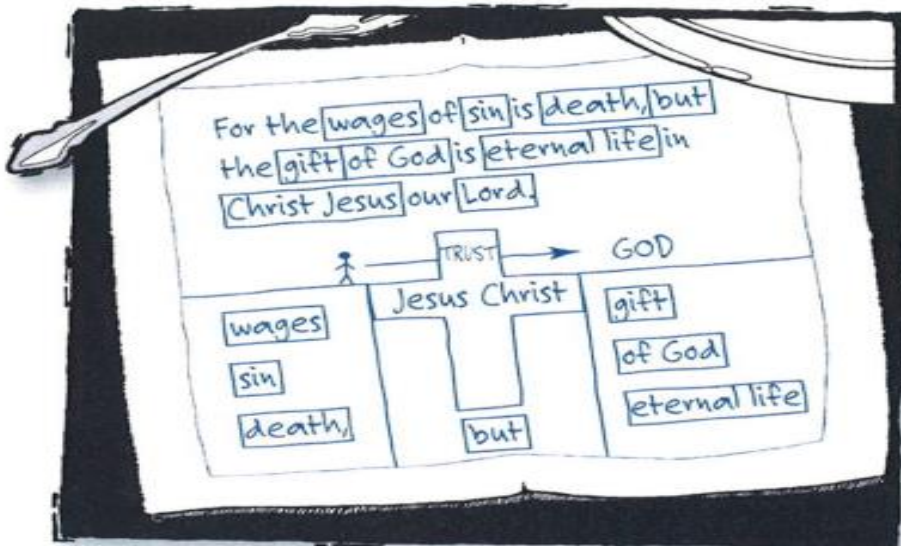


Illustration by Dale Johnson

gift

Draw a circle around this word. Ask, "If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?" Remind your friend that someone must purchase every gift.

of God

Circle this and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It's so special that no one else can give it. Ask, "How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?"

eternal life

Circle these two words next, and then ask, "How would you define these words?" Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, "What is the opposite of separation from God?"

Christ Jesus

Draw these words so they create a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that every gift has a giver, and only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

TRUST

Write this word over the bridge

you just drew. Explain that friends trust each other, and tell your friend that Jesus wants a trusting friendship with him. All he has to do is admit that he is responsible for the "sin" of either fighting or excluding God from his life. That is what trust means—trusting that Jesus wants to forgive us for rejecting Him from our lives. At this point, you can ask him if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says "Yes," invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him.

Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people, especially him. Invite him to read all about it in the Bible, perhaps beginning in the gospel of John.

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