

New Believer's Collegiate Bible Study

This study was compiled from resources created by Campus Crusade for Christ & Athletes in Action and is being used by athletes at the University of Georgia.

This study includes:

1. Using the Bible In Daily Life
2. Developing Confidence in Biblical Prayer
3. Understanding the Ministry of Reconciliation
4. Communicating the Ministry of Reconciliation
5. Putting Practical Faith into Action
6. Practicing Spiritual Multiplication
7. Living in Light of Eternity
8. Living Out Our Identity in Christ
9. Dealing with Life's Trials
10. Knowing God's Will
11. Understanding Initiative Evangelism
12. Selecting Disciples for Multiplication
13. Becoming a Servant Leader
14. Planning for Leadership Development
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Using the Bible in Daily Life

Imagine that you are reading your Bible in a coffee shop when a friend approaches you and says: “You don’t seriously believe that the Bible has any value to your life today, do you? It’s an inspiring religious book, but don’t take it too seriously. What does the Bible know about life in the 21st century? Raising a family? Staying financially solvent? Resolving emotional stress? It’s a nice museum piece, but it can’t help me today!”

The Bible is Unique

The Bible makes this claim for itself: “All Scripture is inspired by God...” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Greek word translated “inspired” means “God-breathed”. Because it has its source in God, the Bible is unique among all human writings. One of several areas in which this uniqueness can be seen concerns the Bible’s exceptional internal consistency and continuity. The Bible is an amazingly unified document, in spite of factors which lead to wide differentiation in merely human writings:

The Bible was:

1. Written over a 1600 year span.
2. Written over 60 generations.
3. Written by more than 40 writers from every walk of life: from king to peasant, philosopher to fisherman.
4. Written in different places: from the wilderness to a comfortable room to a dungeon.
5. Written at different times: from war to peace.
6. Written during the authors’ different moods: from the height of joy to the depth of despair.
7. Written on three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.
8. Written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
9. Written on hundreds of controversial issues.

Conclusion: The Bible’s uniqueness transcends mere human authorship.

Four Unique Purposes

According to 2 Timothy 3:16, for what four things is Scripture profitable?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Read the explanation of these four purposes (below), then talk about or write a personal statement of how your ongoing walk with Christ will be affected by each of these.

1. SCRIPTURE TEACHES ME GOD'S PRINCIPLES

Much Biblical teaching is truth which God has revealed about Himself. Scripture teaches me who God is— His character, nature, and attributes. His principles give me insight into His perspective on life. God's view is unlike my view. God sees all of life from an eternal perspective. I need to see as He sees. Right thinking about God leads to harmony with God's principles. **PERSONAL STATEMENT:** Because the Bible teaches me who God is, I...

2. SCRIPTURE REPROVES ME OF WRONG

Because all God's Word is truth, everything unaligned with it is false. Therefore, God's Word is the final authority for determining right and wrong. God's Word exposes wrong thinking and living. It contrasts God's way with humanity's way and rebukes anything inconsistent with God's standard of life. God's Word exposes any wrong-doing. It makes clear what is wrong and why. **PERSONAL STATEMENT:** Because the Bible exposes wrong thinking and living, I...

3. SCRIPTURE CORRECTS MY WAY

Not only are we convicted of our wrong way, but we also are corrected and restored to God's way. God's Word gives positive steps for restoring us into harmony with God's principles of life. True harmony results as I align my thinking with God's. **PERSONAL APPLICATION:** Because the Bible corrects my wrong thinking and living with positive alternatives, I...

4. SCRIPTURE TRAINS ME IN RIGHT LIVING

Having realigned my life into harmony with God, how do I continue to make that a part of my life? By learning the disciplines for godly living taught to me by Scripture. God's Word cultivates new patterns of behavior. **PERSONAL APPLICATION:** Because the Bible cultivates new patterns of behavior, I...

THE BIBLE'S PRIORITY IN OUR DAILY LIVES

GOD'S WORD IS NECESSARY TO GROW IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

I Peter 2: 1-3

Generally speaking, one would not think of going without physical food for a week or even a day. No matter what stage of life, infant or mature adult, physical food is necessary for physical growth.

Without food, one eventually becomes weak and may become ill. Lack of spiritual food produces the same results in our spiritual lives.

From Psalm 19: 7-14 list 5 characteristics or qualities of God's Word and what effect those qualities have on our lives:

Characteristic or Quality	Effect in my life
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____

GOD'S WORD IS NECESSARY TO INCREASE FAITH

Romans 10:17

“I prayed for faith, and thought that some day faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans. ‘Now faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. ‘I had closed by Bible and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study and faith has been growing ever since.’” – D. L. Moody

Why is God's Word vital to growing faith?

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

One of the most helpful and readily applicable procedures to use in Bible study is the three - step approach: observation, interpretation, and application.

1. **Observation:** What does the passage say?

Read it quickly for content.

Read it again carefully, underlining key words and phrases.

Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How?

2. **Interpretation:** What does the passage mean? What is the author saying to his audience?

Ask God to give you understanding of the passage.

Consult a dictionary or Bible dictionary for the precise meaning of words.

3. **Application:** What does the passage mean to me, and how can it be applied to my life?

Make a list of: Attitudes to change

Sins to confess and forsake

Actions to take/avoid

Examples to follow

Promises to claim

Other personal applications

TWO-WEEK BIBLE STUDY PLAN

1. Psalms 1 – The Bible and Prosperous Living
2. Matthew 7: 24-27 – Two foundations: Wise building
3. Isaiah 40 – The Greatness of God
4. Romans 8:31 – 39 God’s Unchanging Love
5. Romans 12: 1,2 – Dedication and Transformation
6. Philippians 4: 6, 7 – Praying for Everything and Anything
7. I Corinthians 13: 1-13 – Love
8. Hebrews 12: 1-13 – Endurance and Discipline
9. Ephesians 3: 14-21 – Strengthened with Power
10. John 1: 1-34 – Deity of Christ
11. Psalm 37 – Security in Trusting God
12. John 15: 1-11 – Abiding in Christ
13. Psalm 139 – God is Always Present and Knows All
14. Colossians 1: 13-20 – The Incomparable Christ

Developing Confidence in Biblical Prayer

How would you rate your prayer life over the past few months? Why would you rate it this way?

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4: 6,7)

What principles of prayer might be drawn from this passage?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Read Acts 4:13-31

1. What event was this prayer a response to?
2. What is the mood of the prayer? (joy, sorrow, concern) Why?
3. Is this the type of prayer one would expect from people in hostile circumstances? Why?
4. Outline the prayer in the space below. Use general categories; each phrase need not be included.
5. What was their request?
6. What was the purpose of the lengthy portion before the request?

Understanding the Ministry of Reconciliation

On January 3, 1956, Jim Elliot rode aloft in a Piper Cruiser plane, pursuing a dream. He had longed to take the gospel to those who had never heard. And now Jim and his four colleagues were taking another stride toward that goal. Their target was the savage Auca Indians, a tribe that had resisted all contact with outsiders.

As the missionaries formulated their plans, Jim discussed the possibility of not returning from the mission. "Well, if that's the way God wants it to be," he said, "I'm ready to die for the salvation of the Aucas."

After numerous exchanges of gifts with tribesmen, the missionaries established a beachhead across the Curaray River near the Acua village. Their objective was to continue their contact with the tribe as a prelude to communicating the gospel to them. Five days after their plane landed, the missionaries were killed by the very ones they sought to minister to.

Jim Elliot's death seemed almost foreshadowed in his writings... One day, after returning from an "exalting, delicious" walk to a hill, he wrote. "To gaze and glory and to give oneself again to God, what more could a man ask? Oh, the fullness, pleasure, sheer excitement of knowing God on earth!... I care not if I ever raise my voice again for Him, if only I may love Him, please Him."

In the eyes of the world, and in the eyes of many Christians, the deaths of 29-year-old Elliot and his co-workers were a waste. But God used them for His glory. Upon hearing news of the tragedy, for instance, a group of Indians at a mission station in Brazil fell to their knees and cried to God for forgiveness for their own lack of concern for unsaved Indians.

Remarkably, ministry to the Aucas continued, and eventually two missionary women were invited to live with the tribe. Elisabeth Elliot (Jim's wife) and a sister of another man killed in the attack accepted the offer and helped bring numerous Aucas to a saving knowledge of Christ.

1. What was the compelling motivation behind Jim's commitment?
2. As you think of Jim Elliot's attitude towards: his mission, obstacles to reaching that goal, men's souls and death. How does his life affect you?

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

As illustrated by Jim Elliot, many men and women through the centuries have had as the passion of their lives to know Christ and to make Him known. These people tell as many others as they can of the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. The Bible calls this the Ministry of Reconciliation.

Paul had much to say on the Ministry of Reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5. Read the chapter and answer the following questions:

Paul's View Toward Life (2 Corinthians 5:1-10)

1. What words does Paul use to describe his desires in life?
2. What are some insights we can gain from Paul's desires?

3. Knowing that people need to be reconciled to Christ, how does an eternal perspective such as Paul's cause us to change our priorities?
4. What kind of values in our society today oppose Paul's kind of thinking?

Paul's View Toward People (2 Corinthians 5: 11-17)

1. What are some things that motivated Paul to action?
2. According to verses 15 and 16, what are some ways that an eternal perspective affected Paul's view of people?
3. In what ways would your view of people affect your willingness to share Christ with them?

Paul's view toward Ministry (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

The dictionary defines reconciliation as "to cause to be friendly or harmonious again." Looking at verses 18-21 in light of this definition, how would you explain the Ministry of Reconciliation?

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

In 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, Paul calls us ambassadors for Christ. Listed below are a few of the duties of a modern day ambassador. In the right column, write a parallel responsibility for the ambassador for Christ.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Ambassador for a Government</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Represents home government in a foreign country 2. Communicates message for the home government 3. Carries out homeland's convictions and commands 4. Lives in the host country, but does not consider it home | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Carries the delegated authority of the leader being represented |
|---|--|

Ambassador for Christ 3.

1. 4.

2. 5.

Which of the above responsibilities seems most challenging to you?

MY RESPONSIBILITY AS AN AMBASSADOR

By God's grace, I will fulfill my role as an ambassador for Christ by praying for and actively pursuing opportunities to share Christ with these people:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |
| 5. | 6. |

HOW TO CREATE SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

Campus Crusade for Christ has developed tools which have been proven to be helpful aids in effectively reaching people that otherwise would not easily be engaged in conversation about Christ. Two such tools are: (1) Surveys (reflecting other's attitudes toward spiritual things); and (2) Articles (relating Christ to felt needs). Below are two sample conversations used in approaching someone to take the survey or read an article.

SURVEYS

SAMPLE CONVERSATION asking someone to take a survey. "Hi, my name is _____ and this is _____. We're taking a Religious Survey and we were wondering if you would give us your opinion on it. It comes in two parts: the first part is a brief questionnaire and the second part is small booklet. Would you have a few minutes to help us? (Ask a few friendly questions to build rapport before you begin the survey).

ARTICLES OR MAGAZINES

SAMPLE CONVERSATION asking someone to read an article. "Hi, my name is _____ (Students Only: I'm involved with a student Christian organization on campus called TeamUnited.) I was wondering if you would take a few minutes to read an article and give me your opinion on it. The name of the article is _____.

Communicating the Message of Reconciliation

A young man rushed back from a Christian meeting to the apartment he shared with a friend. They had roomed together for several years and they both worked for the same company. "I must tell you something," he said to his friend. "Tonight I trusted Christ to be my Savior, and He has changed my life."

His friend smiled and said, "Wonderful, I have been hoping you would do that. I have been living the Christian life before you all these years hoping that you would trust Christ as your Savior."

Much surprised, the new Christian said, "You lived such a perfect life, that I kept trying to do it without Christ, the same as you seemed to be doing. Tonight I invited Him to become my Lord and Savior because I failed to live up to your standards. You should have told me why you live the way you do. Why didn't you tell me how I could know Christ too?"

This is a good illustration of the fact that many Christians don't know how to tell another person how to trust Christ. We need to witness with our lips or our life can be misinterpreted, and perhaps even keep people from receiving Christ.

Make a list of things you think a person needs to know to become a Christian:

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

1. According to verses 3-5, what does Paul say are the essential elements of the Gospel?
2. What are some motivations for sharing the Gospel with others?

2 Corinthians 5: 14-15

2 Corinthians 5: 18-21

1 Peter 2:9

Acts 4:12

2 Thess. 1:5-10

3. Which of these truths motivates you the most? Why?

HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL

The Four Spiritual Laws and Knowing God Personally are tools that have been used successfully by thousands of Christians to communicate the gospel and introduce many to Christ.

As your discipleship leader or group leader demonstrates how to use the Four Laws or Knowing God Personally, make note of positive things you observe:

PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESSFULLY PRESENTING THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS

1. Be sure you are filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)
2. Be prayerfully sensitive to an individual's interest and the leading of the Holy Spirit. While the simplest way to explain the Four Laws is to read the booklet aloud, be careful not to allow the presentation to become mechanical. Personalize the presentation by using the person's name. Remember you are not just sharing principles you are introducing a person to Christ.
3. Use the term Four Spiritual "Principles" instead of "Laws" if there is any objection to the term "laws."
4. Involve the person by asking the questions in the booklet and by listening to the answers given. When questions come up that would change the subject, explain that most questions are answered as you go through the Four Spiritual Laws, or say. "That's a good question. Let's talk about it after we have completed the booklet."
5. Give the person an opportunity to receive Christ.
6. Read through the booklet at least through 1 John 5: 11-13, on page 11.
7. Give the booklet to the person and encourage them to share it with someone else.
8. Remember the definition of successful witnessing: "Successful witnessing is taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God."

ACTION POINT

I remember that successful witnessing is trusting God to produce the results, and by the grace of

God, I commit myself to share the Four Laws or Knowing God Personally with _____
this week.

Putting Practical Faith into Action

Read the following statements and indicate: A-agree or D- disagree.

- _____ 1. Some people naturally have more faith than others.
- _____ 2. A response of faith may involve feelings of fear.
- _____ 3. If we really have faith in God, things will work out as we hope they will.
- _____ 4. Faith is a calculated risk.

Three Categories of Faith

1. Ephesians 2:8,9

Saving Faith– That which is required to trust Christ as Savior.

2. Jude 3

Doctrinal Faith– The sum of Christian truths which we believe.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Practical Faith– The faith principles upon which we base life's choices.

Examples of Faith in Action

Trace the events of David's confrontation with Goliath as found in 1 Samuel 17 as you complete the following chart:

- David's Faith Situation (vs. 23)

- David's Possible Feelings and Fears (vss. 26-34)

- David's Past Example of God's Sufficiency (vss. 34-37)

- Aspects of God's Character David Focused On (vss. 45,46)

Action that David Took (vss. 45-49)

But, I'm Not David! No special record is necessary. The men and women in faith's Hall of Fame were not perfect. Most had weakness with which God had to deal. For example, Noah became drunk after the flood and was a shame to his family (Gen. 9:20-27). Abraham was given to lying on occasion, and often at his wife's expense he tried to save his own life (Gen. 12: 10-20; 20: 1-18). Sarah laughed when God told her she was going to give birth at age ninety (Gen. 18: 9-15). Jacob was a chiseler and deceiver (Gen. 25: 27-34; 27: 1-46). Moses was a murderer who tried to hide the body of his Egyptian victim (Exodus 2: 11-15). Rahab had a background of lust and promiscuity (Joshua 2:1). Samson lived with uncontrolled desires (Judges 14-16). These people simply believed that God existed in the situation they faced, and finally trusted Him and not themselves. – Charles Swindoll

Potential Barriers to Faith

Looking at the potential barriers and the corresponding Scripture. Write a summary statement of what God's Word says about each barrier:

Potential Barriers to Practical Faith	God's Word	Summary Statement
Fear of Failure	Philippians 4:13 Ephesians 3: 16 Colossians 1: 9-12 2 Corinthians 12:9,10	
Peer Pressure	Psalm 73: 25-28 Luke 16:15 1 Corinthians 6: 19, 20 2 Corinthians 5:9	
Lack of Biblical Knowledge	Psalm 119: 105 Romans 10: 17 2 Timothy 2:15; 3: 15-16 Hebrews 4:12	

SUMMARY

Practical faith is confidence in God's Word and character. Inertia to put faith into action is overcome on the basis of God's Word.

Faith is not a substitute for wisdom or common sense... be careful! In the Old Testament times God spoke verbally to His people, whereas today we have His written Word. We must be certain that we have biblical evidence to support the moves and changes we make in our lives. His Word will help us to know how to decide what to do. Charles Swindoll

Faith that Endures---- in Times Like These. Bible Study Guide by Charles Swindoll, pp. 2, 10.
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Putting My Faith into Action

A Faith Situation or Barrier that I'm Facing
Feelings and Fears that I'm Experiencing
Past Examples of God's Sufficiency in My Life
Aspects of God's Character I Need to Focus On
Action I Need to Take

Prayer:

Practicing Spiritual Multiplication

The Task Before Us

Jesus says in Mark 16: 15, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”*

Q. What is the scope of our responsibility for sharing the gospel?

Q. What is the population of the world?

Q. Why do you think this command has not been fulfilled in the past few centuries?

The Strategy Given Us

Read Matthew 28: 18-20

Q. Explain in your own words, what did Jesus command His disciples to do?

Q. What does it mean to make disciples?

Q. Does this apply to us?

Why?

Examples from the Scripture

Q. How did Jesus and Paul model this disciple- making strategy?

Mark 3: 13, 14

John 17: 6-8, 18

Acts 14: 20-22

Entrust to Faithful Men

Read 2 Timothy 2:2

Q. What ideas or principles regarding spiritual multiplication do you see here?

Write your paraphrased version of Paul's exhortation to Timothy:

Your Potential Impact

Paul----- Timothy-----Faithful men-----Others

Q. What promises does Jesus give in Matthew 28: 18-20?

Q. Why are they so significant in this context?

Q. How do they make you feel about the command in verse 19?

Q. Is it God's will for you to make disciples?

Q. How does the promise in Philippians 2: 13 relate to this?

Q. How do you feel right now about this idea of spiritual multiplication?

The Response By Us

As a result of studying spiritual multiplication in God's Word, I want to take the following steps:

Living in Light of Eternity

Jim Elliot served as a missionary in Ecuador among the Auca Indians. Soon after beginning his work with them, he suffered a martyr's death at the hands of those to whom he ministered. In his diary, Jim had written the following:

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

- What is significant about Jim's statement?
- How does his statement relate to you?

Rich Man's Values

Jesus often used stories to teach the multitudes. In Luke's gospel, we read about a man Jesus said did not live his life in light of eternity.

Read Luke 12: 15-21

1. List some of the things valued by this rich man. (What occupied his thoughts and efforts?)
2. Why were the rich man's actions foolish? (See Psalm 49: 16-20 for additional insights.)
3. Jesus called the rich man foolish because he was not “rich toward God.” How can someone be rich toward God?

God's Values

Read 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

1. Paul states that he fixes his eyes on things that are eternal. What things are eternal?

(See Isaiah 40:8 and Matthew 25:46 for two answers to that questions.)

2. How could someone invest his or her life in these eternal things?

Two Case Studies

Laura has been involved with discipleship for four or five weeks. She enjoys the weekly meetings and loves the Bible study involved. As a result, Donna, the discipler, shared with Laura the Biblical concept of spiritual multiplication and the need to be trained in how to share her faith.

Although Donna expected her to be excited, Laura said she doubted she would have the time. “I’ve enjoyed my involvement and it’s really helped me grow, but I don’t know if I have time to be trained to share my faith and disciple others. I’m involved in so many activities... maybe I’ll have time in a year or two.”

How does Laura’s decision reflect the things she values in life?

How might an eternal perspective affect Laura’s decision?

Jack is a junior engineering student in college and has been involved with a student Christian organization for three years. He has ministered to international students on his campus and has thought of the possibility of working overseas as a missionary engineer. Because of this interest, he has applied for a short term missions project to Africa during the last “free” summer he has.

Recently, his favorite engineering professor told him of a job with a local firm that will offer a substantial summer salary with a good chance for a full-time position after graduation. Because he sees Jack’s potential, the professor tries to persuade Jack to take this job.

When Jack declines the offer because of his desire to spend the summer in mission work, the professor asks, “How can you throw away an opportunity to work with a prestigious firm, receive a solid salary and build a secure future?”

From your perspective, what is the difference between Jack’s and the professor’s point of view?

What are some possible influences in the professor’s life that cause him to think the way he does?

Where My Treasure Is

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” –Matthew 6:19-21

Reflect on each of the following statements about the above verses. Rate your response to each statement.

1. The things I currently value most are treasures in heaven.

0 _____ 5 _____ 10
false true

2. My time, finances and affections accurately demonstrate to others and God my heart's convictions.

0 _____ 5 _____ 10
false true

3. I'm sure of how to lay up treasure for eternity.

0 _____ 5 _____ 10
false true

In light of all God's Word has to say about living in light of eternity, what specific changes do you want to make in how you are investing your life for eternity?

C. T. Studd quotes an atheist:

'If I firmly believed, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences destiny in another, then religion would mean to me everything. I would cast away earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as follies, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. Religion would be my first waking thought and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I should labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for the morrow of eternity alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences would occupy no moment of my thoughts. I would strive to look up Eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me, soon to everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would go forth to the world and preach to it in season and out of season. And my text would be, WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?

Norman Grubb, C. T. Studd, p. 32 Copyright 1972, Christian Literature Crusade, Fort Washington, PA.

Living Out Our Identity With Christ

The word “gospel” means good news. Write out three reasons why the Christian message is good news to you individually.

1.

2.

3.

Many think the gospel refers only to the fact that a Christian is delivered from Hell. God has done far more than that in bringing us into a right relationship with Himself!

He has Redeemed us:

Redemption means “to deliver by paying a price.” Only a free person can pay the price and purchase a slave’s freedom. In this case, Jesus has redeemed us from the slavery of sin by the payment of His death on the cross.

He has Justified us:

Justification is a judicial act of God whereby He justly declares righteous the one who believes in Jesus Christ. Literally, God credits Christ’s righteousness to our account, therefore, we are as acceptable to God the Father as Christ is. God does it all because of His grace. This is good news!

Our New Identity With Christ

Romans 6: 1-16

Compare and contrast characteristics of our new and old identity in this passage. List any related characteristics opposite one another for ease of comparison.

NEW IDENTITY	OLD IDENTITY

Our Power to Live out Our New Identity

Christians have a new identity in Christ, yet many continue to function like the old one. God has given us a power source to enable us to live out who we really are in Christ.

Romans 8: 1-17

1. According to this passage, what is our true identity? (verses 14-17)
2. How did we walk in our old identity? (verse 4b)
3. What are some characteristics of a person's life who walks this way?
4. How do we walk in our new identity? (verse 4)
5. Since we are new creatures, what will be the result of walking in the Spirit? (verses 5,6,

12-15)

6. As God's children, how are we to respond to temptation? (verse 5, 12-13)

7. What are some steps to take to experience victory over sin? (Fill in blanks.)

a. Recognize that by being new creatures in Christ, the things of the flesh _____
_____ (verses 12,13)

b. _____ acknowledging His Lordship.
(verse 14)

c. As an _____ choose to obey God. (verse 15)

New Identity Made Real in Our Lives

Throughout Scripture, identity and purpose go hand in hand. One without the other is an incomplete picture, for God created people for a purpose. Take a look at this chart and verses and workout the implications of living out our new identity.

VERSES	NEW IDENTITY	NEW PURPOSE
Col. 3:1-2		
Eph. 2:10		
Col. 3:12		
2 Cor. 5: 17-18		

Romans 6:4		

Christ in Me

1. Identify one area in your life in which you need a fresh perspective about your identity in Christ.

2. Write out the facts about your new identity in Christ which influence this one area.

3. What steps can you take to begin to act on your identity in Christ in that area?

Passages on your identity in Christ for personal study:

1 Peter 1: 9-12

I Cor. 6: 19-20

2 Cor. 5:17-21

Eph. 1: 3-14, 2: 1-10

Col. 3:1-17

Dealing With Life's Trials

Complete this statement..... when I'm faced with a trial, I feel like....

Read the statement below and check one or more of the boxes that accurately reflects your relationship with the Lord during a trial. Be Honest!

When I'm faced with a trial, my relationship with the Lord is characterized by:

- a request for the trial to stop. Now!
- a thankful Spirit.
- "Why me, Lord..... what have I done wrong?"
- "I wish I didn't have to go through this."
- a feeling of guilt....perhaps God is punishing me.
- a feeling of distance-- I feel abandoned by God.
- a teachable spirit-- I want to learn from God.
-
-

God's Purpose for Trials:

To mold our Christian character and to develop dependence upon Him, God must not only give us times of blessing and encouragement, but also allow times of trouble and difficulty. We often feel that these should be escaped at all costs, but God does not always intend for us to escape.

Trials Produce Rejoicing

Read 1 Peter 4: 12-13. Almost all of us are surprised by trials. Why?

Trials are used by God to develop our character

How does TV portray the "ideal" man or woman? Compare and contrast their character with the character God desires to produce in a believer.

"Ideal man or woman	Godly Character
self-confident proud	God-confident humble

- God is in the process of developing character traits that are often different than what the world idolizes.

What are the products of these trials?

Romans 5: 3-5

Hebrews 12: 5-11

James 1: 2-4

1 Peter 1: 6-7

God desires that we love Him deeply and lean wholly on Him. This honors Him. He desires to replace our self-confidence and self-sufficiency with Himself. Reflect on how trials might be an ideal environment to see this happen. Share an example of how God used a trial to do this in your life.

Our Response to Trials

What we think about trials can determine our response to them. Mark what you think of each statement in the following agree/disagree list.

Do silently, then discuss:

	Agree	Disagree
Trials are God's means of punishment Hebrews 12		
God's purpose for trials is to convict us of sin in our life.		
Trials can be a consequence of sin		
The abundant Christian life has few difficulties John 16:33, 2 Cor. 4: 7-12		
The person who doesn't feel joy in trials is responding unscripturally		

Going through a time of testing does not in itself build Godly character. It is not the testings that change us, it is our responses to the experiences that change us. We can become "bitter" or "better."

Read 1 Thess. 5: 16-18

1. What does giving thanks say about our attitude toward God?

2. Why does it please God?

Read Romans 8:28, 31-32

1. Why is verse 28 so comforting?

2. Is this wonderful promise "to work all things together for good" true for all believers? Why or why not?
3. How is a proper view of God and His love for us crucial to a right response in a trial? (verse 31,32)

Read James 1: 2-4

1. What is the significance of the word "consider"?
2. What is the difference in "joy" and "happiness"?

Summarize in your own words how God would have you respond in the midst of a trial...both in attitude and actions.

Living Through Trials

Choose a specific trial that you've recently been through or are currently going through. The situation:

Complete the chart:

Things I like about the situation	Things I don't like about the situation
My reactions & response (deal with any sin)	What God might teach me (scripture to meet my need)



Knowing God's Will

1. There are various reasons Christians do or do not seek God's will. Write as many reasons as possible why we do not always seek His will on life's decisions:

2. From what you know of God's Word, what would you say is God's will for you?

God's Will: A Biblical Perspective –

Read 1 Thess. 5: 16-18; 1 Thess. 4:3; Prov. 3: 5, 6; Eph. 1:4.

What main points do these passages make about God's Will?

Read Romans 12: 1,2

1. According to these verses, what are some things we need to do in order to prove or demonstrate that the will of God is good, acceptable and perfect?
2. Romans 12:2 says that God's will is "good". Read Jeremiah 29:11 and use other adjectives or phrases in describing the "goodness" of God's will.
3. What does it mean that God's will is "acceptable"?
4. What does it mean that the will of God is "perfect"?

List some attitudes we should have toward that will as a result (see Psalm 19: 7-11).

Discerning God's Will

Read James 1: 2-8

1. What does this say about discerning God's will in difficult situations?
2. Most of God's will for us (our purity before Him and our conduct toward others) is plainly revealed in His Word. But when you need to make a decision regarding something that is not spelled out in Scripture, how do you do it?

Using Principles in Determining God's Will: A Case in Point

Julie is torn. She has been looking forward to a special conference on an area of great interest to her Christian life. She recently learned that her family had been planning to visit her during the conference dates. Julie's parents want very much to see her, but they have left the final decision to her. She comes to you for advice.

Discuss how you would advise Julie. Utilize any material from the preceding discussion and the chart on the next page. Record any helpful hints below:

Principles in Determining God's Will

Principle	Scripture	Illumination of Principle
Lordship	Rom. 12: 1,2; Luke 9:23	We must be willing to do God's will whatever it may involve. Christ must be Lord of every area of our lives.
The Word	2 Tim. 3:16 Ps. 119: 130	Decisions must be in line with God's previously revealed Will in Scripture. God never leads contrary to His Word. Often, a particular passage reminds us of a scriptural principle that applies directly to a decision we are facing. The timing of this discovery helps confirm God's leading.
Obedience	John 14:21	We must obey what we already know to be God's Will. God is not obligated to reveal more until we obey.
Prayer	James 1: 5-7	God promises wisdom to those who ask. Prayer is vital in seeking the Lord on an issue.
Kingdom Priority	Matt. 6:33	Our ambitions must be to please

		the Lord.
Sound Judgment (Discipline)	2 Tim. 1:7	Sound judgement refers to a mind under the control of the Holy Spirit– a “re-made” mind.
Counsel	Prov. 15:22	The counsel of others should be prayerfully considered, especially that of mature– Christians who relate proper use of Scripture to one’s need. However, do not make the counsel of others a “crutch.”
Filled with the Spirit	Ps. 66: 18; 1 John 1:9	God says he does not hear those with unconfessed sin.
Repeated promptings of the Spirit	Rom. 8:14; Ps. 32: 8,9	The Holy Spirit may impress a specific connection concerning His leading.
Circumstances	Rom. 1:13; Rom. 15: 20-25	God may use a “closed” door to lead in another direction. However, do not have a careless “process of elimination” attitude without using the wisdom God gives. To assume that God will close every door He does not want us to pursue could lead to trusting in elements of chance rather than God’s Spirit. Obstacles may be a way of God to deter us or they may be a way to develop our faith.
Spectacular Guidance	2 Tim. 3:16	In Scripture, God has directed people in spectacular ways i.e. visions, signs, but this is the exception rather than the rule.

Faith must have an object. A Christian’s faith is built upon the authority of God’s Word and not on emotional experiences.

Examining My Use of These Principles

Using the four criteria below, analyze your own decision making regarding an important decision (i.e., marriage, summer project, career, etc.). Refer back to the chart for clarification on these criteria:

1. Am I searching God’s Word to see if it has anything to say regarding this decision? Why/Why not?
2. Have I diligently sought God on this decision in prayer? Why/Why not?

3. Am I making this decision on the basis of the eternal (Kingdom Priorities) or on my own ambitions? Why/Why not?

Understanding Initiative Evangelism

Successful Witnessing: "Taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results up to God."— Dr. Bill Bright

In what ways can you envision a Christian "taking the initiative" to share his/her faith?

Biblical Examples:

The New Testament abounds with examples of men and women who took the initiative to share their faith. Some of them are listed below.

PERSON - TO - PERSON

Jesus and Samaritan woman— John 4: 1-42
Andrew – John 1:40-42
Phillip & Nathaniel – John 1:44-49
Jesus and Zaccheus – Luke 19: 1-10
Philip and Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:25-39
Paul and Philippian jailer – Acts 16: 31-33
Paul: the lame man – Acts 14: 8-18
And others

PERSON - TO - GROUP

Paul and Athens – Acts 17: 16-34
Paul and Thessalonica – Acts 17: 1-4
Peter in Jerusalem – Acts 2: 14-40
Jesus and the 70 – Luke 10: 1-24
Peter at Solomon's Colonnade— Acts 3: 11-24
Peter and John – Acts 4: 1-21
Apostles before Gamaliel – Acts 5:27-41
Stephen – Acts 6: 8– 7:60
Saul in Damascus— Acts 9:19-22
Paul and Barnabus in Iconium – Acts 14:1-4
Paul in Europe – Romans 15: 19-21
And others

Person - To - Group Initiative

Focus on the first of the above examples. Read Acts 17: 16-32 (the account of Paul's sermon in Athens), then respond to the questions printed below.

1. According to this passage, what motivated Paul to take the initiative to share his faith?
2. Do you see that as positive or negative? Why?
3. How did people respond to his initiative?

4. How would you describe Paul's view of God as described here?

A. How did it affect his initiative in evangelism?

B. How does your view of God affect your initiative?

Person - To - Person Initiative

Discuss the first example from the left column of the chart by working through the questions below concerning John 4: 4-30, 39-42. This is the account of Jesus' encounter with a morally loose woman who was also a Samaritan (an untouchable to a Jew).

1. How did Jesus begin the conversation?
2. How did He direct her attention to her sin and need even when she tried to divert the flow of the conversation?
3. How did He respond to her questions or statements?
4. When the woman realized that she had met God's Messiah, what was her natural response? What impact did it have on her town?
5. Briefly describe the model for initiative evangelism that Jesus represents here.

Hindering Attitudes

Most Christians desire to freely share Christ with others just as the Samaritan woman did. However, there are often hindrances that present themselves in the form of fears or debilitating attitudes. Four of those "attitudes barriers" are listed below.

Read what God's Word has to say about each one, then in your own words, write a one sentence statement of God's provision for that hindering attitude.

"Attitude Barrier"	God's Word	God's Provision
I don't know what to say	1 Cor. 2: 1-5	
He seems to have everything he needs. He doesn't need Christ.	Luke 12: 15-20	
How can God use me when there is sin in my life?	I Timothy 1: 15-16 I John 1:9	
What will people think of me?	Romans 1: 14-16	

Now, identify two more hindering attitudes, then brainstorm Scripture passages that might tell of God's provision in dealing with that hindrance.

Selecting Disciples For Multiplication

Our Lord said to His eleven men, 'Go you into all the world and make disciples of all nations.' The only reasonable explanation for that command is that our Lord did not expect these eleven men to accomplish this mission themselves. Obviously, He expected the Holy Spirit to accomplish this task through a strategy of discipleship. The result was a mighty spiritual awakening which changed the course of human history." – Dr. Bill Bright.

Case Study

Pete is a university student responsible for bringing a popular Christian speaker to his campus. The responsibility includes choosing students to be chairpersons for each committee. Since heading up the publicity committee is an enormous task for a student, Pete needs to seriously evaluate each candidate.

If you were Pete, what qualities would you look for in a potential publicity chairperson?

In much the same way as the case study above, certain qualities must be looked for in the selection of faithful disciples. These characteristics stem from the character of Christ.

Selection Characteristics

The following list of selection criteria is illustrated in the life of Paul. Match each characteristic with the correct verse.

Matching

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1. | Heart for God | A. 1 Cor. 9:24, 26 |
| 2. | Dependence on the Holy Spirit | B. Hebrews 13:17 |
| 3. | Teachable | C. Philippians 3:8 |
| 4. | Builds Relationships | D. Romans 8:11 |
| 5. | "Relational Thinker" (Relates all of life to ultimate purpose) | E. 2 Tim. 4: 19-21 |

The above criteria can be used to select "faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)

1. Based on the above passages and your own experience, how would you describe a person having each of the following characteristics? (Note: Be sure to refer back to each passage for a more careful consideration.)

a. Heart for God	b. Dependence on the Holy Spirit
c. Teachable	d. Builds Relationships
e. "Relational Thinker"	

2. Why would these criteria be important ones to look for in a person's life? (Discuss each of the five individually)

3. What other criteria should be used in the selection process?

Becoming a Servant Leader

Edgewater Beach

In 1923, a very important meeting was held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. In attendance were nine of the world's most successful financiers.... men who had found the secret of making money. Twenty- five years later let's see where these men were:

The president of the largest independent steel company. Charles Schwab, died bankrupt and lived on borrowed money for five years before his death. The president of the largest utility company, Samuel Insull, died a fugitive from justice and penniless in a foreign land. The president of the largest gas company, Howard Hopson, went insane. The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cotton, died abroad, insolvent. The president of the New York Stock Exchange, Richard Whitney, was released from Sing Sing Penitentiary. The member of the President's Cabinet, Albert Fall, was pardoned from prison so he could die at home. The greatest "bear" on Wall Street, Jesse Livermore, died a suicide. The head of the greatest monopoly, Ivan Krueger, died a suicide. The president of the bank of International Settlements, Leon Fraser, died a suicide. All of these men learned well the art of making a living, but not one learned how to live." (From Billy Rose, Pitching Horse Shoes, 1948. The meeting at Edgewater Beach Hotel was a youth congress.)

What do you think this illustration tells us?

In piercing contrast stands the life of Christ. Yes, He was God, but also man. Read the brief sketch of His life.

"More than two thousand years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived. He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous and had neither training nor formal education. He never wrote a book, never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired. He never practiced medicine, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near. The names of past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone, but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread

nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not destroy Him and the grave could not hold Him. He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angel, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living, personal, Christ, our Lord and Savior." – Author unknown

What do you see as the main contrast between Christ and the financiers described above?

What is the root of that contrast?

Characteristics of the Servant–Leader

Read the following passages in your Bible and list the characteristics of the servant-leader that you find there.

Matthew 20: 25-28

1 Peter 5: 2-5

Summary Definition

Based in your investigation of Matthew 20: 25-28 and 1 Peter 5:2-5, a servant-leader is best described as:

However, misconceptions abound when servant-leadership is discussed. This is normal since the phrase servant-leader appears to be a contradiction in terms.

Common Misconceptions About Becoming a Servant-Leader

1. "I won't be recognized for my work." (1 Peter 5: 2-5)
 - a. Why could timing be important to a leader's expectation of recognition?
 - b. How could anxiety relate to the expectation of recognition?
 - c. Why do you think Peter made the point that servant-leaders will be certain

to receive proper recognition?

2. "The job won't get done." (Acts 6: 1-7)
 - a. What spiritual qualifications are essential before one assumes responsibility for a task?
 - b. List some possible motives for the prerequisite.
 - c. What is the primary issue in determining whether a ministry task is properly completed?

3. "I'm not good enough to lead somebody else." (2 Cor. 3:5-6)
 - a. Who makes us adequate?
 - b. How does the "new covenant" relate to leadership styles?
 - c. What attitudes must form the basis of our leadership style?

An Evaluation

Fill in the chart below with five important characteristics of a servant-leader. Then rate yourself on a scale of 1 (no trace of the characteristic) to 5 (very much a part of me) in reference to each of the qualities listed.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SERVANT-LEADER	MY PERSONAL SERVANT-LEADER CHARACTERISTICS				
1.	1	2	3	4	5
2.	1	2	3	4	5
3.	1	2	3	4	5
4.	1	2	3	4	5
5.	1	2	3	4	5

--	--

Circle your strongest characteristic. What is one way you could build on that this week?

Circle your weakest characteristic. What is one way you could strengthen that this week?

TRAINING

BEING INVOLVED IN A SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT

Henrietta Mears said, "A man's greatest talents are not in how much he has been able to do alone, but in how effective he has been in getting others to work with him. A good leader leads men; a great leader trains other leaders."

Alone ever a great leader cannot reach the world for Christ, but with a committed group of people, as the Book of Acts illustrates, whole cities, and even the world can be changed.

I. Definition

A movement has been defined as the collective activity of committed multiplying disciples as they band together and trust God for an impact greater than their own individual ministries.

To understand what a movement is all about, you need to understand some traits or characteristics of movements, and understand the three aspects that govern their functioning.

II. What Characterizes a Movement

1. Organized action; it is not random action. It is deliberate, and it elicits involvement.
2. Differing levels of commitment; there are committed followers and sometime followers.
3. Dedication; members are highly dedicated, and thus are able to deal with opposition.
4. Unity; division, criticism, and antagonism from within eat at a movement's heart until people are no longer involved in organized action. It's essential to maintain unity.
5. Developing leadership; unity may initially be built around a leader, but to be self-sustaining, there must be a constant development of new leadership. A movement only expands as fast as leadership is developed.

6. Purpose; there is a corporate commitment to a goal that is reflected by the goals of the individual members.

III. Benefits of a movement

1. Expands your vision

There is often a great deal of isolation between Christians; they feel all alone in their convictions. Being part of a movement allows people to be encouraged by others who share the same commitment. Like-minded people help each other continue in the right direction even when they do not feel like it. That helps each one stand firmly in his or her convictions.

2. Establishes credibility

A movement with a good public image allows individuals within that movement to do more because they represent that movement. For example, it might be hard for an individual college student to speak about Christ at a Fraternity dinner. But, as a representative of a Christian group which is involved with many campus events, the student would more likely be able to speak. Or an individual lay person might not have much influence on a school board considering an issue affecting Christian values. But, speaking on behalf of a church with a solid community, reputation, the comments may be given more consideration.

3. Constant Training

Many Christians want to share their faith but they simply do not know how. So they either do it in a way that is ineffective or they become frustrated and quit. In a movement, people first learn to share their faith individually with others. Later, they are trained to lead a group, share their testimonies and speak to groups.

4. Breaks faith barriers

People involved with a movement seldom feel qualified or ready to do what is asked of them. But when they stand up in front of a group to share their testimony, participate in a coordinated evangelistic effort, or lead a new Christian's follow-up Bible study, they break faith barriers.

If people only do things they are comfortable with, faith stagnates. But doing what they aren't completely self-confident in causes people to trust God; they break a faith barrier.

5. Exposure to godly leadership

People tend to become like those with whom they spend time and those they admire. A

movement's leadership is often mature and visionary.

6. Exposure to ministry situations

People have opportunities to try doing many types of ministry when they are involved in a movement because its scope is wider than the individual.

This can mean working with types of people different than they normally associate with.

IV. Goals of a Movement

Movements can be defined by their goals. For example, Campus Crusade for Christ's object is to help reach the world for Christ. We believe the world can be changed through changed lives of people brought to Christ (Matthew 28: 18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2).

This can be done by:

1. Winning people to Christ.
2. Building— equip people with principles of Christian living to motivate and train them for a lifetime of ministry.
3. Sending – directing people to a lifetime of ministry through secular profession, or through full-time Christian work.

Work together to list the range of ministries in which your group is engaged in the chart below. Then link each activity to one of the goals of a movement just studied.

Activity	Movement Goal	My Involvement
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Now, evaluate your personal involvement in the movement by checking the activities in which you are involved. Are these the best use of limited time? Is there a more

challenging level at which you might function given your time limitations?

Planning for Leadership Development

Goal - plan - action = dream Goal + plan + action = reality

Define the terms:

Goal _____

Plan _____

Action _____

What is the difference between these terms?

The Planning Process: The Story of Nehemiah

Nehemiah was the trusted servant of Artaxerxes I, King of Persia in about 445 B.C. He was the King's Cupbearer. A man who loved God and the nation of Israel (now in exile), he was deeply saddened when he heard that Jerusalem's walls had not been rebuilt and the city was in shambles. He received permission from the King to go to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls and with the King's blessing he set out to accomplish the task. Nehemiah transformed the depressed and downcast remnant that remained in Jerusalem into a viable work force in only 52 days, and once again the city of Jerusalem was whole. This is one of the greatest examples of leadership, planning and delegation in all of history.

Read Nehemiah 2 silently. What evidence of planning do you see here?

Sequence of Steps			
Based on Nehemiah 2:4-7, 13 and 18, plot the sequence of steps Nehemiah followed in planning to rebuild the wall.			
2:4 2:18	2:5	2:6-7	2:13

Pitfalls to Planning

Planning, important as it is, is not infallible. Circumstances, insufficient time and the unexpected can ruin even the best of plans. The following are pitfalls to planning that, if avoided, can help us see our plans “happen.”

What happens to break down the planning process when the following occurs?

1. Failure to do research
2. Failure to establish measurable goals
3. Failure to delegate properly
4. Failure to put the plan into a schedule
5. Failure to execute and control at the proper time

Choose a particular pitfall.

- a. How can it be prevented?
- b. What can be done to correct it once it has happened?
- c. Which pitfall are you most prone to do? Why?

Training: (20 minutes)

How to Complete a Planning Sheet

A planning sheet can be a great asset for you to help other people grow in Christ.

Often we don't accomplish much in the lives of others because we don't have a clear idea of what we are trying to accomplish. This simple but effective chart gives a clear statement of people's goals, as well as the steps to attain them.

1. Get to know the person.
2. Assess strength/weaknesses with the person.
3. Ask "How is this person motivated?"
4. Help the person set his or her own goals:
 - A. Put the overall goal in the last column of the chart. Put only one goal per person in both personal and ministry sections.
 - B. Write a series of activities for weekly appointments to help accomplish the overall goal.
5. Reinforce in light of what motivates that individual. (Remember, some people are highly motivated by goals and will really enjoy a chart of measurable goals. But some may feel very much in a box when charts like this are used. Be sensitive. Though many people will be grateful to you for using this chart to help them grow, others will be more thankful if you keep it to yourself and not appear so structured.)

Obeying God's Direction

The word obedience brings many ideas to mind. In the following exercise, respond to each statement with either "A" for agree, or "D" for disagree.

- ____ 1. The supreme test of our obedience and love for Christ is giving up the things we treasure most.
- ____ 2. If I obey God, He will give me the desires of my heart.
- ____ 3. A wrong motive for obedience would be to say, "If God does _____ for me, I'll obey."

Sometimes our misconceptions about obedience come from past experiences that meant pain, unhappiness or punishment without love. Also, we often rebel against guidelines and rules because we feel limited by them instead of recognizing they exist for our protection. God desires our obedience because it demonstrates our trust in His guidance of our lives. As we obey Him, we are showing Him that we love Him.

Scriptural Insights into Obedience

Read the following passages and record a principle of obedience that each passage is illustrating.

...not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. (Eph. 6:6)

Principle: _____

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (John 14:26)

Principle: _____

And He said to them, Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN. (Mark 7:6,7)

Principles: _____

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love him, and will come to him, and make Our abode with him." (John 14:23)

Principle: _____

But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it."
(Luke 11: 28)

Principle: _____

OBEDIENCE SUMMARY CHART	
IS	IS NOT
1. An attitude of the heart that willingly conforms to the instruction of the Spirit of God as set forth in His Word. (Eph. 6:6)	1. Doing what God says in hopes of gaining recognition from others.
2. A response to the Holy Spirit's guidance. (John 14:26)	2. A human set of rules and values.
3. A response of right motives and right actions. (Mark 7:6,7)	3. Outward performance masking inner reservations.
4. A response of love. (John 14: 23)	4. Bargaining with God: "If God does _____ I'll obey Him."
5. A response that leads to God's blessing. (Luke 11:28)	5. Seeking to earn God's favor through human effort.

Case Studies in Obedience

Sometimes it is difficult to discern the proper response in a particular situation. In those cases, knowledge of the Word, the leading of the Holy Spirit and obedience over a period of time guides a person in a loving, obedient lifestyle.

The following case studies are situations you may find yourself subject to that are related to the principles and motives of obedience.

Pick ONE of the three case studies below and answer the questions. Be prepared to discuss your answer.

1. Obedience and Personal Purity

John and Lisa have been dating for over a year. They are both new, growing Christians and desire to be all that God wants them to be. This semester both have easy schedules so they have more time to spend together. Lately, after studying in the evenings, they find it more and more difficult to control the physical aspect of their relationship.

1. As a more mature Christian friend, what would you tell them the Bible says in the area of obedience and personal purity? (1 Thess. 4: 3-7)
2. Hebrews 13:4 talks about the proper design for a sexual relationship. How would you explain this verse to John and Lisa?
3. What suggestion from 1 Cor. 10:13 and 1 Cor. 6:18 could you practically offer them?
4. God has given us power to resist temptation through the Holy Spirit. What practical guidelines does Gal. 5:16-17 give?

2. Obedience and Fear of What Men Think

Bob is a well respected officer in a large company. He recently became a Christian and is excited about his relationship with Christ. He has a growing desire to talk to some of his co-workers about Christ but is unsure of how to approach them. Finally, he has an opportunity to talk to one of his closest associates about Christ. His friend laughs and teases him about being a "fanatic." Bob is unsure how to respond around his friend now. He also knows he'll be expected to drink with his friends at an upcoming business convention and doesn't want to. He fears their opposition to his new attitudes.

1. How would you encourage Bob?
2. What would you tell him about peer pressure?
3. Being honest about our faith and being filled with the Spirit are important in dealing with peer pressure. What necessary ingredients does 1 Cor. 13:2 point to?
4. In the gospel, we see Peter denying Christ three times during Christ's arrest. After Pentecost, he stood up to give a bold defense of the Christian faith to a ridiculing crowd. (Acts 2:14) What made the difference? (Acts 2:14) How does natural courage and boldness compare with being filled with the Holy Spirit?
5. What do Proverbs 29: 25 and Proverbs 16:7 promise as a result of obedience?

3. Sincere and Insincere Obedience

Melanie has been involved for three years in a student Christian organization at her college. Initially her zeal for Christ and love for sharing her faith was apparent to all around her. But by her senior year, it seemed that her attitude had changed. She was present at all the organization's activities but she seemed to constantly be critical of her group leaders and unhappy at the fullness of her schedule. When friends approached her she always seemed negative and tired. Yet, Melanie would say she was doing what a Christian should do.

1. What would you tell Melanie that her basic problem may be?
2. Insincere obedience involves right actions accompanied with wrong heart motives or attitudes. What did Christ say about attitudes and actions in Mark 7: 6,7?
3. Why is sincere obedience from the heart important? (1 Samuel 16:7)
4. What is the relationship between love and sincere obedience? (1 Cor. 13: 1-3)
5. For many Christians, the area of struggle lies primarily in attitude. We can grieve the Holy Spirit in our lives and thus do not experience His power. How does walking in the Spirit relate to our attitudes? (Eph. 5: 18-20)

My Obedience

Each of us may have an area in which we hesitate to obey God. Take a few minutes to pray, asking God to reveal an area where you are hesitant on obedience.

1. Write it below
2. By the next meeting, find one passage that gives a promise relating to your area of needs. Be ready to share it and ask God to work in this area of your life.

Issues Relating to the Ministry of The Holy Spirit

A proper understanding of the Holy Spirit's ministry in the life of a believer is crucial to living a victorious, Christ-like life. However, misconceptions can confuse people and rob them of joy, motivation, and power. These discussion questions are designed so you will have a clearer understanding of the Holy Spirit's ministry for yourselves and in your ministry to others.

1. On page 6, point "A" of the Holy Spirit Booklet" says that the carnal man, "is either uninformed about, or has forgotten God's love, forgiveness, and power." How can you tell if someone is uninformed and needs significant training on God's love, forgiveness, and power? If you determine that this is a real need, what would you do? (i.e., would you stop the appointment to communicate those things? What points would you want to make? What passage would you use? What booklet or books cover those things and would be helpful for the person to read?)

2. Compare and contrast spiritual maturity with being Spirit-filled.

3. Agree–Disagree: "If I pray to be filled with the Spirit, then I will be filled." (How can we make this issue clear and yet avoid making "filling" a mechanical formula? What passages point out the role of faith in being filled? What passages emphasize the "love relationship" aspect of walking with Christ?)

4. What can you legitimately expect regarding your feelings if you are filled with the Spirit? What are some misconceptions about feelings? What are passages that clarify these?

5. How do the following passages relate to the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

1. 2 Cor. 5: 14-15

2. Galatians 5:1

3. Matthew 16: 5-7

4. Romans 15: 5-7

5. Psalm 27:4; 16-11

Fulfilling The Great Commission

“Christ’s Great Commission is the greatest plan ever given to man, by the greatest person who ever lived, concerning the greatest power ever revealed with the greatest promise ever recorded.” – Bill Bright

Looking into Scripture

Read carefully the words of Jesus to His disciples in the following passage.

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 18-20)

Summarize the main facets of this Great Commission in the space below.

Describe briefly what you think the world would be like if the Great Commission had not been given.

Motivated by The Master’s Model

And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9: 35-38)

1. Underline the phrase that speaks of Jesus’ involvement in people’s lives.
2. Because He was involved in people’s lives. Jesus saw their different physical, emotional and spiritual needs. What does the passage identify as the root of their need?
3. For what did Jesus ask His disciples to pray?

Do you not say, There are yet four months and then comes the harvest? Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. (John 4:35)

Motivated by Needs

The world's needs are staggering. There is no greater Biblical imperative than reaching every person with the gospel.

For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:17,18)

Why are most Christians oblivious to the lost state of human beings?

What are some of the ramifications of being judged by God?

Motivated by The Command

Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ gave His disciples a global strategy know as the Great Commission. He commanded them to go and the result was a spiritual revolution that changed the first century world and altered the course of history. Our twenty first century world needs changing, and the command still holds today.

How can I be Involved in Fulfilling The Great Commission?

"There is no magic in small plans. When I consider my ministry, I think of the world. Anything less than that would not be worthy of Christ for of His Will for my life." – Henrietta Mears

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Start at Home

Expand To Your Surroundings (Judea and Samaria)

What would be your "Judea and Samaria" and how can you help reach it?

FOCUS ON THE WORLD (remotest parts of the earth)

1. How can you personally impact the world for Christ without leaving your community?
2. Jesus stated that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. How can God use you to meet the need?
3. What are the critical elements necessary to reach the world for Christ in this generation?

Hindrances to Being Involved in The Great Commission

As we consider how we can be involved in the Great Commission, it is possible to become sidetracked by a variety of issues. Match the following possible hindrances to becoming involved with the Scriptural promises.

- | | |
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| 1. I'm not sure I'm willing to be involved. | A. Romans 1: 14-16 |
| 2. Others aren't involved; why should I be involved? | B. Acts 4:12 |
| 3. People will be okay without Christ. | C. 2 Tim. 2:2 |
| 4. The task is too big. I don't know where to begin. | D. Acts 20:24 |
| 5. I'm not qualified. | E. Acts 1:8 |

Evaluation of Personal Involvement in fulfilling The Great Commission

What personal activities am I currently involved in that will help fulfill the Great Commission on my campus?

What specific changes can I make to become more effective? Discuss an area of involvement (Judea, Samaria, and the world) that you would like to be involved in. How can you do this and what particular plan will you follow?