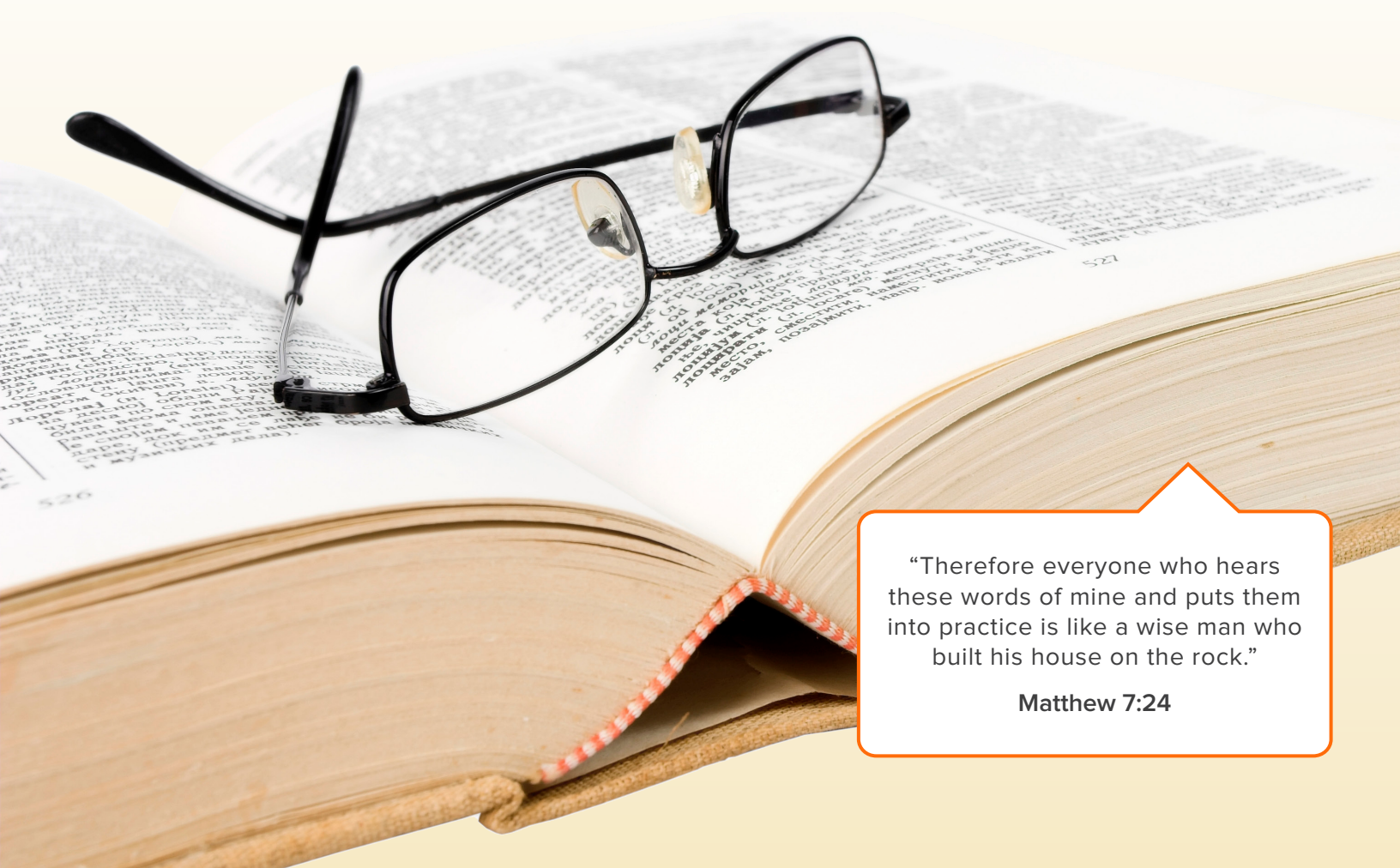


FOUNDATIONS

A BLUEPRINT FOR BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Matthew 7:24

FOUNDATIONS

A BLUEPRINT FOR BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

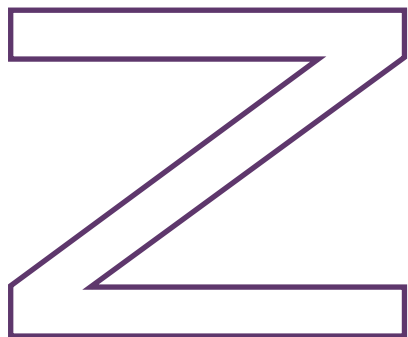
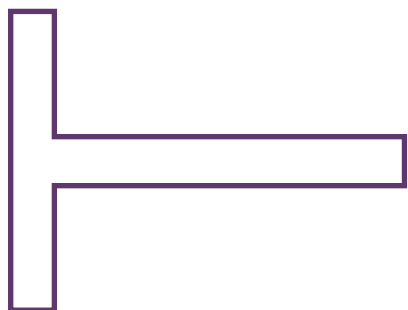
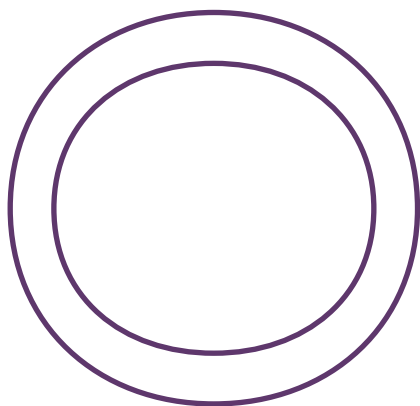


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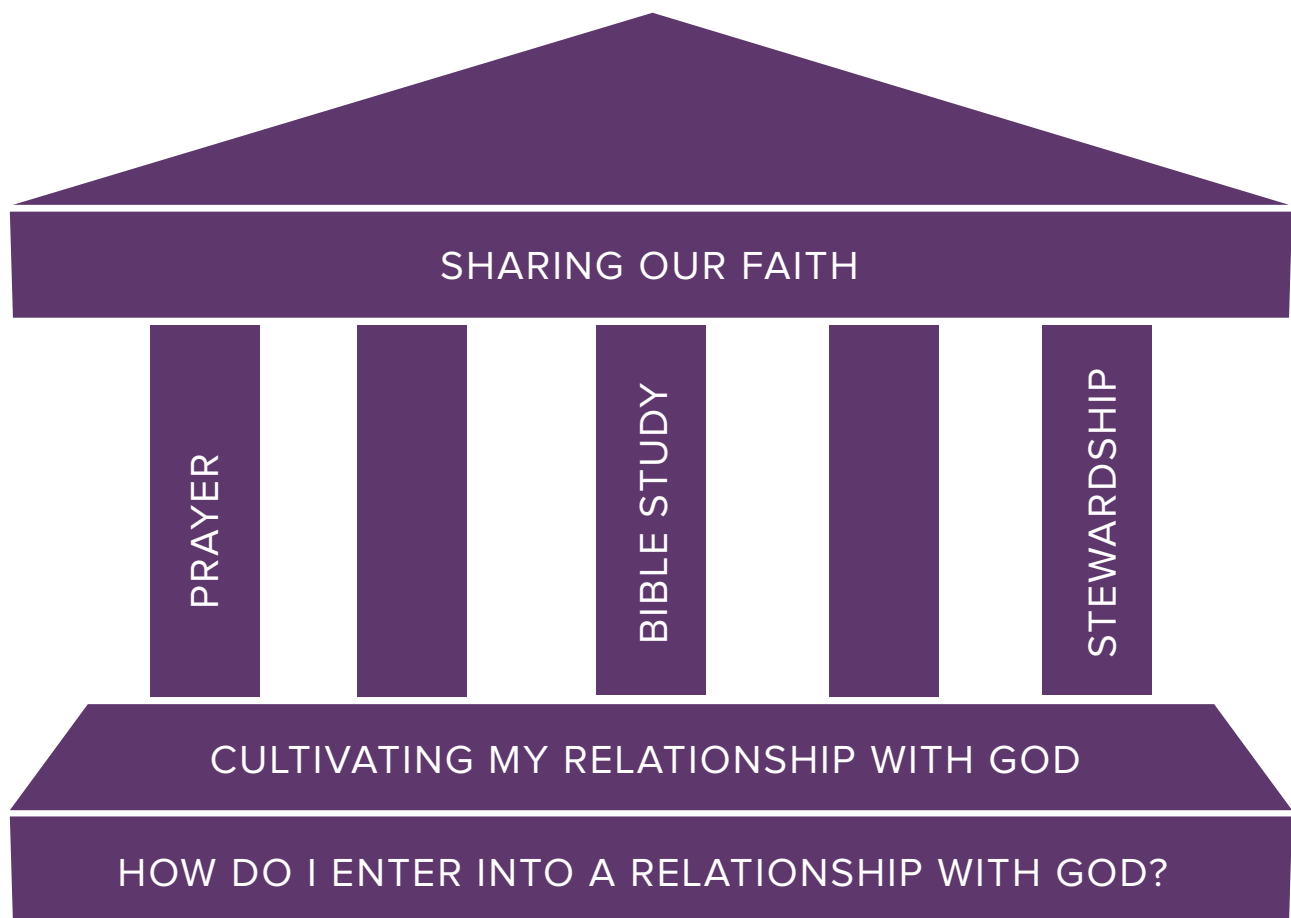


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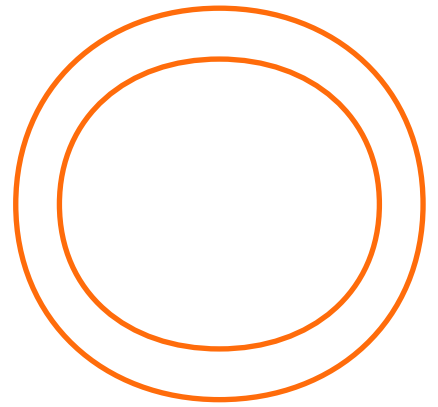
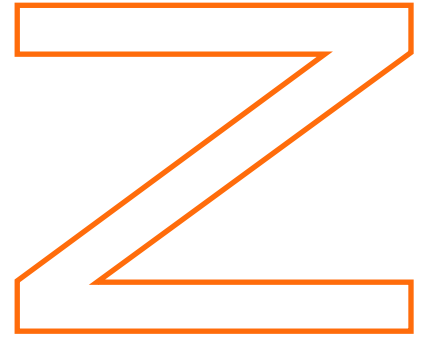
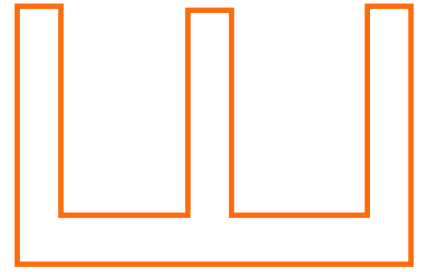
Foundations is a course in basic Christianity. Since the essence of the Christian faith is relating to the infinite, personal God, *Foundations* explores the basic elements in building a relationship with God.

Two Illustrations of Building a Relationship

The Bible uses a picture of a temple or a house to describe a Christian. In 1 Corinthians 3:16, Paul says, “Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” Imagine that building a relationship with God is like building a house. What would the different parts of the house look like?



In the *Foundations* study, there are two parts to the foundation of the house. In Section 1 we explore how to enter into a right relationship with God. In Section 2 we examine the mental attitudes we need in order to cultivate a close relationship with God. Sections 3, 4, and 5 are like the three pillars of the house. They give the house support and structure. These are the activities of prayer (talking with God), Bible reading and Bible study (listening to God), and stewardship (investing in our relationship with God). Section 6 is like the roof of the house, which consists of sharing with others our relationship with God in the context of friendships.



SECTION ONE — Beginning a Relationship with God

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Imagine that you are standing before God.
He asks you in a kind but forceful voice,
"Why should I let you into heaven?"
What would you say?

OVERVIEW

In this Section we want to answer the question,

"How can one enter into a personal relationship with God?"

In the first three chapters, we will examine three key issues:

1. How do we gain acceptance with God?
2. Can acceptance with God be earned?
3. Will God ever reject me?



SECTION 1: CHAPTER 1

How Do We Gain Acceptance With God?

"The most important thing about a person is what comes into his mind when he thinks about God."

A.W. Tozer

Imagine you are given a glass of cold, refreshing water.

Just before you put the glass to your lips you are told that a small drop of cyanide has been added to the water. However, since it is such a small amount of cyanide, you needn't worry. What harm can such a small amount of poison do to a full glass of cool, clear water?

But you know that no matter how small the dose of poison, it contaminates the whole glass of water. In the same way, God cannot allow even a small amount of sin into heaven lest it contaminate the entire place.

To enter into a relationship with God, there are three things we need to know and a decision we need to make. Let's look first at the three things we need to know. We'll look at 1) God's position, what God is like, 2) Our position, what we are like, and 3) God's provision, what He has done.

God's Position – What is God like?

How does God feel or act toward us? What did He do to show His love?

 JOHN 3:16

 Do you think most people see God as a God of love? How do you see God?

What is God like, and what does He require of mankind?

 MATTHEW 5:48

 Why must God require this? Do you think God's expectations are realistic?

Our Condition – What are we like?

How does the Bible describe our condition before God? What do the action words (the verbs) tell us about our condition?

 ROMANS 3:23

 ISAIAH 59:1-2

 What do you think sin is? Do you think most people today consider themselves to be sinners?

What are the consequences of our separation from God? How is the separation described?

 ROMANS 6:23

 2 THESSALONIANS 1:8-9

 Why can't God simply overlook sin? What are the options?

Picture yourself with all of humanity lined up at the rim of a canyon. The only way to get across the one-mile chasm is to jump. The distance you can jump is directly proportional to how many good deeds you have performed.

A mass murderer jumps only one foot and plummets downward. If you are an exceptionally good person, you may be able to jump 25 feet. But this is still far short of the goal.

One by one they try, but fall short of the other side. In the same way, even though some people perform more good deeds than others, all of us fall short of perfection.

"The door of hell is locked on the inside...all who are in hell, choose it...without self-choice there could be no hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. To those who knock it is opened."

C.S. Lewis

"Christianity teaches that when man sinned, God opted for forgiveness rather than fairness. He opted for grace and mercy rather than justice."

Andy Stanley

During the Great Depression, police brought an elderly man before a New York City night court magistrate. The man was starving and had stolen a loaf of bread.

That night Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia was presiding over the court, as he sometimes did to stay close to the citizens. He fined the old man \$10. "The law is the law, and cannot be broken," the mayor said. At the same time, he took a \$10 dollar bill out of his wallet and paid the fine for the old man.

Then LaGuardia cited each person in the courtroom for living in a city that did not help its poor and elderly, unduly tempting them to steal. The mayor fined everyone in the courtroom 50 cents and gave almost \$50 to the amazed defendant. Both justice and love were served when LaGuardia paid the penalty and more for the elderly man.

God's Provision – What has He done?

According to the following verses, what has God done to solve the problem of sin and separation?

 ROMANS 5:6-8

 1 JOHN 4:10

 1 PETER 3:18

 How did this solution solve the problem caused by, 1) God's standard of perfection, and 2) His love for mankind?

Our Decision - What is our response?

We've looked at the three things we need to know. Now let's look at the decision we have to make. To enter into a personal relationship with God we need to transfer our trust from ourselves to Jesus Christ.

What words are used in the Bible to describe what we must do to gain eternal life or acceptance with God?

 JOHN 3:16

 JOHN 1:12

There is much confusion and misunderstanding about the word “believe” (as in “believe” in Christ). The Bible does not use this term in relation to Christ the same way we speak of believing in, for example, George Washington. When so used, believe means nothing more than acknowledgement of the facts of Washington’s existence. But when the Bible speaks of believing in Christ, it is talking about not only acquiring intellectual knowledge or even agreement with the facts, but also volitional commitment (personal trust).

 What level of belief have you embraced?

If you have never made this decision to trust Christ alone for forgiveness and eternal life, you can use this prayer (or something similar) to express your acceptance of God’s greatest gift and to transfer your trust from yourself to Jesus Christ.

Dear God,

*I admit that I have sinned and that my sin separates me from you.
I believe that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for all my sins when he
died on the cross. I receive your free gift of eternal life now, and
thank you for loving and forgiving me.*

I pray this in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

Blondin, the famous 19th century French tightrope walker, successfully crossed Niagara Falls a number of times (an 1100 foot span, 160 feet above the raging waters).

On one occasion Blondin pushed a wheelbarrow across. He then asked how many in the crowd believed he could push the wheelbarrow across with someone in it. The crowd cheered. He then asked, “Does anyone believe enough in me to get in the wheelbarrow and cross Niagara Falls with me?” No one volunteered. Finally, Blondin’s manager climbed on his back and they crossed the great falls together.

The crowd’s belief was purely intellectual, but Blondin’s manager went beyond intellectual assent to personal trust. That’s the kind of faith the Bible says we must have in Christ.

SECTION 1: CHAPTER 2

Can Acceptance With God Be Earned?

"Whether I am talking to Muslims, Hindus or Christians, the majority of the answers I receive to that question, (If God appeared to you and asked, 'Why should I let you into heaven?' how would you answer?) go back to an individual's attempt to live a good life. Why? Because most people believe that good people go to heaven."

Andy Stanley

But how good would be good enough? And who defines good?

What does the Bible say about getting to heaven by doing good works?

 *EPHESIANS 2:8-9*

 *ROMANS 4:4-5*

Upon what basis does God save us?

 *TITUS 3:4-5*

Christianity is radically different from every other world religion. The other religions say "do" and you will get to heaven. Christianity says "done": Christ has already made the provision for an eternal relationship; all we have to do is to receive the free gift. Every other religion puts a relationship with God on a performance standard. If we perform we are accepted; if we don't perform we're rejected. The biblical view is that Christ died for our sins and offers acceptance with God as a free gift; we can't perform to obtain it. Our only response is to place our faith in Christ and his payment for our sins.

 If God's acceptance could be earned, would anyone be absolutely sure of eternal life? Why?

Though we can't earn God's acceptance, does God intend for us to do good deeds?

 EPHESIANS 2:10

Note: The book of Proverbs is a collection of life observations, the way life usually works.

These are not promises, but are generally true.

 What are your motivations for doing good deeds?

What do the following verses offer as additional reasons for living right?

 PROVERBS 3:1-4*

 ISAIAH 3:10

 MATTHEW 5:16

 GALATIANS 6:7-8

SECTION 1: CHAPTER 3

Would God Ever Reject Me?

If we can “lose” our salvation (i.e., relationship with God) then His love is conditional, dependant on our performance. If our relationship is not secure, our performance toward God is motivated out of fear that we might lose His acceptance, and fear never produces intimacy.

But if our relationship is secure, we can be confident that God loves us unconditionally. We are motivated to do good works out of appreciation and gratitude for what He has done for us. But can we know that our relationship is totally secure? In this chapter, we will explore several of the most common objections raised concerning the security of one’s relationship with God.

“Is it possible for me to know now if I am going to heaven when I die?”

What promises are given in the following verses?

 1 JOHN 5:11-13

 JOHN 5:24

“If I commit certain sins, will I be disqualified from receiving eternal life?”

Are certain sins more unforgivable than others?

 MATTHEW 5:21-22, 27-28

How many of our sins are forgiven?

 COLOSSIANS 2:13-14

When God forgives, does He forget or does He hold our sins against us?

 HEBREWS 10:17

 PSALM 103:12

“Who is responsible for keeping my relationship with God secure?”

Do we hold onto God or does He hold onto us?

 JOHN 10:28-29

“What if I enter into a relationship with God but don’t feel different?”

Feelings may or may not accompany this decision. Your relationship with God is based on what God does, and not how you feel. The way we feel does not change what God has done if we have truly received Christ by faith. We must learn not to rely on our emotions, but rather to rely on God and to remember His promises. When we are tempted to doubt the security of this relationship with God, what encouragement does this verse offer?

 ROMANS 8:35-39

 How does the idea of being unconditionally loved and accepted by God, with no possibility of losing that love, make you feel?

The roles of facts, faith, and feelings have been compared to a train.

The train is powered by the engine of facts one must intellectually deal with. The box car contains one’s decision to choose, by faith, what they’re going to do with the information at hand, and the caboose is one’s feelings.

The order is significant. A train will run with or without a caboose. However, it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose.

In the same way, a relationship with God does not depend on feelings or emotions. One must place their faith in the trustworthy facts about God, and the promises from His Word, and then move forward from there.

Review and Application

 In this section we have investigated the Bible's plan for reconciliation and acceptance with God. We saw that our sin is a real problem and cannot be erased just by doing good things. However, once we trust in Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins, the eternal life God gives us cannot be lost. How have the concepts in this section helped in your spiritual journey?

 Which of the following statements describes where you are in regard to the decision-making process? Why?

- ☐ I understand the message, but I haven't made the decision.
- ☐ I have made the decision, but not much has changed.
- ☐ I'm pretty sure I made the decision, I just can't remember when.
- ☐ I made the decision, and I really desire to grow in my relationship with God.
- ☐ I'm involved in a church, but I'm not really sure about my relationship with God.

 Rate your confidence on a scale of 1 to 10: If you were to die tonight, how sure are you about your relationship with God?

Not Sure

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Very Sure

 Who are some people that you care about who might be interested in knowing more about a relationship with God?

Friends & Neighbors

Family

Co-workers

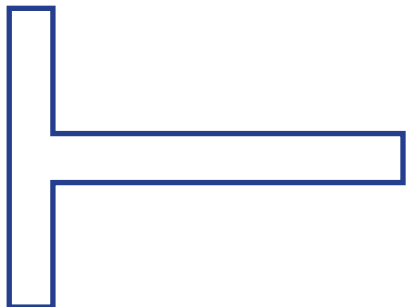
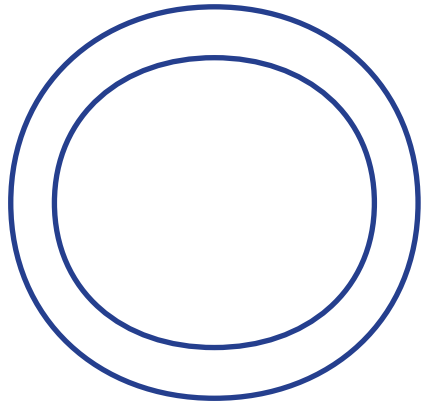
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10

 What are some things that could help this process? What approaches might hinder the process?



SECTION TWO — Cultivating a Relationship with God

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

In the Bible, a relationship with God is likened to a friendship (James 2:23), a marriage (Ephesians 5), master and servant (Ephesians 6), father and child (1 John 3:1-2).

1. In what ways is a relationship with God similar to these relationships? In what ways is it different?

2. What are some ways that people cultivate relationships? How do these principles apply to our relationship with God?

OVERVIEW

In this study we want to answer the question:

How do I cultivate a relationship with God?

In the next four chapters we will examine four principles:

1. The Spirit of God lives in all who believe in Christ.
2. We can live in a moment-by-moment relationship with God.
3. God offers provisions for freedom from sin.
4. We are responsible to actively resist sin.



SECTION 2: CHAPTER 4

The Spirit of God Lives In All Who Believe In Christ

What is the Trinity?

The word trinity comes from two words, tri (three) and unity (one). The word is used to express the idea that God is three co-equal, co-eternal persons who exist as one God. The concept of the trinity is foreshadowed in the Old Testament and assumed in the New Testament.

Biblical Basis

The Father is called God in Romans 1:7.

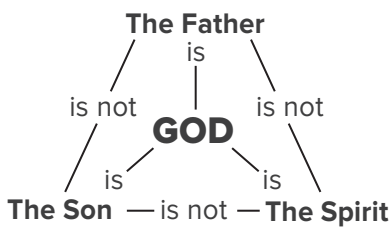
The Son is called God in John 8:57-59, 10:30-33, and Matthew 26:62-66.

The Spirit is called God in Acts 5:3-4.

*“The Lord our God is One”
Deuteronomy 6:4*

All three are mentioned together in Matthew 3:16-17, 28:18-20, John 15:26, and 2 Corinthians 13:14.

An Illustration



Christianity is often described as a personal relationship with God. But this is difficult to understand. How can we carry on a relationship with someone we cannot see, touch, or hear? The disciples felt this same frustration just before Christ's crucifixion. They wondered how they would continue to love Christ and be loved by Him after His death. Jesus answered their question by unveiling a completely new concept: The Spirit of God would live in every believer.

Just before He was crucified, Jesus promised His disciples that He would continue His relationship with them through the Holy Spirit. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit from these verses?

 JOHN 14:16-18

 JOHN 16:7

Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is a Person who is also God Himself. He teaches (John 14:26), He guides (John 16:13), and He speaks (Revelation 2:7). In addition, He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30) and quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

Before Jesus came, the Holy Spirit's job was different than it is today. In the Old Testament, He would "come upon" a person temporarily to help them perform a specific task. But in the New Testament, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would actually come to live inside of all His followers—permanently!

In the physical realm, when God creates a new life, He provides for the well-being of that person. Our “RIBS” protect and support our vital organs. Similarly, God gives us spiritual “RIBS” when we first come to know Jesus. At the moment we believe in Him, we get these benefits of the Holy Spirit’s spiritual protection:

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES	WHAT THAT MEANS	WHERE TO LOOK IT UP
R EGENERATION	We receive God’s new life through an act of spiritual birth – i.e. we are “born again”	John 3:1-7
I NDWELLING	The Spirit comes to live in us permanently	Romans 8:9
B APTISM	We are “identified with” all other believers in Jesus	1 Corinthians 12:13
S EALING	We are kept forever by God as His children, and are protected until we enter heaven	Ephesians 1:13-14

What are some results of having the Holy Spirit in our lives?

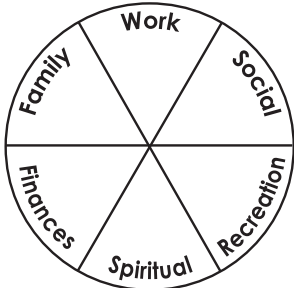
 ACTS 1:8

 GALATIANS 5:22-23

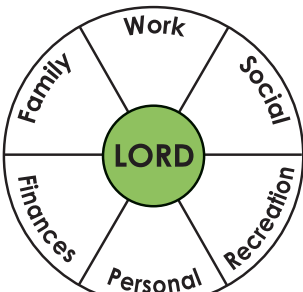
SECTION 2: CHAPTER 5

Live In Moment-by-Moment Fellowship With God

The first circle represents the idea that the spiritual life is just one part of the whole, and may or may not affect any other part.



The second circle represents the idea that Christ is central to every aspect of life.



God desires us to live in moment-by-moment fellowship with Him. Rather than compartmentalizing our faith, He wants our faith to permeate every area: our marriage, our finances, our vocation, our recreation, and our social life. Christ urges us to place Him as the Lord of all that we do. In order for Christ to exercise His leadership, we must adopt four basic attitudes toward God: a decision to serve Him, devotion to Him, dependence on Him, and discipline in relating to Him. A person who has committed himself or herself to these four attitudes can rightly be called Christ's disciple.

An Initial Commitment to Discipleship:

Choose to give your life in service to God. A disciple is an individual who desires to live under the leadership of Christ in all that he or she does. He or she chooses to be devoted, dependent, and disciplined as a lifestyle. How does Paul describe this decision?

 ROMANS 6:13

 ROMANS 12:1

 Evaluate your present commitment to Christ on a scale of 1 to 10.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

A LITTLE

A LOT

 Where would you like to be and what would it take to get there?

The Attitudes of a Disciple:

Devotion is a desire to please God in everything we do and to be relationally close to Him. Devotion is living life with the mindset that we are in a love relationship with the God of the universe. What attitude or mindset does Paul urge us to embrace on a moment-by-moment basis in everything we do?

 ROMANS 12:2

 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

 How would this attitude change your life?

Dependence is the realization that we do not have the ability to live a Christ-like life in our own power and that we need to draw upon the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Dependence is expressed in conscious, moment-by-moment faith in God's power. What word pictures are used to describe our dependence on God?

 GALATIANS 5:16

 EPHESIANS 5:18

"Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and the Master you are serving is Christ."

Colossians 3:23-24

SECTION 2: CHAPTER 5

The meaning of the Greek word “discipline” in 1 Timothy is very instructive. It is derived from “gymnos” from which we get the word gymnasium. In the Greek culture it had the idea of stripping down for the purpose of serious exercise. The spiritual application is clear - we must strip away those encumbrances in life and seriously commit ourselves to the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fellowship, worship and telling others about Christ.

 In what areas are you exercising dependence on God? In what areas are you exercising independence from God?

The Disciplines of a Disciple:

Discipline is 1) sustained obedience to God and 2) the willingness to regularly relate to God in a variety of creative ways such as Bible study, prayer, attending church, and sharing your faith. The motivation for engaging in these disciplines is not a sense of duty or obligation but a sense of love and desire to know Him. What motive did Paul give to Timothy for being disciplined?

 1 TIMOTHY 4:8

 What are some areas in which you are already disciplined? In what other areas do you need more discipline?

What things did the early Church do when they gathered together?

 ACTS 2:41-42

 EPHESIANS 5:19-21

What are the benefits of meeting together as fellow-believers in Christ?

 *HEBREWS 3:13; 10:24*

 *1 THESSALONIANS 5:11*

 *ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12*

 *MATTHEW 18:19-20*

 What are some benefits of meeting in a small group of believers that do not occur in a large group?

 What are some benefits of meeting in a large group of believers that do not normally occur in a small group?

SECTION 2: CHAPTER 6

God's Provision For Freedom From Sin

"Sin is the unwillingness of man to acknowledge his creatureliness and dependence upon God and his effort to make his own life independent and secure."

Reinhold Niebuhr

"You can't keep a bird from flying over your head, but you can keep him from building a nest in your hair."

Martin Luther

Take some time to think through the patterns of your temptations...

[only share what you are comfortable with]

The third principle in cultivating a growing relationship with God is to rely on Him for increasing freedom from the domination of sin. We do this through depending on the power of the Holy Spirit

The Nature of Sin

How would you define sin according to the following verses?

 MATTHEW 5:22, 27-28

Is there a difference between temptation and sin?

 HEBREWS 4:15

The Sources of Sin

What are the three elements of the "world" that we are supposed to avoid?

 1 JOHN 2:15-17

The Pattern of Temptation

According to the following passage, how does temptation develop into sin?

 JAMES 1:13-15

 What is an area of struggle for you? What patterns do you observe?

The Provision for Spiritual Victory: God's Resources

Examine the resources we have for defeating sin and temptation. Is sin inevitable?

 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

What is the basis for victory?

 GALATIANS 2:20

How should we see ourselves in regard to sin? What should we avoid?

 ROMANS 6:11-13

How does Jesus Christ help?

 HEBREWS 4:14—16

How does the Bible help?

 PSALM 119:9—11

 When facing temptation, how can these resources be helpful?

"This book will keep
you from sin, or sin
will keep you from
this book"

For all have sinned
and come short of
the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

SECTION 2: CHAPTER 7

We Need To Actively Resist Sin

C.S. Lewis

Excerpts from the preface to *The Screwtape Letters*

The commonest question is whether I really “believe in the Devil.” Now, if by “the Devil” you mean a power opposite to God and, like God, self-existent from all eternity, the answer is certainly No. There is no uncreated being except God. God has no opposite. No being could attain a “perfect badness” opposite to the perfect goodness of God; for when you have taken away every kind of good thing (intelligence, will, memory, energy, and existence itself) there would be none of him left.

The proper question is whether I believe in devils. I do. That is to say, I believe in angels, and I believe that some of these, by the abuse of their free will, have become enemies to God and, as a corollary, to us. These we may call devils. They do not differ in nature from good angels, but their nature is depraved. Devil is the opposite of angel only as Bad Man is the opposite of Good Man. Satan, the leader or dictator of devils, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael (the Archangel).

A helpful acronym to remember concerning spiritual warfare is RESIST. Use the Response Area to reflect on the personal implications of these verses.

Resist Satan:

-  We must make a conscious decision to resist Satan and his influence in our lives (James 4:7, Ephesians 6:12-13)

Examine Satan’s Tactics:

-  We cannot afford to be ignorant of his schemes and methods (2 Corinthians 2:11).

Shun Possible Sources of Temptation:

-  Flee from things or situations that might promote evil thoughts or actions (2 Timothy 2:22).

Interact with other Believers:

-  No believer in Christ can survive as an island. We need each other's fellowship and encouragement (Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25).

Sustain Fellowship with God:

-  Communicate with God through studying His word, praying, and meditating on that which is good (Psalm 119:11, Galatians 5:16, Philippians 4:8-9). Confess to God when you become aware that you have sinned. A proper response to God will allow fellowship to be restored so growth can continue (1 John 1:5, James 5:16, Hebrews 10:17).

Take Satan Seriously:

-  He is very real and we must never minimize his power to affect our lives (1 Peter 5:8-9).

C.S. Lewis

Excerpts from the preface to The Screwtape Letters

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.

SECTION 2: CHAPTER 7

When God forgives he casts our sins into an infinitely deep sea, and then posts a sign, "NO FISHING."

The Promise of Forgiveness

When we neglect God's Resources or we fail to RESIST and sin results, how do we get back on track?

 1 JOHN 1:9

 PSALM 32:3-5

When we admit the truth about our sins, how does God respond?

 PSALM 103:8-14



Review and Application

 This Section (chapters 4-7) has introduced: the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, the importance of living a life that glorifies God, avoiding sin, and receiving forgiveness. Which of these will have the greatest impact on your life?

 As you seek to glorify God on a daily basis and live a life demonstrating the commitment, attitudes, and disciplines of a disciple, how would it change the perception others have of you...

...at work?

...among family?

...in your neighborhood?

...in your recreation or hobbies?

...in your social or civic activities?

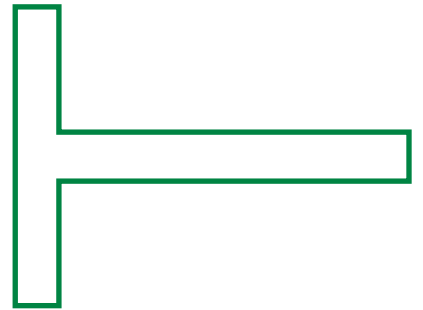
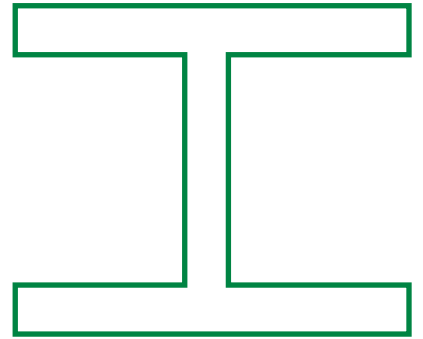
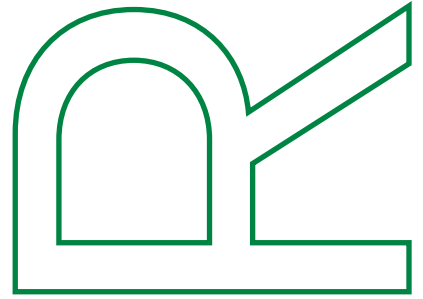
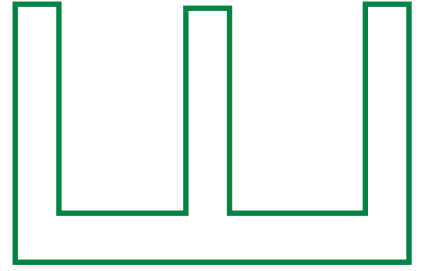
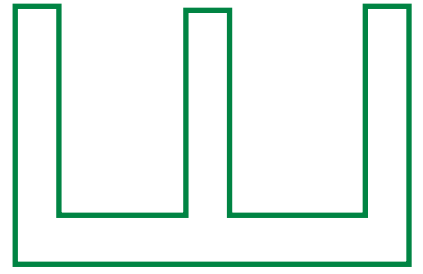
...at your local church?

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:16



SECTION THREE — Communicating with God (Prayer)

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Here are some common obstacles people face when they pray. Do any of the following statements describe your feelings about prayer?

- “I find it difficult to stay alert in prayer; I start daydreaming.”
- “I get discouraged when I pray and don’t get a quick answer.”
- “I sometimes feel that when I pray no one is listening.”
- “Why is it so hard for me to consistently take time to pray?”
- “Does prayer seem difficult for everyone or just me?”
- “I don’t feel like my prayers accomplish anything.”
- “If God is all knowing, can’t He read my mind?”

Can you give examples of answered prayer in your life?

OVERVIEW

In this Section we want to answer the question,

“How do I communicate with God?”

Over the next two chapters we will examine five ideas:

1. The Purpose: *Why should we pray?*
2. The Pattern: *What kinds of prayers should we pray?*
3. The Plan: *When should we pray?*
4. The Problems: *What attitudes hinder our prayers?*
5. The People: *For whom should we pray?*



SECTION 3: CHAPTER 8

Why And How Should I Pray?

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His highest willingness."

Archbishop Trench

"Whatever else it may be, prayer is first and foremost an act of love."

Brennan Manning

"Other things are necessary, but prayer is indispensable."

Robert Coleman

"Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer."

John Bunyan

The Purpose: Why should I pray?

God longs for us to relate to Him as our heavenly Father. The main purpose of prayer is to cultivate a close personal relationship with God as our Father. What do these verses tell us about why we should pray?

 *PROVERBS 15:8*

 *HEBREWS 4:14-16*

 *MATTHEW 7:7-11*

 Which of these areas motivate you most to pray?

The Pattern: What kinds of prayer should we pray?

What should we include when we pray? One of the ways to put prayer into practice is to have a plan that gives structure to your time of prayer. One such plan is called C.A.S.T. This is an acrostic which stands for Confession, Adoration, Supplication, and Thanksgiving.

Confession:

Confession is acknowledging sin as God sees it. As we saw in the previous lesson, confession is necessary for spiritual growth. We discovered these truths:

 *PSALM 32:3-5 - There is no spiritual growth when we have unconfessed sin in our lives.*

 *1 JOHN 1:9 - When we confess, God does forgive.*

Take some time to reflect on your thoughts and actions over the past few days. Ask God to reveal to you any areas of unconfessed sins. Acknowledge them to God and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Adoration:

According to the following verses, what are some of the things for which we can praise God?

 *REVELATION 4:11*

 *REVELATION 5:9*

 What are some things for which you adore God?

*Cast all your
anxiety on Him
because he cares
for you.*

1 Peter 5:7

*Cast your cares
on the LORD and
he will sustain you;
he will never let the
righteous fall.*

Psalms 55:22

"Effective, fervent, bold prayer takes heaven by storm. Such communication with the Almighty is the slender venue that moves the muscles of omnipotence."

Chuck Swindoll

Supplication:

Supplication is letting our requests be known to God. The following verses encourage us to do this. How specific and personal do you think He wants us to be? What result can we expect when we do make our requests known to God?

 *PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7*

 *MATTHEW 6:11*

 What are some things you are requesting from God?

Thanksgiving:

When should we give thanks to God?

 *2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-15*

 *1 THESSALONIANS 5:18*

 What are some things for which you can thank God?

SECTION 3: CHAPTER 9

When and For Whom Should I Pray?

"The moment you wake up in the morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; on listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in."

C.S. Lewis

The Plan: When should I pray?

What principles can we formulate about when to pray by looking at the timing of Jesus' prayers, and Paul's instructions for prayer?

 *MARK 1:35*

 *LUKE 5:15-16*

 *LUKE 6:12-13*

 *LUKE 22:39-46*

 *1 THESSALONIANS 5:17*

 In what areas would you like to improve your prayer life?

The People: For whom should we pray?

 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

 EPHESIANS 6:18

 COLOSSIANS 4:2-4

 MATTHEW 9:37-38

 ROMANS 10:1

"There is nothing
that makes us love
a person so much as
to pray for them."

Richard Sibbes

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16

The Problems: What attitudes hinder our prayers?

What are some of the attitudes that cause our prayers to be ineffective?

 *PSALM 66:18*

 *MATTHEW 5:23-24*

 *JAMES 4:2-3*

 *1 PETER 3:7*

 *1 JOHN 3:22*

Prayer Guide

A simple prayer guide will give you a simple way to follow a plan. After using this one for a few weeks, design one that meets your specific needs.

Sunday

Self
Spiritual Growth
Greater love and commitment to the Lord
Others
The church and other ministries
My local church
Other churches
Other Christian Ministries
Educational institutions
Special Concerns
My activities for the day
Other items for prayer:

Monday

Self
Need for wisdom
Wisdom for living life
Renewal of my mind
Others
Family
My immediate family
My relatives
The salvation of family members
Special concerns
My activities for the day
Other items for prayer:

Tuesday

Self
Spiritual insights
Understanding and insight in the word
Understanding my identity in Christ
Who I am
Where I came from
Why I am here
The leading of the Lord
Insight into God's will
Others
Believers
Personal friends
People in the ministry
The oppressed around the world
Special concerns
My activities for the day
Other items for prayer

Wednesday

Self
Relationships with others
Greater love and compassion for others
Loved ones
The lost
Those in need
Others
Evangelism
Friends
Neighbors
Associates
Special opportunities
Special concerns
My activities for the day
Other items for prayer:

Thursday

Self
Faithfulness as a steward
With my time
With my talents
With my treasure
Others
Government
Local Government
State Government
National Government
Current events and concerns
Special concerns
My activities for the day
Other items for prayer:

Friday

Self
The Lord's enablement in...
My family
Ministry
Evangelism
Discovery and development of spiritual gifts
Career
Others
Missions
Local Government
State Government
National Government
Current events and concerns
Special concerns
My activities for the day
Other items for prayer:

Saturday

Self
Personal concerns
Spiritual victory
Over the world
Over the flesh
Over the devil
Continuous personal growth

Personal discipline
Physical health and strength
Others
World affairs
The poor and the hungry
The oppressed and persecuted
Those in authority

Peace among the nations
Current events and concerns
Special concerns
My activities for the day
Other items for prayer:

Review and Application

"Rejoice always;
pray without
ceasing; in
everything give
thanks; for this is
God's will for you in
Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians
5:16-18

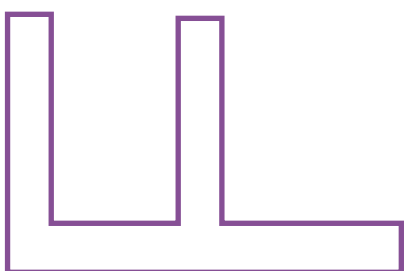
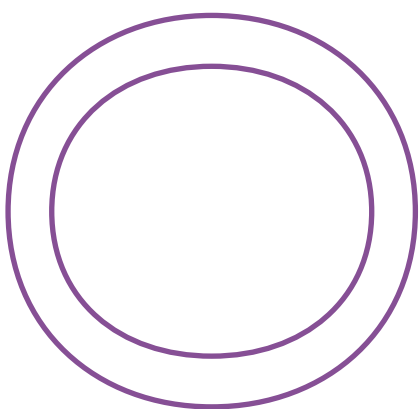
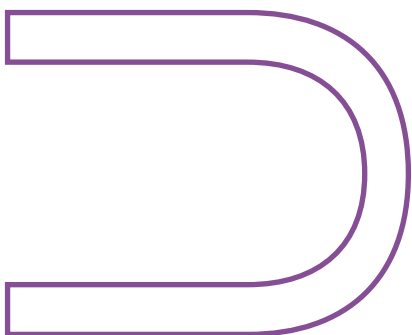
When are best times for you to pray?

The following *prayer log* and a *prayer guide* are two simple ways of beginning to develop the discipline of prayer in your life.

A Prayer Log helps keep track of the people and concerns that you are praying for. List the names of people you care about that need your prayers. Be sure to include yourself and your concerns.

DATE REQUESTED	PERSON YOU'LL PRAY FOR	WHAT IS YOUR REQUEST IN PRAYER?	WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER?	DATE ANSWERED

DATE REQUESTED	PERSON YOU'LL PRAY FOR	WHAT IS YOUR REQUEST IN PRAYER?	WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER?	DATE ANSWERED



SECTION FOUR — Listening to God (Bible Study)

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

With which of the following statements about studying the Bible do you most identify?

- “I just don’t know how.”
- “I just never get to it.”
- “There isn’t enough time.”
- “Devotions become boring.”
- “I get enough Bible study at church.”
- “I can’t understand the Bible.”
- “I’d like to read it more often.”
- “It just doesn’t seem relevant to my daily struggles.”

Why do you think people find it hard to read the Bible? What makes it difficult for you?

OVERVIEW

Communication is critical to maintain any relationship. In our last section, we learned how to communicate with God through prayer. This section will focus on how God communicates with us – through Bible reading and Bible study. We will examine the following areas:

1. Why should I study the Bible?
2. Getting into the Bible: *Reflective Reading*
3. Going deeper: *Bible Study*



SECTION 4: CHAPTER 10

Why Should I Study The Bible?

"Inside the Bible's pages lie all the answers to all the problems man has ever known. I hope Americans will read and study the Bible. It is my firm belief that the enduring values presented in its pages have a great meaning for each of us and for our nation. The Bible can touch our hearts, order our minds, and refresh our souls."

Ronald Reagan

The Benefits of Bible Study

Bible reading and study have the potential to produce the following characteristics in our lives.

Adequacy: What four ways does God use Bible study in our lives? What is the result?

 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

What are the benefits of being a student of the Bible?

 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Take a moment to read Psalm 1. In the first three verses:

- What three things does a wise person avoid?
- What two things does a wise person do?
- What picture is used to portray a wise person and what's the point?

 PSALM 1:1-3

Insight:

How does the metaphor used in the following verse describe the insight the Bible offers?

 HEBREWS 4:12

 Which of the benefits do you consider most valuable? Why?

The Response to Bible Study

What kinds of attitudes do we need to embrace toward God's word in order for it to produce the character qualities described above?

 JAMES 1:21-25

 1 PETER 2:1-2

 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

 What are you doing with what you have learned so far?

INSIGHT:

The "Law" was the Bible for the writers of Psalms.

The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.

Mark Twain

SECTION 4: CHAPTER 11

Getting into the Bible: Reflective Reading

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Looking through the lens of these “SPECS” will help you find a key thought for the day.

Sins to Forsake:

Does the passage list any sinful actions or attitudes we should avoid? Does it list any sins of omission we should be aware of?

Promises to Claim:

Does the passage contain any promises that we can lay hold of for our work, family, relationships with others, or relationship with God?

Examples to Follow:

Errors to Avoid: In historical sections there may be few direct instructions or commands, but there will be many examples of faith to follow and errors to avoid.

Commands to obey:

Are there any commands in the passage? How do these commands apply to us today in general, and to you specifically?

Summary thought for today:

Are there any principles in the passage that seem to directly apply to a current dilemma or problem?

Bible Reading

As we begin to open the Bible, it is helpful to differentiate between *Bible Reading* and *Bible Study*. While we would encourage *Bible Reading* on a daily basis, *Bible Study* takes more time, and will be covered in the next chapter.

The goal in Bible Reading should be to take away **one main point** from the passage you are reading to help you throughout the day. When you sit down to read, ask God to give you an open heart to His will, and apply the passages appropriately. Start by reading the passage. It can be useful to have a pen or highlighter to mark up verses that seem significant to you today. Here is an example from the first chapter of Philippians. After reading it, we will practice with the fourth chapter of Philippians.

EXAMPLE: Philippians 1:1-9 (New Living Translation)

¹ This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. It is written to all of God's people in Philippi, who believe in Christ Jesus, and to the elders and deacons. ² May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

*³ Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ I always pray for you, and I make my requests with a heart full of joy ⁵ because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. **⁶ And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.** ⁷ It is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a very special place in my heart. We have shared together the blessings of God, both when I was in prison and when I was out, defending the truth and telling others the Good News. ⁸ God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding.*

 What one thought do you take away from this passage?

I can claim the promise that God who began a good work in me is going to continue to work in me until I'm finished. He's not going to give up on me.

Your Turn

Philippians 4:1-9 (New Living Translation)

¹ Dear brothers and sisters, I love you and long to see you, for you are my joy and the reward for my work. So please stay true to the Lord, my dear friends.

² And now I want to plead with those two women, Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. ³ And I ask you, my true teammate, to help these women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. And they worked with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

⁴ Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! ⁵ Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. ⁹ Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.

 What is one thought that you can take away from this passage and think about today?

HINT: Several of the short New Testament books (“epistles” means “letters”) are heavy on theological instruction in the early chapters and full of life instruction in the later chapters.

Don't be afraid to use a pen or highlighter to mark verses that are meaningful to you today. Some Bibles have large enough margins to write notes on the side. Some people find it helpful to keep these daily notes in a separate journal.

Open my eyes to
see the wonderful
truths in your law.

Psalms 119:18

"I have made it
my practice every
year for several
years to read
through the Bible."

John Adams

(2nd President of the
United States)

SECTION 4: CHAPTER 11

Suggestions for Regular Bible Reading

1. Start small – and grow into this process
2. Start with a plan which works for you
 - Start with small books in the New Testament. Philippians is only 4 chapters, but is loaded with practical insights into Godly living. Galatians and Ephesians are only 6 chapters long. These New Testament Epistles are full of “SPECS.” For a general overview of the sections of the Bible, see the chart on the next page.
 - There are 31 chapters in Proverbs. Read the chapter that corresponds to today’s date.
 - By reading only five chapters a week, you can read the entire New Testament in 1 year (see appendix for plan)
 - By reading 3-5 chapters a day, you can read through the entire Bible in 1 year.
3. Use a Bible translation or paraphrase that you enjoy – for a quick introduction to the various translations, see the “Gamut of Translations” chart in the appendix.
4. Don’t get bored with this – if your plan isn’t working, change your plan!
5. Find a “Reading Buddy” – someone who will encourage you to keep reading.
6. Some people have found it helpful to acquire an audio bible. They are easily available in CD and MP3 formats, and are included in many free bible apps. Be creative! Look for ways to spend time with the bible every day, even for just a few minutes.

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written by more than 40 authors over a period of at least 1500 years. It can be a pretty daunting volume. The following charts on the next page show a general overview of the Bible.

Old Testament – 39 Books

17 HISTORICAL BOOKS “Past Events”		15 POETICAL BOOKS “Present Experience”	17 PROPHETICAL BOOKS “Future Expectation”	
<i>Torah or Law: 5 Books</i>	<i>Historical: 12 Books</i>	<i>Wisdom: 5 Books</i>	<i>Major Prophets: 5 Books</i>	<i>Minor Prophets: 12 Books</i>
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Song of Solomon Ecclesiastes	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
<i>The Old Testament historical books record the history of Israel, the nation chosen by God. The Torah or “Books of Moses” describe the origin of the nation and the Law by which it will live. The rest of the historical books record the successes and failures of the nation to live by God’s law.</i>		<i>Wisdom literature observes the way life usually works, wrestles with the notable exceptions, and encourages a God-centered way of living.</i>	<i>The prophets call on the nation of Israel and its neighbors to reject the sinful ways of the world and turn back to God. They predict future judgments when God will right the wrongs of the nations, and establish His righteous rule.</i>	

New Testament –27 Books

5 HISTORICAL BOOKS “Past Events”		13 LETTERS WRITTEN BY PAUL “Present Experience”		9 LETTERS WRITTEN BY OTHERS “Future Expectation”	
<i>History of Jesus’ Ministry</i>	<i>History of the Early Church</i>	<i>9 Letters to Churches</i>	<i>4 Letters to Individuals</i>	<i>8 General Letters</i>	<i>Apocalyptic Letter</i>
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians	1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2, & 3 John Jude	Revelation
<i>The Gospels record the main teachings of Jesus, and the story of his life, ministry, death, and resurrection.</i>	<i>Acts records the ministries of Peter, Paul, and others as Christianity spread across the Roman empire.</i>	<i>These letters from Paul, Peter, John and others take the life and teachings of Jesus and explain the implications for our concept of God, our relationship with God, and our relationships with others.</i>		<i>John’s apocalyptic vision describes a coming final judgment and a glimpse into the new creation.</i>	

SECTION 4: CHAPTER 12

A Method for Studying The Bible

"Even though this is an age of do-it-yourself (anything from house building to haircutting) it still remains necessary to plead that Christians do Bible study for themselves. One thing may be promised with assurance to the person who studies the Bible for himself; he will find out truths about God which nobody has ever told him."

John B. Job

How to Study the Bible

Basic Bible study consists of a four step process:

- Preparation: Getting oriented to the passage.
- Observation: What does the passage say?
- Interpretation: What does the passage mean?
- Application: How does the passage apply to my life?

1. Preparation

As you begin your time in Bible Study, open with a prayer like this:

Lord, as I begin studying your word, give me an open heart that yields to your will. Help me to apply your wisdom to my life appropriately.

2. Observation

Start by reading the passage. We will practice with Luke 5:27-32. Read the passage twice. Then read it a third time slowly. Become familiar with it. (This passage is reprinted on the next page).

Look for what is there.

Observation means that you find what is obvious. Take the pressure off yourself to interpret. Look for what is there before you look for what it means. Look at the verses and ask yourself these questions one at a time. It will help to have pen and paper handy to jot down what you find. Remember that as you ask these questions, some will be unanswerable now. Write these down. You can address these later.

The key to observation is to ask the 5 W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why? Here are some ideas of the kind of things to look for when observing a passage.

WHO	WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	WHY
• Who are the key figures in the passage? God? The readers? A historical figure? A group? • What are these key figures like? How are they described?	• What is the passage talking about? What is the subject of the passage? • What is the story line or the thought flow of the passage? What are the events, and in what order do they happen? • What do the key words in the passage mean?	• Where is the action occurring? In a geographical-historical place? In heaven? In the minds and hearts of the readers?	• When is the action occurring? In history? Before history? In the future? Before or after a particular event?	• What reasons are given in the passage for the action that is occurring or for the assertions of the passage? • What reasons are given for commands, promises, or principles?

EXAMPLE: Luke 5:17-26 (New Living Translation)

¹⁷ One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus. ¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to push through the crowd to Jesus,¹⁹ but they couldn't reach him. So they went up to the roof, took off some tiles, and lowered the sick man down into the crowd, still on his mat, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ²¹ "Who does this man think he is?" the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to each other. "This is blasphemy! Who but God can forgive sins?" ²² Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you think this is blasphemy?" ²³ Is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ I will prove that I, the Son of Man, have the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, take your mat, and go on home, because you are healed!" ²⁵ And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped to his feet, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe. And they praised God, saying over and over again, "We have seen amazing things today."

 Write your observations below.

Who?

Jesus – teacher, forgiver, healer

Paralyzed man – invalid, grateful to God

Friends of paralyzed – had faith, determined, loyal

Pharisees – skeptical of Jesus

The crowd – believed, amazed, gave glory to God

What?

"Jesus heals a paralyzed man"

Order of events:

1. Jesus was teaching and healing.
2. Some men went to great effort to bring a paralyzed man to see Jesus and be healed.
3. Jesus saw their faith and forgave the sins of the man (but didn't heal him).
4. The Pharisees thought he was blasphemous for "forgiving sins" (only God can forgive...).
5. Jesus healed the man physically – claiming that he had the right to forgive sins.
6. "Everyone" was amazed and gave glory to God.

When? During Jesus' ministry

Where? In a crowded house, through the roof of the house

Why? Jesus forgives the paralyzed man because of the faith of his friends

Key Words:

Blasphemy: expressing disrespect for God or for something sacred

Pharisee: (from online dictionary) The Pharisees were a Jewish sect from the second century B.C. to the first century A.D. They considered the entire Old Testament to be authoritative, unlike the Sadducees who only accepted the first five books. The Pharisees believed in life after death, the resurrection, the existence of angels and demons, and that the way to God was through keeping the law. "According to Josephus, the Pharisees were the group most influential with the people, were noted for their accurate and therefore authoritative interpretations of Jewish law, and had their own traditions and way of life to which they were faithful. They had a simple standard of living and cultivated harmonious relations with others."

SECTION 4: CHAPTER 12

Luke 5:27-32 (New American Standard Bible)

²⁷ *After that He went out and noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me."*

²⁸ *And he left everything behind, and got up and began to follow Him.*

²⁹ *And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other people who were reclining at the table with them.*

³⁰ *The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?"*

³¹ *And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.*

³² *"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*

 Write your observations below. See the examples on the previous page for ideas of questions to think about, but don't be limited by them (Who, What, When, Where, Why).

3. Interpretation

Interpretation asks the question, “What does the passage mean?” In order to understand the meaning of a passage, we need to find out ***what the author intended for his original readers to understand***. Content, context, and comparison are essential to understanding the author’s intended meaning.

Content – *Know what is in the passage*

You are most of the way toward understanding by just spending time observing the content of the passage. The key to interpretation is observation! The better you know what the passage actually says, the more accurate your interpretation will be.

Context – *Learn what is around the passage.*

What comes immediately before and after the passage you are studying? Knowing the context solves many other problems in interpretation.

EXAMPLE: ✎ What comes before and after Luke 5:17-26?

*Before – Jesus recruits his first disciples, and heals a man with Leprosy.
After – Jesus recruits Levi (a tax collector) to follow him. Jesus eats with him and other sinners.*

✎ What comes before and after Luke 5:27-32?

Going Deeper...

Another Key “C” of interpretation is understanding the culture of the Bible. Especially here, a tool called a Bible Dictionary is really useful. They can be found in any Christian bookstore. Also, several web sites provide Bible dictionaries.

Culture – *Learn the cultural and historical setting of the passage.*

Because the stories in the Bible are set in a different time and place, there will be terms, titles, places, and customs that will seem unfamiliar.

Find a Bible dictionary and look up the foreign terms in the passage, like scribes, Pharisees, tax-gatherers, and disciples.

How does this information affect your knowledge of this passage?

Comparison – *Learn from other relevant passages.*

“The Bible is its own best commentary.”

Most “Study Bibles” have verses in the margins or at the bottom of the page that are related to the verse you are studying. These are called *cross-references*. Cross-references point you to other passages that are related to this verse. Sometimes they are related by topic, sometimes by a key word, and sometimes they are references to another telling of the same story.

If your Bible has cross-references, list the passages that relate to verse 27. (*Common cross-references include: Mark 2:13, Matthew 9:9*)

 Does any new information come to light?

THE GOAL: “What did the original author intend for his original readers to understand?”

EXAMPLE:  From Luke 5:17-26, what do you think Luke wanted his readers to understand?

Luke wanted his readers to know that Jesus was claiming to be more than just a good teacher and healer. He wanted them to understand that a person's spiritual condition is more important than their physical condition.

He may have wanted to show that a believer's faith may play a role in the spiritual healing of a friend.

 From Luke 5:27-32, what do you think Luke wanted his readers to understand?

4. Application

 According to James 1:21-25, what should happen as a result of Bible study?

In chapter 11 we introduced the “SPECS” used to see personal application from scripture. After thorough study on a Bible passage, the same SPECS can be used to look at the passage, your observations, and the universal truths uncovered in the Interpretation stage.

Please Note – Most passages will have 1 or 2 and few will have more. Not all passages will have all SPECS.

In Bible Reading we emphasized taking away one idea each day. After studying the passage, several applications may emerge. This time, write them all down. Underline them, or highlight them, or note them in the margins.

EXAMPLE:  Clarify: What is a specific way that you can apply what you have learned from Luke 5:17-26

Sins to Forsake: *None*

Promises to Claim: *None*

Examples to Follow:

- *The companions of the paralyzed man sought healing for their friend.*
- *After Jesus healed him, the man gave glory to God.*
- *Everyone who witnessed this healing also gave praise to God.*

Commands to Obey: *None*

Summary Thought for Today: *I need to have the faith that God will heal me...especially my sins!*

SECTION 4: CHAPTER 12

Sins to Forsake: Does the passage list any sinful actions or attitudes we should avoid? Does it list any sins of omission we should be aware of?

Promises to Claim: Does the passage contain any promises that we can lay hold of for our work, family, relationships with others, or relationship with God?

Examples to Follow: Errors to Avoid: In historical sections there may be few direct instructions or commands, but there will be many examples of faith to follow and errors to avoid.

Commands to Obey: Are there any commands in the passage? How do these commands apply to us today in general, and to you specifically?

Summary Thought for Today: Are there any principles in the passage that seem to directly apply to a current dilemma or problem?

 **Clarify:** What is a specific way that you can apply what you have learned from Luke 5:27-32?

Sins to Forsake:

Promises to Claim:

Examples to Follow:

Commands to Obey:

Summary Thought for Today:



All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.

1 Peter 2:1-2

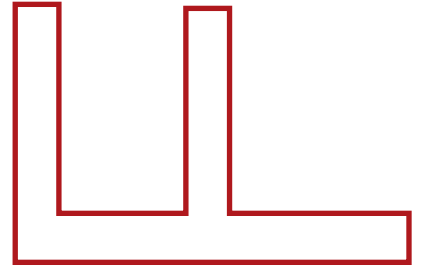
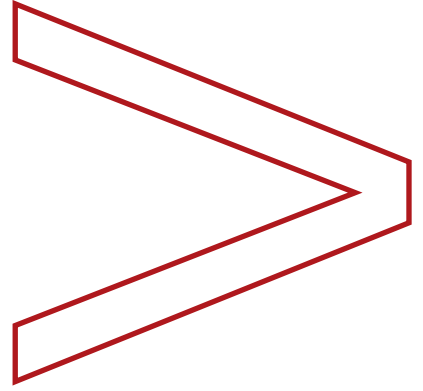
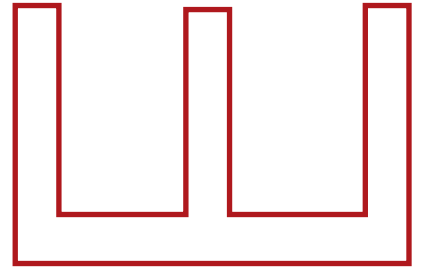
Review and Application

-  How much time do you think is realistic for you to spend each day reading the Bible? What can you do to incorporate Bible study into your life and schedule?

-  The major theme of the Bible is the restoration of the relationship between God and man. How does this affect your view of those who do not possess this relationship?

-  The insights we receive from the Bible are meant for a dual purpose: they are meant to be applied to our own personal relationship with God. But they were never intended to stop there. We must also communicate what we've learned to others who need to hear the results of our study. Who do you know that needs to hear the message of the Bible and what questions are they struggling with that you can help them answer?

PERSON	QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH



SECTION FIVE — Investing for Eternity

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If you had to leave the country and needed someone to manage your affairs, what characteristics would you look for?
2. At the end of your life, what would you like to be able to say about the impact of your life through your time, talents, and treasure?

OVERVIEW

In this Section we want to answer the question,

"How can I be a good steward of the resources that God has entrusted to me?"

We will examine four issues:

1. Acknowledge who owns all you possess.
2. Assess your resources.
3. Adopt an eternal perspective.
4. Act generously.



SECTION 5: CHAPTER 13

Self-Inventory

If you want:

A one-year return on your investment, plant grain.

A ten-year return on your investment, plant a tree.

An eternal return on your investment, plant people.

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

Jim Elliott

"Stewardship is the use of God-given resources for the accomplishment of God-given goals."

Ron Blue

Acknowledge who owns all you possess.

Each of us is a steward – a trustee. A steward is a manager of another person's affairs. He isn't the owner, but he will be held responsible for them as if they were his own.

Because God is the creator, what does He own?

 PSALM 24:1

Who owns us and why?

 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

What should be our attitude toward all that we have?

 1 CORINTHIANS 4:2

 JOB 1:20-21

The biblical perspective on stewardship is that everything we have (money and possessions) and everything we are (intelligence, gifts, natural abilities) is entrusted to us by God. He ultimately deserves the credit and thanks for all these things.

 If you embraced this concept of stewardship, how would it affect what you do with what you have been given?

 Assess your resources

As stewards, God will hold us responsible for how we handle four primary assets: time, talents, treasure, and God's truth.

First Asset: *Time*

Examine the following verses and the perspective they give us about time. Notice that in each of these passages the word wisdom is used in connection with the use of time. Based upon these verses, how should we use our time?

 PSALM 90:12

 EPHESIANS 5:15-17

 COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

"As if you could kill
time without injuring
eternity."

**Henry David
Thoreau**

"This time, like all
times, is a very good
one, if we but know
what to do with it."

**Ralph Waldo
Emerson**

"Dost thou love
life? Then do not
squander time. For
that's the stuff life
is made of."

Benjamin Franklin

The Bible has over 500 verses on the subject of prayer, over 500 verses on the subject of faith, but over 2300 verses on the subject of money and material possessions.

*"I've got it all folks,
and it's nowhere."*
John Lennon

Second Asset: *Talents*

Although the talents of this parable refer to money, a broader understanding applies to more than just monetary assets. One application of this passage can refer to the use of our natural abilities. What is the main point of this story?

 MATTHEW 25:14-29

 Think through your talents or natural abilities and list them.

 Apply this parable to yourself: what do you think it means for you to invest or do business with your talents while our master (Christ) is gone?

 Give some examples of how you could do this at your workplace, in your marriage, and in your recreational activities.

Third Asset: *Treasure*

What does the Bible call greed?

 COLOSSIANS 3:5

 What kinds of things might indicate a worship of money instead of God?

What attitudes should we embrace about the money we have?

 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10

 1 TIMOTHY 6: 17-19

 MATTHEW 6:19-21

 How can you use your earthly treasures to invest for eternity?

"The poorest man I know is the man who has nothing but money."

John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

The ancient Greek philosopher Socrates believed that if you are truly wise you will not be possessed by possessions. Socrates would often visit the marketplace, gazing at the abundance of goods. When asked why, he replied, "I love to go there and discover how many things I am perfectly happy without."

SECTION 5: CHAPTER 13

Fourth Asset: *God's Truth*

What has God given to Christians?

 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18

What metaphor describes our role as Christians?

 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

As ambassadors, what is our message?

 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19-21

What did Paul do with God's truths?

 1 THESSALONIANS 2:5-8

 Since God's truth is an asset, how could you invest it?

As an Ambassador of Christ, we are stewards of His story. One of the most effective and useful ways to share the message of the gospel is to explain how His story intersected with your story. It takes some effort, but it can be invaluable to have a simple, succinct recounting of what brought you to a point of need, what helped you decide to trust in Him for salvation, and the difference He has made in your life. Now would be a good time to start sketching out your “testimony” to share with the group in Section 6.



SECTION 5: CHAPTER 14

Long Term Living & Giving

"The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."

William James

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

Adopt an eternal perspective.

We are accountable to God for how we have managed the time, talents, treasures, and truth which he has entrusted to us. Every believer will stand before Jesus Christ, and his stewardship will be evaluated. Anticipating this event provides us with a tremendous motivation to strengthen our commitment to Christ, not out of fear, but out of the excitement of hearing the words, "well done, good and faithful servant."

Since believers can never be separated from God, what difference does it make how we live our lives?

 2 CORINTHIANS 5:9-10

According to 1 Corinthians 3, how will God evaluate our lives at Christ's judgment?

 1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-15

What is the reward for being a faithful steward?

 2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

Act generously.

What are the biblical principles for giving? Below are three key passages on giving. Examine the verses and derive principles from each on how we should give.

 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4

 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

Examine the following verses. To whom should we give?

 1 TIMOTHY 5:8

 1 CORINTHIANS 9:14

 EPHESIANS 4:28

 PROVERBS 28:27

*"Think of giving
not as a duty but
as a privilege."*

John D. Rockefeller Jr.

*"The world asks,
'What does a man
own?' Christ asks,
'How does he use it?'"*

Andrew Murray

*(1828-1917), South African
evangelist and writer*

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

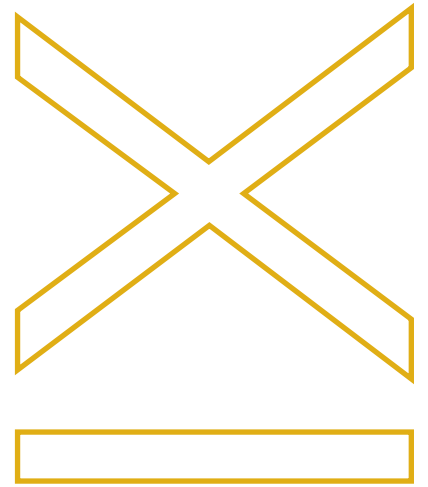
1 Timothy 6:17-19

Review and Application

 With which of the four assets in your portfolio (time, talent, treasure, and truth) do you feel you are most faithful as a steward? With which asset do you need to become more faithful?

 Brainstorm and then use the table on the following page: How can you invest in these areas so that you can more effectively share the good news?

	FAMILY	FRIENDS	CO-WORKERS	NEEDY	MINISTRIES
TIME					
TALENT					
TREASURE					
TRUTH					



SECTION SIX — Sharing the Good News

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Before you came to Christ, what were some of the things that attracted you to a relationship with Him? What are some of the things that turned you away from a relationship with Christ?
2. What have you learned from your experience in coming to Christ about how to share your faith?

OVERVIEW

In this study, we want to answer the question,

"How can I communicate my faith to others?"

We will examine four topics:

1. The Mandate: *Why should we be involved in evangelism?*
2. The Models: *What basic strategy should we use in evangelism?*
3. The Mindset: *What are the key principles of evangelism?*
4. The Method: *What is our role in evangelism?*

A DEFINITION: Lifestyle evangelism is the process of sensitively communicating the good news about Jesus Christ in the context of loving relationships, leaving the results to God.



SECTION 6: CHAPTER 15

His Mandate, His Models

The Mandate: Why should we be involved in evangelism?

Command: *Because Jesus urges us to communicate our faith to others.*

To what purpose did Jesus call His disciples at the outset of His ministry?

 MATTHEW 4:19

To what did Jesus commission His disciples at the end of His ministry?

 MATTHEW 28:18-20

 ACTS 1:8

 Once we understand that a command is issued, what are our options? What are you doing with this commission?

Compassion: *Because our friends are experiencing the deep hurts and pain of sin.*

When Jesus looked out on the multitudes, how did he feel toward them and what request did he make?

 MATTHEW 9:36-38

 What examples of pain and suffering do you see in the lives of your seeking friends? How would a relationship with Christ help them?

 Which of the biblical reasons (command or compassion) motivates you most to share your faith? Why?

The Models: What basic strategy should we use in evangelism?

In the New Testament there are three Biblical models of evangelism: the proclamational approach, the confrontational approach, and the relational approach. Each of these approaches to evangelism is biblical and useful for our culture today. But these approaches are not equally practical for every believer or every situation. Examine the following approaches; which one fits best for you personally?

The Proclamational Approach

 In the proclamational approach to evangelism, a person gets up in front of a group and presents the gospel. What did Peter do in Acts 2:12-14?

WHO IS THE EVANGELIST?	WHO IS THE AUDIENCE? IS THERE ANY SIGN OF SPIRITUAL OPENNESS?	WHAT IS A CURRENT EXAMPLE OF THIS MODEL?	ARE THERE ANY GIFTS OR SPECIAL ABILITIES NEEDED?	WOULD YOU BE COMFORTABLE DOING THIS?

The Confrontational Approach

 In the confrontational approach to evangelism, a person presents the message of eternal life to a casual acquaintance or stranger, someone with whom they’ve had little or no prior contact. What did Philip do in Acts 8: 26-39?

WHO IS THE EVANGELIST?	WHO IS THE AUDIENCE? IS THERE ANY SIGN OF SPIRITUAL OPENNESS?	WHAT IS A CURRENT EXAMPLE OF THIS MODEL?	ARE THERE ANY GIFTS OR SPECIAL ABILITIES NEEDED?	WOULD YOU BE COMFORTABLE DOING THIS?

The Relational Approach

 In the relational approach to evangelism, a person cultivates a relationship and shares the gospel out of the context of that relationship. Examine the kind of relationship Paul had with the Thessalonians. What did Paul do in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12?

WHO IS THE EVANGELIST?	WHO IS THE AUDIENCE? IS THERE ANY SIGN OF SPIRITUAL OPENNESS?	WHAT IS A CURRENT EXAMPLE OF THIS MODEL?	ARE THERE ANY GIFTS OR SPECIAL ABILITIES NEEDED?	WOULD YOU BE COMFORTABLE DOING THIS?

SECTION 6: CHAPTER 16

The Mindset

*Winning the world begins
with "one" in your world.*

"To reach a lost person is a difficult, time-consuming, costly struggle. When things get tough, it's always good to stick to the basics of loving, caring, and serving in the name of Christ."

Joe Aldrich

Value the One

Our friends have tremendous value in God's eyes.

In Luke 15, Jesus tells a parable which contains three stories: the story of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son. In each story the focus is on the immense value of the one thing or person that was lost and then found. How do the angels in heaven respond to the salvation of just one person? What does this tell us about how God values people?

 LUKE 15:7-10

First Principle: Evangelism is a process.

Examine the following passage. What word picture does Jesus use to describe the process of evangelism? How does this imply that evangelism is a process?

 JOHN 4:35-38

 What are the steps involved in planting a successful garden? What is the most difficult part of gardening? What is the most rewarding part of gardening? How does this image apply to evangelism?

Second Principle: God is responsible for the results.

In the following verses, what role did Paul and Apollos assume; what role did they expect God to assume? In Matthew 16, to whom did Jesus give the credit?

 1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9

 MATTHEW 16:15-17

Understanding these two master principles of evangelism will help you overcome the twin fears of rejection and failure. Our understanding that evangelism is a process conquers the fear of rejection. When we realize that most people don't come to Christ at first exposure to the Gospel, we won't succumb to an unspoken pressure to push someone too fast and perhaps "bruise the fruit." Leaving the results to God can defeat the fear of failure. While we remain available and faithful, we trust God to move people to readiness – rather than forcing a conversion or overwhelming someone with clever words.

"God didn't call me
to be successful.
He called me to be
faithful."

Mother Theresa

Our Role in Evangelism

People can reject Christianity and still accept Christ, but it's going to take someone they respect to show them the difference.

John Fischer

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Joe Aldrich

The unbeliever needs to feel the impact of the gospel (good news that Christ loves people), and not merely listen to it. When love is felt, the message is heard.

Joe Aldrich

What is our role in evangelism?

There are three barriers that keep people from responding to the message of Jesus Christ. Our role is to help our friends overcome these barriers to faith.

First Barrier: The Emotional Barrier

The emotional barrier is a set of negative feelings that a seeker has toward Christianity based on bad experiences with believers or with organized religion.

 What are some perceptions your seeking friends have about Christianity that need to be overcome?

Look at the following passages. How do we overcome the emotional barrier in the lives of our seeking friends?

 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23

 COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 is a clear statement of the concept of **common ground**. Common ground is generally defined as shared areas of interest, background, experience, ability, or life situations that serve as a basis for developing a relationship.

Establish a time and common ground activity in which you can either begin to develop or deepen a relationship with someone in your network.

- You should know them on a first name basis.
- You should have regular contact with them.
- They don't seem to have a personal relationship with Christ.
- You should feel they are responsive to you, or would be open to cultivating a relationship based upon common ground.

DATE	NAME	ACTIVITY	HOW DID IT GO?

There is no impact without contact.

"In relational evangelism one seeks first to relate to another person, finds common ground or earns the right to be heard, and then looks for an opportunity to share the good news."

Ron Rand

"When you deal in basic needs, you'll always be needed."

Joe Aldrich

The following are twelve of the most frequently asked questions about Christianity. Do you know what you might say if asked one of these questions by a seeking friend?

- *Is there really a God?*
- *Why believe in miracles?*
- *Isn't religion just a psychological crutch for weak-minded people?*
- *Is the Bible reliable?*
- *Why do the innocent suffer?*
- *Is Jesus Christ the only way to God?*
- *Will God judge those who have never heard about Christ?*
- *If Christianity is true, why are there so many hypocrites?*
- *Will my good works get me to heaven?*
- *Isn't salvation by faith too simple?*
- *What does the Bible mean by believe?*
- *Can anyone be sure of his salvation?*

The heart cannot embrace what the mind rejects!

Second Barrier: The Intellectual Barrier

The intellectual barrier is a predisposition to disregard or reject Christianity based upon bad information, misconceptions, or unanswered questions.

Look at the following passage: how do we overcome the intellectual barriers of our seeking friends?

 1 PETER 3:15

1 Peter 3:15 tells us there are four areas of preparation we should pursue. We should be spiritually committed, intellectually prepared, relationally sensitive, and constantly ready.

 What kinds of questions have your seeking friends raised that you found difficult to address?

 If presented with the opportunity, are you confident that you could explain the essence of the Gospel message? This is a good time to review the four key points from the first chapter of **Foundations**.

Third Barrier: The Volitional Barrier

The volitional barrier is a predisposition to resist examining spiritual things, or to reject Christianity outright based upon pride and independence caused by a sinful nature. Look at the following passage. When encountering the volitional barrier, what should we do?

 **COLOSSIANS 4:2-3**

*Prayer transforms
opposition to opportunity.*

*Talk to God about
people before you talk
to people about God.*

*Prayer should always be
a first response, not a last
resort.*

Review and Application

 The following list contains four options for growing in your ability to share the content of the gospel. Which exercise do you think would be most helpful for you?

- ☐ Prepare a written statement that clearly explains how I became a Christian.
- ☐ Memorize a presentation of the good news which clearly explains the message.
- ☐ Learn answers to the common objections raised against Christianity.
- ☐ Role play the gospel presentation or the answers to the objections to sharpen my skills.
- ☐ Find a friend to pray with for evangelism.

Swedish
Cinema
New
App

The Gamut of Translations

3 PRIMARY METHODOLOGIES FOR TRANSLATION AND READING GRADE LEVEL AND VERSION

FORMAL EQUIVALENCE	DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE	PARAPHRASE
<i>Word-for-word translation:</i> Attempts to convey the words and structure of the underlying Greek and Hebrew text.	<i>Thought for thought translation:</i> Attempts to convey the meaning of the underlying Greek and Hebrew text.	<i>Paragraph for paragraph translation:</i> Attempts to convey the <i>impact</i> that the underlying Greek and Hebrew text had on the original audience. Usually compiled by a single author.
NASB <i>Romans 4:23-25 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.</i>	NLT <i>Romans 4:23-25 Now this wonderful truth—that God declared him to be righteous—wasn’t just for Abraham’s benefit. 24 It was for us, too, assuring us that God will also declare us to be righteous if we believe in God, who brought Jesus our Lord back from the dead. 25 He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.</i>	MESSAGE <i>Romans 4:23-25 “Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right.” But it’s not just Abraham; it’s also us! The same thing gets said about us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us right with God.</i>
Best for detailed study. More of the grammar of the original language is retained, often at the expense of English readability.	Best for daily reading, good for study.	Best for a fresh look at familiar passages, and for reading at length.
11 New American Standard Bible (NASB) 12 King James Version (KJV) 10.4 Revised Standard Version (RSV) 10 English Standard Version (ESV)	8 New English Translation (NET) 7 Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) 7 New International Version (NIV) 6.3 New Living Translation (NLT)	2.9 New International Reader’s Version (NIRV) The Living Bible — Ken Taylor 4.8 The Message — Eugene Peterson

READ THE

NEW TESTAMENT

IN ONE YEAR

Week 1

- ☐ Matthew 1
- ☐ Matthew 2
- ☐ Matthew 3
- ☐ Matthew 4
- ☐ Matthew 5

Week 2

- ☐ Matthew 6
- ☐ Matthew 7
- ☐ Matthew 8
- ☐ Matthew 9
- ☐ Matthew 10

Week 3

- ☐ Matthew 11
- ☐ Matthew 12
- ☐ Matthew 13
- ☐ Matthew 14
- ☐ Matthew 15

Week 4

- ☐ Matthew 16
- ☐ Matthew 17
- ☐ Matthew 18
- ☐ Matthew 19
- ☐ Matthew 20

Week 5

- ☐ Matthew 21
- ☐ Matthew 22
- ☐ Matthew 23
- ☐ Matthew 24
- ☐ Matthew 25

Week 6

- ☐ Matthew 26
- ☐ Matthew 27
- ☐ Matthew 28
- ☐ Mark 1
- ☐ Mark 2

Week 7

- ☐ Mark 3
- ☐ Mark 4
- ☐ Mark 5
- ☐ Mark 6
- ☐ Mark 7

Week 8

- ☐ Mark 8
- ☐ Mark 9
- ☐ Mark 10
- ☐ Mark 11
- ☐ Mark 12

Week 9

- ☐ Mark 13
- ☐ Mark 14
- ☐ Mark 15
- ☐ Mark 16
- ☐ Luke 1

Week 10

- ☐ Luke 2
- ☐ Luke 3
- ☐ Luke 4
- ☐ Luke 5
- ☐ Luke 6

Week 11

- ☐ Luke 7
- ☐ Luke 8
- ☐ Luke 9
- ☐ Luke 10
- ☐ Luke 11

Week 12

- ☐ Luke 12
- ☐ Luke 13
- ☐ Luke 14
- ☐ Luke 15
- ☐ Luke 16

Week 13

- ☐ Luke 17
- ☐ Luke 18
- ☐ Luke 19
- ☐ Luke 20
- ☐ Luke 21

Week 14

- ☐ Luke 22
- ☐ Luke 23
- ☐ Luke 24
- ☐ John 1
- ☐ John 2

Week 15

- ☐ John 3
- ☐ John 4
- ☐ John 5
- ☐ John 6
- ☐ John 7

Week 16

- ☐ John 8
- ☐ John 9
- ☐ John 10
- ☐ John 11
- ☐ John 12

Week 17

- ☐ John 13
- ☐ John 14
- ☐ John 15
- ☐ John 16
- ☐ John 17

Week 18

- ☐ John 18
- ☐ John 19
- ☐ John 20
- ☐ John 21
- ☐ Acts 1

Week 19

- ☐ Acts 2
- ☐ Acts 3
- ☐ Acts 4
- ☐ Acts 5
- ☐ Acts 6

Week 20

- ☐ Acts 7
- ☐ Acts 8
- ☐ Acts 9
- ☐ Acts 10
- ☐ Acts 11

Week 21

- ☐ Acts 12
- ☐ Acts 13
- ☐ Acts 14
- ☐ Acts 15
- ☐ Acts 16

Week 22

- ☐ Acts 17
- ☐ Acts 18
- ☐ Acts 19
- ☐ Acts 20
- ☐ Acts 21

Week 23

- ☐ Acts 22
- ☐ Acts 23
- ☐ Acts 24
- ☐ Acts 25
- ☐ Acts 26

Week 24

- ☐ Acts 27
- ☐ Acts 28
- ☐ Romans 1
- ☐ Romans 2
- ☐ Romans 3

Week 25

- ☐ Romans 4
- ☐ Romans 5
- ☐ Romans 6
- ☐ Romans 7
- ☐ Romans 8

Week 26

- ☐ Romans 9
- ☐ Romans 10
- ☐ Romans 11
- ☐ Romans 12
- ☐ Romans 13

Week 27

- ☐ Romans 14
- ☐ Romans 15
- ☐ Romans 16
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 1
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 2

Week 28

- ☐ 1 Corinthians 3
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 4
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 5
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 6
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 7

Week 29

- ☐ 1 Corinthians 8
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 9
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 10
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 11
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 12

Week 30

- ☐ 1 Corinthians 13
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 14
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 15
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 16
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 1

Week 31

- ☐ 2 Corinthians 2
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 3
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 4
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 5
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 6

Week 32

- ☐ 2 Corinthians 7
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 8
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 9
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 10
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 11

Week 33

- ☐ 2 Corinthians 12
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 13
- ☐ Galatians 1
- ☐ Galatians 2
- ☐ Galatians 3

Week 34

- ☐ Galatians 4
- ☐ Galatians 5
- ☐ Galatians 6
- ☐ Ephesians 1
- ☐ Ephesians 2

Week 35

- ☐ Ephesians 3
- ☐ Ephesians 4
- ☐ Ephesians 5
- ☐ Ephesians 6
- ☐ Philippians 1

Week 36

- ☐ Philippians 2
- ☐ Philippians 3
- ☐ Philippians 4
- ☐ Colossians 1
- ☐ Colossians 2

Week 37

- ☐ Colossians 3
- ☐ Colossians 4
- ☐ 1 Thessalonians 1
- ☐ 1 Thessalonians 2
- ☐ 1 Thessalonians 3

Week 38

- ☐ 1 Thessalonians 4
- ☐ 1 Thessalonians 5
- ☐ 2 Thessalonians 1
- ☐ 2 Thessalonians 2
- ☐ 2 Thessalonians 3

Week 39

- ☐ 1 Timothy 1
- ☐ 1 Timothy 2
- ☐ 1 Timothy 3
- ☐ 1 Timothy 4
- ☐ 1 Timothy 5

Week 40

- ☐ 1 Timothy 6
- ☐ 2 Timothy 1
- ☐ 2 Timothy 2
- ☐ 2 Timothy 3
- ☐ 2 Timothy 4

Week 41

- ☐ Titus 1
- ☐ Titus 2
- ☐ Titus 3
- ☐ Philemon
- ☐ Hebrews 1

Week 42

- ☐ Hebrews 2
- ☐ Hebrews 3
- ☐ Hebrews 4
- ☐ Hebrews 5
- ☐ Hebrews 6

Week 43

- ☐ Hebrews 7
- ☐ Hebrews 8
- ☐ Hebrews 9
- ☐ Hebrews 10
- ☐ Hebrews 11

Week 44

- ☐ Hebrews 12
- ☐ Hebrews 13
- ☐ James 1
- ☐ James 2
- ☐ James 3

Week 45

- ☐ James 4
- ☐ James 5
- ☐ 1 Peter 1
- ☐ 1 Peter 2
- ☐ 1 Peter 3

Week 46

- ☐ 1 Peter 4
- ☐ 1 Peter 5
- ☐ 2 Peter 1
- ☐ 2 Peter 2
- ☐ 2 Peter 3

Week 47

- ☐ John 1
- ☐ John 2
- ☐ John 3
- ☐ John 4
- ☐ John 5

Week 48

- ☐ 2 John
- ☐ 3 John
- ☐ Jude
- ☐ Revelation 1
- ☐ Revelation 2

Week 49

- ☐ Revelation 3
- ☐ Revelation 4
- ☐ Revelation 5
- ☐ Revelation 6
- ☐ Revelation 7

Week 50

- ☐ Revelation 8
- ☐ Revelation 9
- ☐ Revelation 10
- ☐ Revelation 11
- ☐ Revelation 12

Week 51

- ☐ Revelation 13
- ☐ Revelation 14
- ☐ Revelation 15
- ☐ Revelation 16
- ☐ Revelation 17

Week 52

- ☐ Revelation 18
- ☐ Revelation 19
- ☐ Revelation 20
- ☐ Revelation 21
- ☐ Revelation 22

A BLUEPRINT FOR BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Have you ever wondered what it means to be in a relationship with God? Or how to begin and grow that relationship? Now you can with *Foundations*.

Foundations is a six-part study that provides a blueprint for building a relationship with God. By using this book, you will discover...

- ...how to **begin** a relationship with God.
- ...how to **grow** in your relationship with God.
- ...how to **communicate** with God through prayer.
- ...how to **listen** to God through Bible reading and study.
- ...how to **invest** the resources God has entrusted to us.
- ...how to **tell others** about our relationship with God.

These are the foundations of a vibrant Christian life.