

Walking in Newness of Life

AN EIGHT WEEK BIBLE STUDY COURSE DESIGNED FOR THE NEW CHRISTIANS

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“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
—Romans 6:4

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WEEK 1

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S AUTHORITY

1. Congratulations on becoming a disciple of Christ. This is a new beginning for you. As your brothers and sisters in Christ, we want to do all we can to help you (as you help us) to get to that goal of everlasting life. Now as we begin, take a few moments to write down what it has meant to you to become a Christian. (In later years you may want to refer back to this paper to remember the serious commitment you had made for Christ):
2. Studying God's word will be one of the most important things you do as a Christian. It is important that you study with the proper zeal and respect for God's word. Turn to I Peter 2:2 and 2 Timothy 2:15. Write down what these verses mean to you in your Bible study:
3. Now turn to Psalm 119:18, 97. What do these verses tell you about what your attitude should be toward the Bible?
4. Bible study is the key ingredient in building your faith. Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Your faith will grow steadily if you will take time each day to study your Bible. Turn and read Acts. 17:11. What impresses you about the Bereans?
5. What goals or commitments can you make toward personal Bible study? (Pray to God to help you with this.)

SUGGESTION

A television is not sinful, but it can get in the way of Bible study, prayer and other spiritual activities. Now is a good time to set aside periods in which the television will not be on so that you can devote yourself properly to the things of God.



WEEK 1

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S AUTHORITY

1. To properly study the word we must be convinced of the accuracy of the words we are reading. Read Matthew 24:35. What does Jesus say about this?
2. Now turn and read John 16:12–13. Notice that Jesus did not tell the apostles everything while He was with them. They would be guided into all truth at a later time. From this passage, would you say that the words of the apostles that are recorded in the rest of the New Testament are just as important as the words of Jesus that are recorded in the Gospels?
3. Read Ephesians 3:3–5. Notice that Paul is telling us how he and the other apostles received God's revelation. What did the Ephesian brethren have to do in order to understand the revelation Paul received? What does verse four mean to you?
4. Many religious people attempt to follow God on the basis of what they "feel" or what they "think" is right. Turn and read Proverbs 14:12 and Jeremiah 10:23. What do these passages tell you about a man's own "feelings" and "think so's"?
5. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "We walk by faith, not by sight." Do you remember from our previous lesson how we get faith? It is important that we do not trust in ourselves and our own ideas as we serve God. We must trust God and His word if we will attain heaven.

SUGGESTION

Now would be a good time to pray that God will help you understand His word (Psalm 119:18).



WEEK 1

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S AUTHORITY

1. Begin today by reading three passages carefully: Deuteronomy 4:1–2; Revelation 22:18–19; 2 John 9–11. What do these passages tell you about adhering to God's word? How can these passages help you as you tell others about God's word?
2. Look more carefully at 2 John 9. What does it mean to you to “abide in the doctrine of Christ?” (Remember: “doctrine” means teaching.) What happens if we do not abide in Christ's teaching?
3. Notice that John says in verses 10–11 that a person who encourages someone who brings a different teaching than that of Christ's is a partaker of his evil deeds. We do not want to encourage those who are teaching falsely. What should we do when we come in contact with someone who is teaching contrary to God's word? (2 Timothy 2:24–26; Ephesians 5:11)
4. Jesus teaches us how to tell the difference between a false teacher and a true teacher in Matthew 7:15–27. In verses 15–20 He says we will know them by their fruit. In verses 21–27 He tells us what that fruit is. By reading this passage, how would you discern between a false teacher and a true teacher?

SUGGESTION

In Philippians 1:9–10, Paul prayed that the Philippians would grow in this kind of judgment or discernment of what was right. This would be good to include in your prayers today.



WEEK 1

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S AUTHORITY

1. Today's study will center on how to better remember God's word. Turn and read carefully Deuteronomy 6:4–9. What are some of the things you learn from this text that you would like to make a part of your life?
2. To *remember* God's word we must first have the proper attitude and love. What does this text tell us about love?
3. Verse 6 tells us that God's word is to be in our heart. In the Bible the heart refers to the mind and or the very seat of our emotions (Romans 10:9–10). The New Testament covenant demands that we have God's word in our minds (Hebrews 8:10). What did God tell Israel to do in this Deuteronomy text in order to put His words in their hearts?
4. Obviously, the best way to remember God's word is to tell it to someone else. Write down the names of some people you could talk to about God's word. You can ask a more mature member of the church to help you with this.
5. Another way to remember God's word is to write it down (Deuteronomy 6:9). It is a good idea to use a pencil to jot down notes when you study. You can use colored pencils to highlight passages in your Bible that you want to remember. You can also make a daily diary of the things you are learning in your private study. Write down some other ideas you might have to help you learn God's word better:

SUGGESTION

Remember to pray daily that God will help you in your new life for Him.



WEEK 1

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S AUTHORITY

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17. Our study today will deal with the inspiration of the scriptures. According to this verse, how much of the scriptures are inspired?
2. The word “inspiration” means “God-breathed.” Read the verse substituting this definition. This is the only place in the Bible where the word “inspiration” is used, but there are many passages that help us understand the meaning of the word. Read 2 Samuel 23:2, Isaiah 1:1 and Isaiah 2:1. What do you learn about inspiration from these passages?
3. Now turn and read I Corinthians 2:12–13. Some teach that God only revealed His thoughts to His apostles and prophets, but did not reveal actual words. What does Paul say about this in this text?
4. 2 Peter 1:20–21 also helps us understand the mechanics of inspiration. “Private interpretation” in verse 20 refers to the way the prophets revealed God’s word. It was not revealed by any private manipulation on their part. What was the power behind their revelation?
5. The Bible writers claim that their revelation came from God revealing words not just thoughts. The fact that different writers show different styles of writing only indicates that God used the abilities and styles of each of His servants in revealing His word. Even with different styles, the words were still God’s. Read Matthew 4:4 and John 10:35 and discover how Jesus also claimed the Bible was verbally inspired:

SUGGESTION

In your prayer today it would also be good to thank God and praise Him for revealing His words to the world. (Matthew 11:25–30)



WEEK 1

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S AUTHORITY

1. Begin today again by reading 2 Timothy 3:16–17. List all the things in these verses that God's word will do for us:

2. Notice that every good work that God has for man to do is found revealed in the scriptures. Therefore, if man thought he found something that was "good" to do and it was not found in the scriptures, would it really be good?

3. What we need to learn is that God's word is COMPLETE. It has everything we need. Read II Peter 1:3. What has God given us through the knowledge of Christ?

4. The Bible not only tells us how to get to heaven, but also shows us how to live our everyday lives. Read Ecclesiastes 12:11–12. The wise man tells us that wise words come from "one shepherd" (God). He also warns us concerning the pursuit of worldly knowledge: "of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." God's word has the answer to life and godliness.

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5. Now is a good time to become aware of the five books of poetry: Job, Psalms, Proverb, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. These books more than any other teach us about everyday life.

JOB

Answers the question of suffering. Why do the righteous suffer? What is God's attitude concerning those who suffer? How should I respond to suffering?

PSALMS

Basically teaches us how to pray and express our feelings to God. Most of us have difficulty expressing ourselves, especially when it comes to talking to God. The Psalms express every emotion known to man and help us to understand our need for trust in God during each of these times.

PROVERBS

This is a book of practical wisdom. It teaches us common sense. Much of the trouble we get into results from the natural consequences of mistakes we make. Proverbs teaches us how to avoid those mistakes. It also warns us that the time to get this wisdom is NOW.

ECCLESIASTES

In this book we learn not to put our confidence for happiness in the things of this life. Things of this life will ultimately disappoint us. God's wisdom teaches us that happiness in this life depends on our living for Him not in living for ourselves. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13–14.

SONG OF SOLOMON

Teaches us about courtship love and romantic love. If you are single, this book can help you choose the right mate. If you are already married, this book can help you keep romance in your marriage.

6. Write down which books you would need most at this time in your life: If there is a specific problem that you need help with, be sure to relate this to a mature Christian in which you have confidence. And especially, pray that God will help. He has promised He will.



WEEK UNDERSTANDING GOD'S AUTHORITY

1. Read James 1:22–25. Today we want to study about application of God's word. According to this passage, who is going to be "blessed?"
2. Notice that the word of God is compared to a mirror. When we look in a mirror and go away we forget what we look like. In like manner, what will happen if we stop looking into God's word?
3. Now turn to Matthew 7:21–27. Picture the judgment day scene related here. What kind of people are being rejected? Were these people religious?
4. Read Hebrews 5:9. Can we expect to go to heaven if we do not obey God? Read also 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9. Can a person who just believes but does not obey God expect to go to heaven?
5. You have now been a Christian for one week. We have noticed during this week how important it is for us to study and apply God's word in our lives. This is the way God speaks to us today. How foolish it would be for us not to listen to what He has to say! The key to continuing to grow in Christ is, (1) listening to God daily, (2) talking to God daily, (3) and telling someone else about His good news.



WEEK PUTTING GOD FIRST IN WORSHIP

1. Begin today by reading Luke 14:15–24 (The parable of the great supper). Make a list of the excuses that were offered by those who were invited to the supper. Write down excuses that people offer today that are similar to these in the parable:
2. What will happen to those who offer such excuses?
3. Now read Luke 14:25–33. Counting the cost of discipleship is of key importance in these verses. (To understand verse 26 better, read Matthew 10:37.) According to these verses, what is the cost of being a disciple of Christ?
4. The word “forsake” in verse 33 means primarily to “set apart from; to renounce, forsake.” (Vine) What does this mean to you in your life?

SUGGESTION

In your prayers today, you could ask God to help you put Him first and all other things of the world and your own interests second. Read Matthew 6:33.



WEEK PUTTING GOD FIRST IN WORSHIP

1. Read Romans 5:6–10. How does God’s love impress you in this passage?
2. Now turn and read I John 3:15–18. Jesus is the pattern for the kind of sacrificial love we are to have for our brethren. What do these verses tell us to do in order to show love for our brethren?
3. Turn to I John 4:19–21. How does this passage tell us to express our love toward God?
4. This is one of the reasons God established the local church. We need each other. We need to help each other both physically and spiritually. The only way we can do this is by being together on a regular basis. What does Hebrews 3:12–13 say about the importance of this?
5. Think of some ways you can show love for your brethren this week. Maybe there are some new Christians like you in the church which you could encourage. In fact, all of us need encouragement, and you can be a part of this work as well. Pray that God will help you find ways to show love for your brethren (Galatians 6:10).



WEEK PUTTING GOD FIRST IN WORSHIP

1. We will begin our study today in Ephesians 4:11–16. Read this text very carefully at least three times. Underline important lessons that you see in the text. Who is it in verse 12 that is supposed to be equipped to do the work of ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ?
2. Now notice verse 11. The apostles and prophets do their work through the scriptures they revealed in the New Testament. For them to do their work of equipping us, we must study their words. Now look up the following passages and write down what the main work of the evangelists and pastors are:

EVANGELISTS (2 Timothy 2:2; 4:1–5);

PASTORS, ELDERS, BISHOPS (1 Peter 5:1–4; Acts 20:28–32; Hebrews 13:17):
3. Look more carefully at Ephesians 4:16. This verse emphasizes the close relationship the members of the church are to have together and that every member of the body is to do its share. What will you and every other member have to do in order to make the goals of this verse possible?
4. The elders and evangelists of the church work very hard at planning and preparing times for members to come together in prayer and Bible study in order to edify one another as our text has suggested. The elders are to watch for our souls and we are to submit to them (Hebrews 13:17). For us to grow and for the church to grow as God would have it, we must all do our part in participating.

SUGGESTION

In your prayers today, ask for the growth of God's church through the spreading of the gospel. (2 Thessalonians 3:1).



WEEK PUTTING GOD FIRST IN WORSHIP

1. Begin today by reading Hebrews 10:22–31. The Hebrew Christians were in danger of falling away from Christ. They were making a number of key mistakes that was causing their fall and the losing of faith. List the things that you see in this text which they were doing that were leading to their fall: (Do you see Christians doing these things today?)
2. What will be the consequences Christians will suffer if they practice these things and begin to fall?
3. From verses 24–25, what is the purpose of our assembling together? What is God commanding these Christians NOT to do?
4. Look up the following passages and write down the reasons Christians are to assemble together:
Acts 20:7 :
I Corinthians 16:1–2:
Acts 12:5:
Ephesians 5:18–19:
2 Timothy 4:2; Acts 15:32:

SUGGESTION

Do you remember what Matthew 6:33 and 10:37 says? Pray that you will be able to overcome the temptation of allowing family and friends to get in the way of your service to God.



WEEK PUTTING GOD FIRST IN WORSHIP

1. Our study today will be on the Lord's Supper. Our text will be I Corinthians 11:20–34. Read this carefully jotting down lessons that especially interest you.
2. What were the Corinthians doing wrong when they took the Lord's Supper? How were they supposed to correct this?
3. What does this text tell you about the reasons we are to take the Lord's Supper?
4. Why should you examine yourself before you partake of the Supper?
5. Read Acts 20:7 to find out how often the Lord's Supper is to be taken. Understanding the importance of remembering Christ's death, would it be sinful to willfully miss the partaking of the Lord's Supper seeing it is to remember Christ?

SUGGESTION

If there are things about the Lord's Supper you do not understand, be sure to ask another Christian to help you. Remember to pray today!



WEEK PUTTING GOD FIRST IN WORSHIP

1. Begin today by reading I Corinthians 16:1–4. Paul ordered all the churches to give. In this case, the reason for the giving was to supply the needs of the Christians at Jerusalem.

Upon what day of the week were the Christians supposed to give?

What do these verses say about how much to give?

2. Now turn and read 2 Corinthians 8:1–5. What impresses you about the way the churches of Macedonia gave?

3. Read II Corinthians 9:5–8. What do these verses say about how we should give?

4. To provide for needy Christians is not the only reason we should give. Read I Corinthians 9:6–14 and 2 Corinthians 11:8 for another very important reason:

5. As we have already studied, the church is also commanded to assemble together: therefore money must be used in order to provide a place to assemble. But the most important reason we should give is because God first gave to us. All that we have is really not our own but what God has allowed us to use. We must use it wisely if we expect to go to heaven. Read the parable of Luke 12:15–21.

SUGGESTION

Now is a good time to pray to God to help you love Him and not worldly possessions.



WEEK PUTTING GOD FIRST IN WORSHIP

1. Today we will learn the importance of singing. For this study turn and read Ephesians 5:18–19 and Colossians 3:16. What do these verses tell you about the primary purpose for singing together?
2. What does Colossians 3:16 tell us we must do in order to sing properly?
3. Read James 5:13. What does this tell us about the purpose for singing?
4. Read Hebrews 13:15. What is the importance of singing from this verse?

SUGGESTION

Singing is an important way we praise God, teach one another, and express our joy in being a child of God. Singing will lift you up, encourage you, and make you a happier person. It is important that we all participate for the best results (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Prayer will be saved for a future study that will be more in depth. But do not wait till then to practice a good prayer life!



WEEK 3 PUTTING TO DEATH SIN AND THE OLD SELF

1. Chapter 5 of Romans tells us of the wonderful grace that God through Christ has given us in forgiving us all our sins. It is important that we do not forget this. We should pray to God daily and thank Him for this wonderful gift. Read I John 3:4 and write down the definition of sin:
2. Some, however, have believed that since God has given us His grace, it does not matter if we sin. Turn and read Romans 6:1–14. Notice especially the words, “dead” and “death.” How do these words apply to us?
3. Read Romans 6:15–23. Now, can we continue to practice sin and still expect to receive the grace of God to be saved? Write down other lessons you learned from this text:

SUGGESTION

No one is sinless: not even the best Christian lives without sin (I John 1:8–10). But God obviously will not tolerate our purposely sinning and not being repentant of those sins. We must strive not to sin (I John 2:1), and if we do sin we must ask God for forgiveness. Now is a good time to ask God for forgiveness of your sins.



WEEK 3 PUTTING TO DEATH SIN AND THE OLD SELF

1. Begin today by reading Ephesians 4:17–32. Verse 19 tells us some people are “past feeling” or “callous” and therefore give themselves over to licentiousness (lasciviousness). How does a person come to a point of being “past feeling?”
2. The word “licentiousness” denotes “excess, absence of restraint, indecency.” (Vine) It is especially used of “gluttony, filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” (Thayer, p. 79). This type of behavior is certainly not what we have learned from Christ. This is the way the world lives and we cannot act this way any longer.
3. Make a list of those things a Christian should “put off” and “put on” in verses 25–32. Note the things with which you especially have trouble and pray to God for help in overcoming them.



WEEK 3 PUTTING TO DEATH SIN AND THE OLD SELF

1. Read Ephesians 5:1–12. List those things that cause the wrath of God to come:
2. What does this text tell us to do about these sinful things?
3. “Fornication” is all unlawful sexual relations. “Uncleanness” is the impurity of a lustful, immoral, mind. “Covetousness” is putting the things of the world before the things of God. What is “foolish talking” and “course jesting?”
4. Read verse 12 again very carefully. How might this verse apply to television shows and movies that contain these immoral practices?

SUGGESTION

We should always pray that God will help us overcome these temptations (Matthew 6:13).



WEEK 3 PUTTING TO DEATH SIN AND THE OLD SELF

1. Our study today will be on the tongue. Begin by reading James 3:1–12. From these verses what does God expect us to do? (Notice especially the end of verse 10):

2. Read Matthew 12:33–37. According to these verses, what do we have to do in order to learn to speak good things?

3. The misuse of the tongue is one of the main ways we fall into sin. Most misuse comes from the habits that we have developed and the things that we have allowed to enter into our minds. Anger also plays a role in this. It will take much prayer and practice to change these bad habits. Do not give up! With God's help you can overcome these things, especially if you will pray to God regularly.



WEEK 3 PUTTING TO DEATH SIN AND THE OLD SELF

1. Today, begin by reading I Corinthians 6:9–20. This passage warns especially against committing fornication or adultery. God has always strongly condemned immoral sexual behavior. What are some of the reasons Paul gives in this text for not committing this sin?
2. What does Paul say in verse 18 is the way to overcome this sin? What does this mean to you?
3. In the Old Testament God required the death penalty for those who committed adultery. What does God say about this in the New Testament in Matthew 19:6–9 and in Luke 16:18?
4. The remedy for adultery or fornication is expressed in Proverbs 5:15–23 and I Corinthians 7:1–5. Study these passages carefully. It is imperative that we all keep ourselves free from this sin.

SUGGESTION

Remember to pray!



WEEK 3 PUTTING TO DEATH SIN AND THE OLD SELF

1. Turn and read Proverbs 23:29–35. Our lesson today will concern drunkenness. What do these verses teach us about seeking after alcoholic beverages?
2. What does I Corinthians 6:9–10 tell us about those who get drunk? We need to be aware that drunkenness can come from many different drugs, not only alcohol. The modern drugs today are just as sinful as the drug alcohol.
3. We must also be concerned about our example before those who are outside the body of Christ. We are called to teach them and help them get to heaven. This cannot be done when we are using drugs or alcohol. We will turn them away instead of drawing them. Read Romans 14:19–21; 1 Corinthians 10:31–33; 2 Corinthians 6:3. Now read also Matthew 5:13–16. What do these verses teach you about our example before the world?

SUGGESTION

Pray that God will help you win people to Christ, not drive them away (1 Corinthians 9:22).



WEEK 3 PUTTING TO DEATH SIN AND THE OLD SELF

1. By this time you are probably realizing that there are many things that God expects His people to avoid. The question often arises, “How can I avoid these things?” The answer may be summarized in James 4:7–10. Write down how these verses can help you:
2. As these verses indicate, avoiding sin first begins with making a decision to no longer practice that sin. Once this is done it is necessary for us to plan ways to avoid being tempted by this sin as well as plan ways to overcome the sin. Read I Corinthians 10:13. How does this verse help you to overcome sin?
3. Other Christians can also be a great encouragement to you in conquering sin. We all have the same fight against the wiles of the devil. Just being with one another instead of being with those of the world can help you develop the proper habits. Do you feel like you are spending enough time with other Christians? Read I Corinthians 15:33. How can the words of this verse help you?

SUGGESTION

Prayer, of course, is a key in overcoming sin. Do not forget to use it! (Luke 22:40)



WEEK 4

TRUSTING GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS

1. Begin today by reading carefully Romans 7:14–25. Paul presents an excellent picture of the condition of a person without the benefits of Christ. What impresses you about this text? Can you relate to this condition?
2. The picture we see in this text is a picture of the helplessness we all experience in our efforts to obtain salvation without Christ. We simply cannot do it because we do not have the blessing of forgiveness. Forgiveness is the key to our Christian life. Without forgiveness we cannot make it. This is what it means in Romans when it states we are to be justified by faith. Our salvation is not based on living a perfect life, but in our unwavering faith in Christ for forgiveness.
3. Now read Romans 8:1–2. Here is a good description of life in Christ. Write down what this means to you. Also notice that there is a condition in obtaining this blessing. Write this down also:

SUGGESTION

Thanking God in prayer for the grace He has given us should be a central part of your prayer life.



WEEK 4

TRUSTING GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS

1. Turn and read I John 1:5–10. Notice the word “walk”: and notice the words “light” and “darkness.” Read the text carefully and discover whether one who walks in the light is living sinlessly. Prove your answer from the text:
2. How would you describe the difference between someone who walks in darkness and someone who walks in the light?
3. What conditions does God put on us in this text for us to have our sins forgiven?
4. Now read I John 2:1–5. What are the conditions God gives in this text for us to have fellowship with Him?

SUGGESTION

Have you learned another reason for prayer in these verses? Now is a good time to practice it.



WEEK 4

TRUSTING GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS

1. The first text to read today is Titus 2:11–14. Notice that this passage speaks of the grace of God. But notice also that God's grace teaches us. What does God's grace teach us?
2. Now we need to know how God's grace goes about teaching us these things. Acts 20:32 will give you the answer:
3. God's grace implies a favor or gift God extended to us though we were undeserving. We deserve nothing, but Christ through His sacrifice has offered us everything. However, it is important for us to understand that God's grace is not limited to the sacrifice of Christ. Everything God did in order to bring us to salvation is included in this grace. What kind of grace would it have been if Christ had died for us but then never told us how to live in order to obtain the benefits of His death?
4. Therefore, if God's grace includes the fact that He revealed His word to us, is it possible to receive this grace if we do not listen to what His grace teaches?

SUGGESTION

Notice that Titus 2:14 says that the reason God has sent His grace is so that He might have a people zealous for good works. Are you zealous to do good works for God? Pray that God will help you.



WEEK 4

TRUSTING GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS

1. Read carefully Romans 8:31–39. What kind of confidence should this give us about our salvation?
2. Though nothing can separate us from Christ, can we separate ourselves from Him and be lost? Compare I Corinthians 9:27; 10–12 with Romans 8:31–39.
3. Now read 2 Corinthians 5:1–8. What words in this text emphasize the assurance of our salvation?
4. Now what is the basis for our confidence that we will be saved? Is it based on how “good” we are or upon the promises of God? Read Hebrews 6:13–20:

SUGGESTION

Remember that we cannot expect to receive God's grace if we do not obey Him (Hebrews 5:9). Always pray that God will help you do what is necessary to get to that heavenly home.



WEEK 4

TRUSTING GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS

1. Begin your study today by reading Romans 4:1–8. According to this passage, was Abraham saved by works or by faith?
2. Notice that if he were saved by works he would have something of which to boast, and his wages would be counted as a debt. This helps us understand what it would mean to be saved by “works” as Paul is using the phrase. Works in this passage refers to Abraham or any man being good enough or following a law perfectly enough that they deserve or have earned their salvation. Is this possible? See Romans 3:20.
3. Now look more carefully at verse 5, especially at the phrase, “to him who does not work.” Can you see why this could not mean, “to him who does not obey?” What does the phrase mean?
4. Let us use this analogy. Under any system of law (such as the laws of the United States), it is impossible for a lawbreaker to make up for his violations by doing more good deeds than bad. A doctor guilty of murder cannot claim freedom from the guilt of murder just because he has saved many people by his good works. In the same way, we cannot go to heaven on the basis that we have been good moral people, having done more good deeds than bad. Instead, our only hope is forgiveness which is based on the fact that Jesus paid a ransom price for our sins. Paying the ransom for our sins enabled God to show mercy on us and forgive our debt so that we would not have to spend eternity in hell.

SUGGESTION

Read verses 7–8 and be impressed with forgiveness. We should pray and thank God for such an unspeakable gift! Remember, “You are bought with a price...” (1 Corinthians 6:20)



WEEK 4

TRUSTING GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS

1. We learned in the last lesson that salvation cannot come by the works of man. But the Bible does teach that there are works by which we are saved. Read James 2:14–26. What observations can you make about this text?
2. In Romans we learned that Abraham was not justified by works, but in this text he is justified by works. James is obviously talking about a different kind of works than is Paul. James uses the example of Abraham obeying God as the works by which he was justified. Thus James is stressing that the works of a trusting obedience is necessary for one to be saved. Now can you explain what these works of obedience have to do with faith? In other words, what is meant by, “Faith without works is dead?”
3. Think of some ways you can apply this text in your everyday life:

THOUGHT-QUESTION

If faith without works is dead, what would faith be without prayer?



WEEK 4

TRUSTING GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS

1. Our text today will be Luke 7:36–50. This passage is a good summation of grace and what our responsibilities are in relation to it. Read the text carefully and write down some of your initial impressions below:
2. Could either of the two debtors pay their debt? What does this tell you about our condition before the Lord? Are any of us any “better” than the other?
3. What will cause us to “love much”?
4. One of the things that we can do to show the love we have for the Lord is to tell others about this wonderful grace that He has offered the world. This is important! Your friends and neighbors will be lost if they do not obey the gospel. Can you think of anyone in a better position to tell them this news than you?

SUGGESTION

Pray that God will give you boldness to speak to those who are lost (Ephesians 6:19–20).



WEEK 5 MAKING DISCIPLES

1. Begin today by reading John 1:29; 3:16–17. This week we will study the importance of reaching the world with the gospel of Christ so they might be saved. Everything Christ did was for this purpose. If that was true of Christ, our perfect example, should it not be also true of us?
2. Now read Matthew 28:19–20. What are the apostles commanded to do in these verses? If the apostles were to teach us all that Jesus commanded them, then what do these verses also command us to do?
3. Turn to I Peter 3:15. What will you have to do in order to fulfill the requirement of this verse?

SUGGESTION

Read again Mark 16:16 and John 8:24. It is important that we understand and empathize with the lost condition of those without Christ. Pray that God will help you have the same concern He has.



WEEK MAKING DISCIPLES

1. A good encouragement to spreading the good news of Christ to others is to study how first century Christians acted in this regard. Look up the following passages in the book of Acts and mark them in your Bible with a colored pencil:

Acts 2:41,47; 4:4; 5:14,28; 6:1,7; 8:3-4; 9:31; 11:19-21, 24; 12:24; 13:48-49; 15:3; 16:5; 17:6; 18:8; 19:10,20

2. Write down the things you learned from reading these passages. What were the early Christians obviously doing?

SUGGESTION

We must be like Paul, praying that the world might be saved (Romans 10:1).



WEEK MAKING DISCIPLES

1. Begin today by reading Proverbs 11:30. Examine this passage carefully and identify as many characteristics of the righteous that you can: (What would this verse say about a person who does not win souls?)
2. Now read Matthew 10:32–33 and Mark 8:38. What do these passages mean to you?
3. Turn and read Romans 1:13–17. Why did Paul consider himself a “debtor”? Would you consider yourself a debtor also?
4. Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel? How does this give you more confidence in telling the gospel to others?

SUGGESTION

Choose one of your friends or relatives and ask them to come with you to a one-hour Bible study. Ask the person who brought you to Christ to conduct the study. Pray for God’s help! (1 Corinthians 3:6)



WEEK 5

MAKING DISCIPLES

1. Today our lesson will concern the things that hinder us from taking the gospel to the lost. Begin by reading Matthew 16:26. What does Jesus teach us is the value of a soul? How should this help us in saving others?
2. Now read Luke 15:1–2. What was hindering the scribes and Pharisees from saving the lost? How can you learn from their mistakes?
3. Read Luke 8:14. This is the interpretation of the parable of the sower. What hindered these whose heart was thorny ground from bearing fruit? Could this be a problem in your life? (It is a problem most of us fight all the time!)
4. Turn to Luke 9:57–62. What were these potential disciples doing wrong in the service to Christ? How can we correct this attitude in our lives?

SUGGESTION

It is very easy to allow the things of this world to get in the way of winning souls. To overcome this, pick a time(s) in the week that you could use to contact a friend or neighbor with the ultimate goal to ask them for a class. Pray that God will give you courage.



WEEK 5 MAKING DISCIPLES

1. Turn and read the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, John 4:5–42. Write down the things which Jesus did in order to teach this woman:

2. Did you notice how the apostles went into the city and taught no one, but Jesus stayed outside the city and through one woman taught the whole city? What does this tell you about the importance of teaching just one person?

3. What does the admonition of Jesus in verse 35 teach you about winning souls?

SUGGESTION

It is easier to practice personal evangelism if there are others in the church helping you. This week pick out another member of the church that you could visit and get to know better. Discuss with them ways that you could work together in winning souls.



WEEK MAKING DISCIPLES

1. Begin today by reading Luke 15, the parable of lost things. Write down all the things you can find about how God feels about those who are lost. Try to feel the way the father of the wayward son felt.

2. Did you notice the occasions of rejoicing in the parable? In order to rejoice over those who are saved, we first have to feel grief over those who are lost. Pray that God will help you understand His feelings over lost humanity.



WEEK MAKING DISCIPLES

Today we will notice some of the practical things that we all can do in winning souls. Examine these carefully and find ways that you can apply them to your life:

1. Show a good example and a pleasant disposition. You cannot teach people who will not accept you personally. Show them Christ living in you.
2. Seek to meet new people. In meeting them, be thinking and praying for a way to teach them. Too many times we allow the opportunity for a Bible study to slip through our hands.
3. Ask people if they would like to learn more about the Bible. Ask them just for a one-hour class. Do not try to get into an argument. An organized study is the best way to teach.
4. Make a point of getting to know visitors that attend services. Do not just run out of the building and go home. Let us not be selfish. There are many visitors and we all need to be involved with helping them feel welcome.
5. You can aid someone else who is teaching. Team teaching is very effective. You not only can help a person accept the word easier, but you can also learn better how to teach.
6. Continue to encourage new Christians . Developing close relationships in the church helps us all stay strong. Find other Christians that you can encourage.
7. Learn to teach a Bible study. There are many in the church who can help you with this. Make your own lesson and practice delivering it. And then find someone to teach! You do not have to wait until you are “great” at it. The gospel is what saves, not how well you present it.
8. PERSEVERE! Do not give up. Have patience. Remember, God gives the increase, we are just His servants doing His will.

SUGGESTION

Pray that God will help you grow in these areas!



WEEK LEARNING TO PRAY

By now you should have already established a habit of praying daily. However, prayer is not something that comes naturally. In fact, in Luke 11:1 the disciples asked Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray...” This will be the object of our lessons this week.

1. Begin by reading Romans 10:1. Notice that the heart’s desire and actual prayer is two different things. From this verse, how would you define prayer?

2. Now read these passages: I Thessalonians 5:17–18; Philippians 4:6–7; Colossians 4:2; Matthew 7:7–11. Why does God want us to pray? Compare this to a parent-child relationship. Why would a parent want his child to make requests of him?

3. Read I Timothy 2:1. What are the different types of prayers God has asked us to pray?

SUGGESTION

Prayer is our heart’s desires expressed before God. It is one of the greatest indications of our dependence and trust in God as our Father. If we do not talk to Him about our needs, we do not trust Him or think we need Him very much. Remember to give thanks!



WEEK LEARNING TO PRAY

1. Begin today by reading Luke 18:1–8. What is the main lesson Jesus wants us to learn from this parable?
2. Compare verse 1 and verse 8. What is the main reason Jesus gives for us praying?
3. Now read Luke 18:9–14. What are the main things you learn about prayer from these verses?

SUGGESTION

Daily prayer will keep you from losing heart. It is a key ingredient to being strong as a Christian. Be like the widow and come before God continually!



WEEK LEARNING TO PRAY

1. Our text today will be Matthew 6:9–13. This is the model prayer Jesus taught His disciples. Jesus did not tell us to pray this prayer, but to pray after this manner. We learn from this prayer the general content of prayer.

2. Notice that there are six requests in the prayer. List these requests according to the following two categories:

GOD'S INTEREST:

MAN'S INTEREST:

3. According to this model prayer, which should we think of first, the things pertaining to God or the things pertaining to man?

SUGGESTION

Now is a good time to write down some of the main things you should be praying about everyday.



WEEK LEARNING TO PRAY

1. Today we will notice some of the warnings God gives us concerning our prayer life. Begin by reading Matthew 6:5–8. What do these verses tell us we should be careful of?
2. Now read James 4:1–4. What things are we warned not to pray for in these verses?
3. Read James 1:5–8. What is the warning here?
4. Read Matthew 26:39. What was Jesus' attitude in prayer? Think about this! Have you made this a part of your attitude in all that you do?



WEEK LEARNING TO PRAY

1. It is important that we build our confidence in God's ability and willingness to answer our prayers. To do this we will study some examples of answered prayers. Turn and read I Samuel 1:1–20. What impresses you about God's answer to this woman's prayer?
2. Now read 2 Kings 20:1–7. What things can you learn from this example of answered prayer?
3. Read James 5:13–18. Especially notice verses 16–18. What about these verses gives you confidence that God will also answer your prayer?

THOUGHT-QUESTION

Ephesians 3:20 tells us that God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think..." If we as earthly parents listen to our children, how much more should we have trust that God will listen to us?



WEEK LEARNING TO PRAY

Today we will notice prayer in the life of Jesus. Look up the following passages and write a short statement about the circumstances of each of Jesus' prayers:

1. Luke 3:21:
2. Luke 5:16:
3. Luke 6:12:
4. Luke 9:18:
5. Luke 9:28:
6. Luke 11:1:
7. Luke 22:32:
8. Luke 22:44:
9. Luke 23:34:
10. Luke 23:46:

THOUGHT-QUESTION

What is the greatest lesson you learned from studying prayer in the life of Jesus? Can you see why Jesus was so strong?



WEEK LEARNING TO PRAY

1. Though we have not exhausted all there is to say about prayer, we close this week's study with a lesson in which we will concentrate on the joy and comfort we have in prayer. Begin by reading Proverbs 3:5–6. What is the requirement of this passage? What comfort does it give you?
2. Read Philippians 4:4–7 and I Peter 5:7. How do these passages tell us to remedy worry? What is the benefit we have?
3. Read Psalm 55:16–18. Again, what is the requirement of prayer and the benefit received?
4. Finally, read Hebrews 4:14–16. What comfort does this passage give you? What is the requirement placed upon us to receive this comfort?

SUGGESTION

Never forget to pray! When you begin to grow weak, it is a sure sign that you are not praying or studying as you should.



WEEK EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 1

Probably the greatest difficulty any of us have in living the Christian life is simply not giving up. As the Hebrew writer said (10:36), “You have need of endurance. . .” Our everyday life is constantly handing us problems and disappointments. There are times for all of us when such things seem overwhelming. We are thankful, though, that God has in His word given us a prescription for properly and happily encountering the trials of life. As we noticed briefly in a previous lesson, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon (coupled with the principles of the New Testament), give us the key ingredients to the right approach to living.

1. The book of Job teaches us how to deal with the problem of suffering. Let us learn some of the main lessons of this book. Begin today by reading the first chapter of Job. Write down some of the things in this chapter that especially impress you about:

Job’s character:

Satan:

The severity of the trial:

2. There are two things of which we need to make a special note from this chapter:

- a. The Lord’s boast of Job in verse 8. Would God be able to say this about you?

- b. Satan’s accusation in verse 9. Satan is saying that the only reason that Job serves God is for the physical blessings which he receives. If these blessings were taken away, Satan believes that Job will cease serving God. This brings up the question of why we serve God. Is there anything that we could lose or that could happen to us in this life that would cause us to stop serving God? Is there anything in your life of which this would be true? Obviously, God would not be pleased with such an attitude.

SUGGESTION

Pray that God will help you persevere through the trials of life.



WEEK EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 1

1. Begin today by reading Job 2. Imagine how you would feel if the things that happened to Job happened to you:

2. Remember what we learned about serving God for nothing? Now, what would you say is wrong with Job's wife? Can you see why Satan did not cause her to die?

3. Does Job know what has taken place between God and Satan in heaven? Isn't that the same problem we have when trials come upon us?

SUGGESTION

"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."

–Luke 18:1



WEEK EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 1

Today we simply want to offer a summation of the rest of the book of Job since it is not within the scope of these lessons to provide such an in-depth study.

1. Job 3–31 is a debate between Job and his three friends. The subject of the debate is, “Why do men suffer?” The three friends say that men suffer because of their sins. They repeatedly accuse Job of being a great sinner, evidenced by his great suffering. Job, on the other hand, rightfully claims that this is wrong. However, Job’s answer is basically that God does not really care about the suffering of His creation. He argues that what has happened to him is injustice. Job in essence says, “God isn’t fair.”
2. Job 32–37 is the speech of Elihu who is a young man who listened to the debate and is angry that neither Job or the friends had the right answer to suffering. Elihu’s answer is correct. He says that God uses the trial to make men better people. Trials refine man’s character and cause him through self-examination to correct deficiencies in his life. Elihu says that God does care. Elihu uses a rising storm (chapter 37) to illustrate that in all the storms of life, God can be seen working to better His people.
3. Finally, God’s speech is in chapters 38–41. God asks Job a series of questions concerning the world and universe. Does Job know how all these things came to be and why they operate in their own peculiar way? Job did not know and neither does any man. Therefore, God is showing Job and all men that we do not have a right to question Him or accuse Him wrongfully during the time of trial. God knows what He is doing. We must trust Him.
4. Read Job 42. What is the final lesson we can learn from suffering?



WEEK EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 1

1. The book of Psalms, which is a collection of 150 psalms, teaches us the expressions of the heart of a blessed man. As with the other poetic books, the Psalms are too large to cover in these lessons, but we will note a couple of Psalms that will give you a feel for the book and help you in your new life for Christ.
2. Begin reading Psalm 1. A “blessed” man is a man whose life is dominated by joy. Even in the midst of afflictions, he has a “peace that surpasses understanding” (Philippians 4:7). Write down all you can find in this Psalm which tells you how a blessed man should live:
3. Do you see areas in your life in which corrections should be made so that you also can be a “blessed” man?



WEEK EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 1

1. Today our lesson will be Psalm 6. This is a Psalm of David in which he prays for forgiveness after sin. Usually, our tendency is to run away from God after we have sinned. David was considered “a man after God’s own heart.” One of the reasons was that he was willing to humble himself before God, confess his sin to God, and ask for forgiveness. You can learn from this Psalm the proper attitude of a repentant man. Write down the good attitudes David had in this Psalm:

2. What verses show you that David was really sorry?

3. Did God answer David’s prayer and forgive him? How can this encourage us?

SUGGESTION

Remember to pray daily for the forgiveness of sin and to “lead us not into temptation.”



WEEK EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 1

1. Today, read Psalm 73. This Psalm shows how a righteous man almost slipped back into the world. We get a glimpse of what goes through a person's mind during such a time. What did this man do wrong that caused him to nearly slip?
2. Especially notice verses 16–17. This was the turning point in the man's life. What is it that caused him to come to his senses and not follow after the world?
3. This is a good Psalm to remember for times when you may begin to feel weak. Satan tries to deceive us into thinking that living according to the world will give us happiness and peace. But God has told us that Satan is lying to us. Therefore we must do as the psalmist does in verse 28:

SUGGESTION

Psalm 119 is a great Psalm concerning the word of God. It teaches us all the benefits of the word. In fact, almost all of the 176 verses tell us something beneficial about the word. Try to set aside some spare time this week to read this psalm.



WEEK EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 1

1. As we have noted before, Proverbs is the school of practical wisdom. A proverb is a general rule. Though a proverb is not without exception, it does suggest the wisest course to follow. Read Proverbs 1:1–7. From these verses, what benefit is there to listening to the Proverbs?
2. Now read Proverbs 1:20–32. What do these verses tell you that wisdom will do to us if we do not get wisdom?
3. Read Proverbs 4:1–9. What do these verses tell you about the importance of getting wisdom?

SUGGESTION

Wisdom is one of those things that must be obtained BEFORE the trial comes. Once we are in the midst of trial, it is too late; wisdom will then forsake us.



EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 2

WEEK 8

1. Proverbs spends a good amount of time on the perils of adultery. Read Proverbs 5:1–23; 6:20–35; 7:1–27. List all the things that you can find regarding how to avoid the sin of adultery:

2. What is the end result of the person who does commit adultery?

SUGGESTION

1 Corinthians 6:18 says, “Flee fornication.” That is the best way to overcome this sin — FLEE!! And do not forget to pray!



WEEK EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 2

1. Proverbs also offers a large amount of material on the subject of laziness. Begin today by reading Proverbs 6:6–11. What lesson can you learn from this text?
2. Now read Proverbs 24:30–34. What does this text teach you about the end result of the sluggard?
3. Read Proverbs 26:13–16. What are some of the problems the sluggard has in this text?
4. How can you apply these principles to your living for God?



EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 2

WEEK 8

1. The book of Ecclesiastes tells us not to put too much hope in the things of this life. The writer of the book refers to this as “life under the sun.” This is life without regard to service to God or heavenly values. “Vanity” or “vanity of vanities” refers to that which is fleeting, transitory, or that which offers little of lasting value. Vanity adequately describes a life under the sun—a life without God. Now read Ecclesiastes 1:1–11 and note how monotonous life under the sun can be:

2. Now read Ecclesiastes 2:1–11. What profit is there in having all the wealth of Solomon?

SUGGESTION

Do not forget to pray today that God will help you not to put trust in earthly things.



EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 2

WEEK 8

1. Our study today will continue to look at those things that will disappoint us when we live a life under the sun. Read Ecclesiastes 2:18–23. What are some of the disappointing things in seeking contentment from human labor? (Read chapter 4:6 for the wise way to handle human labor.)
2. Read Ecclesiastes 4:13–16. What is disappointing about seeking contentment from “success”? Note the example is used of a king coming to power.
3. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1–7. About what should we be warned in being religiously ritualistic?

SUGGESTION

The wise man has taught us in chapters 1–6 how many things of this life will disappoint us if we live a life “under the sun” instead of living for God. It is important for us to remember where the true values are.



EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 2

WEEK 8

1. Today we want to emphasize those passages in Ecclesiastes that show us the proper attitude toward living. Begin by reading Ecclesiastes 2:24–26. What is “nothing better for a man to do?” Where does a man get this enjoyment?
2. Now read Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:8. (Chapter 12:3–7 is a beautiful, figurative picture of death.) What things are important for us to do before this day of death comes?
3. For the conclusion of the book and the summation of how we should live our lives, read chapter 12:13–14. Is there any way you should change your life to conform to this?

SUGGESTION

NOW is the time for all of us to conform our lives to godly principles before the day comes when we are not able. Let us give God our best, not our leftovers!



EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 2

WEEK 8

1. The Song of Solomon is a picture of courtship love. There are three main characters in the book: The bride or Shulamite; her lover, the shepherd; and Solomon who is infatuated with the physical beauty of the Shulamite. The book gives us a contrast between the true love of the shepherd and the Shulamite, and the infatuation or lust of Solomon. The maiden is the one who speaks the most or at least we hear the words of her heart as she decides which of these two men really have her best interest at heart. The difficulty of the book is figuring out who is speaking. This may be done by the context. Homer Hailey's syllabus on the Song of Solomon can be a help here. Today, read the first four chapters to get an idea of the beauty of the book. Jot down some of your impressions:

2. Notice especially Solomon's words in 1:8–10 and 4:1–5. In what does Solomon seem to be interested?

SUGGESTION

It is imperative that we know the difference between true love and infatuation, which has as its main interest what self can obtain. Meditate carefully on this!



EVERYDAY LIVING: PART 2

WEEK 8

1. Today read the rest of the Song of Solomon, chapters 5–8. Jot down some of your impressions:
2. Notice especially the Shulamite's desire for her shepherd in her dreams (5:2–8). Notice also the shepherd's pure desire for his bride in the Shulamite's description of him (5:10–16; 7:10). Notice also that he is her friend (5:16).
3. On the other hand, observe Solomon's lust for the Shulamite (7:6–9). The Shulamite's love for the shepherd wins out as she repeatedly warns her companions not to cause her to force love (8:4). This is one of the more common mistakes made in courtship.

This completes this series of lessons. You have been a Christian now for two months. If you have done these lessons every day, you have begun to develop a good pattern of prayer and Bible study. Your life as a Christian does not stop here! Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18). We, as your brothers and sisters in Christ are praying for you and we ask that you also pray for us that we would all be together in that heavenly home the Lord has provided for us. "For we are saved in this hope" (Romans 8:24).

What should you do now? It is time to begin reading through the New Testament. Do not get bogged down with the things you do not understand. Make a note of them and go on. In this first reading, simply get an overview of the New Testament. Read fairly rapidly. If you read between fifteen and twenty minutes a day, you can read the whole New Testament in about two months. After this, you can go back and read more slowly, studying passages more carefully. Soon, you can do the same thing with the Old Testament. God bless you in your walk with God!

