

The One Year Discipleship Plan: Becoming a Faithful Follower of Jesus

Part I

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

Dr. Chip Johnston

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The One Year Discipleship Plan

Welcome to The One Year Discipleship Plan. This plan for discipleship is designed to grow followers of Jesus to maturity in their faith while they, in turn, are leading others to maturity in Christ. There are 52 lessons resulting in a study each week for an entire year. After approximately 6 months, each person is expected to begin taking at least one other person through the plan beginning with Lesson 1. Each person should now begin praying for the Lord Jesus to identify the other people that they will begin to disciple as they grow. In this way we begin to fulfill Jesus' commission of making disciples which he has given us in Matthew 28:18-20 and reinforced by the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 2:2.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

"And these things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

In these passages of Scripture, we learn many things about what we are to be focused on as followers of Jesus. First, Jesus has full authority to issue this command to us. Second, he makes it clear that disciples are made, not born into Christian families or because they join a church. Disciples are made, and therefore it is a process to become a disciple. Clearly, it is essential that we become disciples ourselves if we are to make other disciples. Next, we see that a disciple is a person who has committed to follow Jesus and learn from him all that he has commanded. Baptism is something each follower of Jesus should do to show that they now identify with Jesus as his disciple. Next, these verses assure us that we have Jesus present with us in this process and that this process of disciple making is to take place all over the world. No language or people group is to be left out of this commandment to make disciples. Finally, this process of making mature followers of Jesus is to be carried out by current followers of Jesus. The current generation of followers are to produce the next generation of followers.

This One Year Discipleship Plan is one way to help us obey Jesus' command in Matthew 28:18-20. Are you willing to commit to this plan to become a disciple of Jesus and to lead others to maturity in him by taking them through this plan?

Declaration of Commitment:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Suggestions for how to use the Discipleship Plan most effectively:

1. Find a partner or small group to work through the Discipleship Plan together. Having other people involved with us helps keep us accountable and on track with the plan, and we in turn can provide the same for them. In addition, we can be a source of encouragement to those working with us and our discussions can be helpful to the understanding of everyone involved. This plan can be used in families, church groups, Bible Study groups, or even just two people working together. When you begin using it to disciple someone else you can disciple more than one person at a time.
2. Select a time each week that is best to work through this Plan. Then, stick to that time for doing the lessons or meeting with those that are going through the Plan with you. Each lesson can either be done before meeting together, or it can be done during the time of meeting together.
3. Each week you should review the verses included in each lesson more than once. The objective of the Plan is not to complete it as quickly as possible but as thoroughly as possible. That means that we can continue throughout the week to keep reading and rereading the verses in the lesson for greater understanding and application of those verses.
4. Do not move on to the next lesson until you have completed and understood the current lesson. Again, the objective is not complete it as quickly as possible but as thoroughly as possible.
5. You may prefer to use a separate notebook or journal to record your observations.

How are we Saved from our Sin?

Lesson 1

1. Examine the following scriptures and write out what they say about our sin condition:

Romans 3:10-12

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:12

Ephesians 2:1-3

2. Examine the following and write out the penalty for our sin without forgiveness from Jesus Christ:

Romans 6:23

Revelations 20:11-15

3. Examine the following and write out what happens when our sins are forgiven because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ:

Romans 5:1

Romans 5:8-11

Ephesians 2:4-10 and 2:13

Romans 6:23

4. Examine the following and write out what we must do to receive forgiveness of our sin and salvation through Jesus Christ:

Mark 1:14-15

Acts 2:38

John 1:12 and 3:16

Romans 10:9-10

Ephesians 2:8-9

Lesson 1 Summaries:

1. Everyone has sinned since Adam and Eve first sinned and is guilty before God. Sin is any thought or speech or action that is against the will of God.
2. The penalty for sin is judgment by God and separation from God forever unless God forgives our sin.
3. God loves us even in our sin and offers us forgiveness because of the sacrifice of Jesus for our sin. This is God's grace that is shown to us. Grace means he has given us what we do not deserve. He has given us forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus when instead we deserved his wrath.
4. Jesus calls us to turn from our sin and trust completely in his sacrifice for our sin in order to be forgiven and saved from judgement. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation; it is by faith alone in what Jesus has done for us that we become saved. We respond to what he has done for us by repenting of our sin and trusting in him alone as our Savior. Again, sin is any thought or word or action that is against the will of God. Repenting means I no longer see those sins in my life as something I can continue doing. By repenting I am now willing to turn away from those sins that I once freely committed. Faith or belief means that I will completely trust, rely and depend on Jesus for forgiveness of my sin and for strength to live according to his will for me.

Have you repented of your sin and trusted in Christ alone for your salvation? If you have not, and you want to do that now, you can pray something like this to express your commitment to repent and believe in Christ: "Lord Jesus, I confess to you that I am a sinner and deserve your judgment. But I am willing to turn from my life of sin and instead trust in you and follow you. Thank you for being the sacrifice for my sin and for forgiving me. I trust you now to save me from my sin and I now confess you as my Lord and Savior."

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Write out Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23 and 10:9-10 to help you memorize them. Keep repeating them until you have memorized them as a reminder of how you came to salvation and to be able to share them with other people you know.

Write out now all of the things and people that you can think of to thank God for that has led to your salvation:

Write out what it feels like to know that your sin is forgiven and that you are loved forever by God and now have peace with him:

Write out all of the obstacles you face now in following Jesus and pray for Jesus to work in your heart in each of these things. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to give you victory in these areas.

What Happens When We Become Saved?

Lesson 2

1. Examine the following and write out every spiritual blessing that we now have as a disciple of Christ:

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 2:19-22

2. Examine Romans 8:1-39 and write out all of these blessings we have as a child of God:

3. Examine the following and describe the quality of life we can now live in Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ephesians 5:1-12

Romans 6:1-14

Galatians 5:16-26

Lesson 2 Summaries:

1. When I am saved by faith in Christ, I am one of God's holy people and am not lacking any spiritual blessing. In addition, I am chosen by him, adopted as his child, bought back from bondage to sin and marked as belonging to Jesus by the Holy Spirit who now lives in me.
2. When I am saved by faith in Christ, I am no longer condemned for my sin, I have been set free from that penalty. I have the Holy Spirit that enables me to live a life that is pleasing to God and pray prayers that God hears. In addition, God works in all situations in my life to bring good and has worked in my life to bring me to himself. Nothing can separate me from his love for me, even death.
3. When I am saved by faith in Christ, I now live a new life as a new creation of God. Where my life before salvation was controlled by temptation and sin, I am now able to resist sin and live in victory over it. I am no longer forced to sin by my old sin nature, now I am able to choose to live in obedience to God. The Holy Spirit within me, as a new creation in Christ, enables me and empowers me to walk in victory over sin. As I continually walk in obedience I find greater freedom from the control of sin in my life.

Write out your statement of thanks to God for all of these blessings and your commitment to live a new life in the power Jesus gives us. Also, write out Ephesians 2:8-9 and memorize these verses.

Why Should We Be Baptized?

Lesson 3

1. Examine the following and write out what all of these people did right after repenting of their sin and trusting in Jesus for their salvation:

Acts 2:37-38

Acts 8:26-38

Acts 10:44-48

Acts 16:25-34

Matthew 28:18-20

2. Examine the following and write out what baptism symbolizes for the new believer in Christ:

Romans 6:3-4

I Peter 3:18-22

Colossians 2:12

3. Examine the following and write out the difference by baptism by water and baptism by the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:13

Ephesians 1:11-14

Lesson 3 Summaries:

1. In each situation, all of these people were baptized AFTER they believed in Jesus for their salvation; not before. Baptism is something that we do as a follower of Jesus Christ AFTER we have repented and trusted in him for our salvation. The word for baptism means to be submerged in water and raised up out of it. Therefore, Biblical baptism means that in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we are submerged in water and raised up out of it. This is our public testimony of our faith in Christ for salvation.

2. Baptism symbolizes our identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Baptism does not wash away our sin in reality, it symbolizes what Jesus has already done in washing away our sin by his sacrifice. Just as a wedding is a public ceremony to show the love and commitment that two people have already made to each other before the wedding day, so baptism is a public ceremony to show the relationship we now already have with Jesus because of what he has done for us and what we have done by repenting and trusting in him.

3. According to 1 Corinthians 12:13, every believer in Jesus Christ is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. This means that we experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit that makes us a member of Christ's body of followers when we believe in Christ. It can also be seen as our being marked as belonging to Christ by the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. As we shall see in further lessons, there can be later gifting and empowering by the Holy Spirit for ministry. But, the presence of the Holy Spirit from our conversion to Christ guarantees that we will receive our inheritance in Christ.

Have you been baptized AFTER repenting of your sin and trusting in Jesus? Circle YES or NO.

If you circled yes, when were you baptized and where?

If you circled no, what is keeping you from identifying now with Jesus as your Savior? If you have not been baptized, write out the reasons for being baptized from the Scriptures you examined above and compare those reasons with the reasons why you have not. What do you believe is God's will for you with baptism?

Write out and memorize Romans 6:4 as a reminder about the meaning of baptism.

What is the Bible?

Lesson 4

Summary: The Bible is God's written word to us in 66 different books. The 39 books that make up the Old Testament were written over a period of roughly 1,000 years and cover a time span from Creation to about 450 years before Jesus. The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language and deals with God's creation of the world and man, man's sin against God, God's provision for a relationship between man and himself, the creation of Israel as his people and all of the struggles with Israel as they await their coming Messiah; Jesus. The 27 books of the New Testament cover a time span from the birth of Jesus to about 70 years after his death. These books were written in the Greek language. They deal with the coming of Jesus, the life and ministry of Jesus and the founding of the Church after Jesus is resurrected and ascends into heaven. They also deal with how followers of Jesus are to live in obedience to him.

Let's break the books down into their different groups.

List the first 5 books of the Old Testament:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|
| 1. <i>Genesis</i> | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|

Summary: These books were written by Moses around 1400 years before Jesus and tell us how God formed Creation, how man sinned against God, how God judged man and how he formed the nation of Israel, his chosen people.

List the next 12 History books of the Old Testament:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. <i>Joshua</i> | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8. | 9. |
| 10. | 11. | 12. |

Summary: These books deal mostly with God's dealings with his chosen people, Israel. They describe both their faithfulness to God among some and the sinfulness among others. They also describe God's responses to their actions.

List the next 5 Poetry Books of the Old Testament:

1. *Job*
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Summary: These books describe God's dealings with people and are intended for worship as much as for their value in teaching us about God.

List the next 5 books of the Major Prophets:

1. *Isaiah*

2.

3.

4.

5.

Summary: These books contain God's speaking to his people through individual prophets who spoke for him. They are called the Major Prophets because they are large books.

List the 12 books of the other Prophets:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. <i>Hosea</i> | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. | 11. | 12. |

Summary: These books contain even more of God's speaking to his people through individual prophets who spoke for him. They are called the Minor Prophets because they are shorter books.

List the first 4 books of the New Testament:

1. *Matthew*

2.

3.

4.

Summary: These books are called the Gospels, which means good news, and covers the life and mission of Jesus from his birth to his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead.

List the next book in the New Testament:

1.

Summary: The book of Acts covers the history of the foundation and spread to the church through preaching the Gospel after Jesus ascended into heaven.

List the next 21 books, or letters of the New Testament:

1. *Romans*

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

Summary: These letters were written to churches or individuals and cover a wide range of topics that have to do with Christian living.

List the last book on the New Testament:

1.

Summary: This book is a book of prophecy concerning the return of Jesus to earth to rule, God's judgment of the ungodly and a promise of a new heaven and a new earth for those who persevere in the faith.

Write out and memorize Psalm 119:105 as a reminder of how important is God's word for us and how studying it can benefit us.

How did we get the Bible?

Lesson 5

1. What do these parts of the Bible (passages) teach us about how we got the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:19-21

2. What do these passages teach us about how important it is to read or listen to the Bible?

2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16

Psalms 119:9; 119:89

Hebrews 4:12

Romans 15:4

Psalms 19:7-8

3. What do these passages teach us about how important it is to obey what God's word says?

Psalms 119:97-106; 129-138

James 1:19-25

Lesson 5 Summaries:

1. The Bible is the only book that was written by people who were moved directly by the Holy Spirit to write God's truth. Therefore, it is God's word to us, not the words or thoughts of people that they came up with from their own minds and memories. Since it is from God, and God is perfect, then we know his word is completely without mistakes and can be completely trusted for truth in this life.
2. These passages each affirm the importance of God's Word as giving us instruction, direction, encouragement, correction and conviction that is spoken to us by God as we read the Scriptures. We do not have to wonder about or search for what God is saying to us. He speaks these things through his Word.
3. These verses affirm that God's Word to us is not just for reading and understanding, but for obeying and doing. God gives us his truth so that we may understand, but then he expects us to live out that truth by doing what we are called to do in the verses we read. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to do those things effectively, but it is foolishness to read God's Word and then ignore what it says. We must obey what we read.

Write out and memorize 2 Timothy 3:16 as a reminder to us of how we got the Bible.

What Does the Bible say about How God Exists?

Lesson 6

1. Examine the following and write out what it tells us about how God exists:

John 4:24

Deuteronomy 6:4

Isaiah 46:9

James 2:19

2. Examine the following and write out what they tell us about God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:

Matthew 3:16-17 and 6:9

John 1:1 and 1:14-18 and 20:26-28

Isaiah 9:6

Acts 5:3-4

2 Corinthians 3:17

Psalms 139:7

3. Examine the following and write out what they teach us about God:

John 4:24

1 Timothy 1:17 and 6:13-16

2 Timothy 2:11-13

Psalms 139:7-10

Deuteronomy 5:26

1 John 3:20

Hebrews 10:23

James 1:17

4. Examine 1 Corinthians 13:9-13 and write out what it tells us about understanding how God exists as we are now and how we will be able to understand him in eternity:

Lesson 6 Summaries:

1. Scripture clearly states that God is one spiritual being. There is only one God, not more than one God. There are no other gods.
2. Scripture clearly tells us also that the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God. Therefore, God exists as one God in three spiritual persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father is not the Son or Holy Spirit, the Son is not the Father or Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son. They are separate spiritual persons or beings. However, Scripture is clear that each one is fully God and not any less God than the other two. Therefore, with each being fully God, but there being only one God, we know that the three together are one God, not three gods. We call this union of Father, Son and Holy Spirit the Holy Trinity since scripture clearly states there is only one God, yet also states that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are also God.
3. God is a spirit and is therefore invisible. He is an eternal spirit and is present in all of His Creation. He knows all things and all possibilities and is able to do anything he chooses to do. He keeps all of the promises he makes and in addition to that, he does not change. He stays exactly as he is.
4. This passage in 1 Corinthians 13 reminds us that we can only partially understand these things here on earth but we shall be able to fully understand them in eternity when we are in the presence of God.

Write out and memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-5 as a reminder of who God is and how we should respond to him.

What do we know about Who God is and What He Does?

Lesson 7

1. Examine the following scriptures and write out all of the things we learn here about God:

Isaiah 6:1-5

1 Peter 2:23

Deuteronomy 4:31

1 John 4:7-11

Exodus 32:10-12

Exodus 34:6-7 and 34:14

1 Corinthians 10:22

2. Examine the following scriptures and write out what it says about God's work in Creation:

Genesis 1

Hebrews 11:3

Revelation 4:11

Acts 14:14-17

3. Examine the following scriptures and write what it tells us about God's work in the world:

Psalms 33:10-11

Daniel 2:20-23 and 4:34-35

Isaiah 14:26-27 and 46:8-10

Colossians 1:15-17

4. Examine the following scriptures and describe how God reveals himself to us:

Psalms 19:1-6

Romans 1:18-20

Lesson 7 Summaries:

1. God is holy, just, merciful and loving. God hates evil and is jealous for the worship of His people. However, He is patient and compassionate with sinners.
2. God created all things from nothing in six days and rested on the seventh. God created man in his image; meaning that God created man with a *mind to think*, a *will to make choices*, with *emotions to feel*, with a *desire for relationships* and with a *spirit that will exist for eternity*. He continues to work in His Creation and uses it to bring blessing to people.
3. God is in control of all that exists in creation and what occurs in history. He will judge all evil and nothing can stop God from achieving His will.
4. God has revealed himself and that he is the Creator through Creation. No one who has ever lived in Creation can say that there is no evidence that God exists because it is all around them through what has been created.

Write out and memorize Psalm 19:1 as a reminder of how God has revealed himself to us.

Write out a prayer thanking God for the ways you see Him reveal himself.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Lesson 8

1. Examine the following and write out what we learn about Jesus before he became man:

John 1:1-3

Colossians 1:16-17

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

2. Examine the following and write out what was involved in Jesus becoming man:

Matthew 1:18-25

John 1:14-18

Philippians 2:6-7

1 Peter 2:22

3. Examine the following and write out what we learn about Jesus' humanity:

Matthew 4:2 and 26:37

Luke 23:46 and 24:39

John 19:28 and 20:27

4. Examine the following and write out how we can know God:

John 14:6-10 and 17:3

Hebrews 1:1-3

Lesson 8 Summaries:

1. Jesus Christ is God the Son and has always existed with the Father and worked in creating everything with him. Jesus continues to work in holding all things together and without his work the universe would self destruct.
2. Jesus was conceived in the virgin Mary by a miracle of the Holy Spirit and took on human form. When he left the glory of Heaven to become man, he remained God the Son and took upon himself human flesh. He was fully God and fully man at the same time. However, he was completely without sin. He became what he was not (man), but remained what he was (God), in order to become the perfect sinless sacrifice for sin.
3. Jesus experienced humanity in things such as hunger, thirst, temptation and death. However, as God the Son, he proved power over death by rising from the dead.
4. These verses tell us that we know God through knowing Jesus Christ. When we know him, we have eternal life through him. Through what God created we can know about him, but only through a relationship with Jesus, God the Son, can we know God in a relationship and hear what he is saying to us. It is only through knowing Jesus Christ that we can have eternal life.

Write out and memorize John 1:14 as a reminder of how Jesus was revealed to us.

What has Jesus done for us?

Lesson 9

1. Examine the following and write out what Jesus' sacrifice for our sins means to us:

Hebrews 9:27-28

Romans 3:21-26

Philippians 2:8-11

1 John 2:2

2. Examine the following and write out each time Jesus appears to someone after being raised from the dead:

John 20

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

3. Examine the following and write out the effect that Jesus' resurrection from the dead can have on us:

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

John 5:28-29

4. Examine the following and write out what Jesus will do as the risen Son of God:

1 Timothy 6:13-16

Acts 1:11

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

Revelation 19:11-21

Lesson 9 Summaries:

1. Jesus Christ died in our place for our sin so that we would not have to face God's judgment for the sins we committed. Since he became a sacrifice for us we can be forgiven for our sin and do not have to face the wrath of God ourselves.
2. All of these appearances by Jesus after being crucified proves that he was raised from the dead to life again and was victorious over death itself.
3. Jesus' resurrection from the dead means that we also have victory over death if we know him. We do not need to fear death because it is not the end for us; only the beginning of life with Jesus in heaven.
4. As the risen Lord, Jesus has promised to return to establish his kingdom on earth and to bring justice by destroying his enemies.

Write out and memorize 1 Corinthians 15:55-56 as a reminder of our victory over death.

Which lost person in your life will you share this good news with today? Pray now and take that first step to tell them.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Lesson 10

1. Examine the following and write out where God the Holy Spirit is at work:

Psalms 139:7-10

John 16:5-11

2. Examine the following and write out what else you discover about God the Holy Spirit and his work with followers of Jesus:

John 14:15-18

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

3. Examine the following and write out what the Holy Spirit does when it comes to our salvation:

John 1:13-14

John 3:1-8 and 16:7-8

Ephesians 1:13-14

Titus 3:4-7

1 Corinthians 12:13

4. Examine the following and write out what the Holy Spirit does for the person that repents and trusts in Christ:

Romans 8:9-11 and 8:26-27

John 16:12-15

1 Corinthians 2:12-15

Lesson 10 Summaries:

1. The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit that is at work in the world bringing conviction and awareness of sin and coming judgment because of sin. He is always present wherever a follower of Jesus may go.
2. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be in his disciples as a helper and therefore he lives within us. We are to honor God with our bodies as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit is the one who convinces us we are sinners and in need of salvation. He is also the one who comes to live in us when we repent and causes us to have new life or rebirth through Christ. He also guarantees that we belong to Christ and will stay with him. Finally, he baptizes us into the body of Christ followers and therefore includes us in the family of God's people.
4. The Holy Spirit comes to live within us and gives us victory over being controlled by sin. He teaches us truth and enables us to know truth from the lies of the world and the devil. In addition, he helps us in our prayers so that they are heard by God.

Write out and memorize Psalm 139:7-8

How Does the Holy Spirit help Us?

Lesson 11

1. Examine the following and describe how the Holy Spirit helps us to be more effective followers of Christ:

Ephesians 5:15-21

Galatians 5:16-26

2. Examine the following and describe this ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives:

2 Corinthians 7:9-11

Galatians 5:16 and 5:25

3. Examine the following and write out the various gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to followers of Christ:

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

Romans 12:6-8

Lesson 11 Summaries:

1. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to put ourselves under his control and we will produce fruit in our lives that is different from the sins of our flesh. We cannot live a victorious life by our strength or consistently live in obedience to God. We must rely on the Holy Spirit's power to obey God's will and do things his way in order to be victorious over the control of sin in our lives. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means that we are under his control and influence as we go about our daily lives. When that happens, we will produce good spiritual fruit.
2. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin in our lives so that we repent. When we follow his leading in repenting and obeying, we are walking with the Spirit and not living by the flesh.
3. The Holy Spirit enables believers to serve God by using gifts he has given them. Since you looked at this in Lesson 10, what more have you discovered about what your gift or gifts may be?

Have you prayed about God's direction for your gifts and service to him? Circle Yes or No

What is the most difficult thing in your life right now when it comes to following the Holy Spirit and doing things God's way?

Will you pray about the Holy Spirit giving you victory in this area of your life?

Write out and memorize Ephesians 5:18 as a reminder of how we should submit to the Holy Spirit.

How Do We Study the Bible?

Lesson 12

There are four basic steps to studying the Bible so that it speaks to us and effects our lives:

R – Read or listen to the passage of the Bible that you are studying at least three times.

E – Examine the passage in its context and define unfamiliar or key words. We are trying to discover what the main truth of that section of Scripture is about.

A – Apply the meaning of the passage to your life today. What does it mean to you?

D – Do what it says to do or think or believe or pray, or stop doing what it says to stop doing or thinking or believing.

Example: Matthew 6:9-15

First, READ or listen to this passage at least three times slowly. Read or listen also to the passages before and after the one you are studying.

Next, EXAMINE this passage of Scripture by asking questions about the passage, like: who is speaking or writing, who is the audience, what is the subject matter, what does the passage before and after have to do with this passage, what words appear that I do not understand? We ask questions so we can get answers to help us understand the original meaning.

Summary: In this passage Jesus is speaking to his disciples about how to pray. In the section before this he is speaking about how *not* to pray. Now he talks about things to say in prayer to God the Father in heaven. He says his disciples should speak to him first about God's name, God's kingdom and God's will before they talk to him about their needs. In speaking to him about his name, they are to respect his name at all times. That is what "hallowed" means. In speaking about God's kingdom, they are asking that it comes. His kingdom is not a physical kingdom yet, but a kingdom of the heart where they make him king of their lives. When disciples pray for his kingdom to come, they are asking for people to submit to his authority and obey him as king. When they pray for his will to be done as it is done in heaven, they are praying that they will obey him completely and immediately. So, they are praying for their spiritual relationship with God before they pray about the other things they need, like daily bread. After asking for the things they need, disciples are to ask for his forgiveness of sin and a willingness to forgive other people the way he forgives them. Finally, they are to ask him to give strength in facing temptation and to keep them from sin. All of these things we discover when we carefully EXAMINE the passage.

Third, we APPLY what we have discovered by praying to God for these things in our lives right now. It's not enough to know what the Bible says, we need to understand what it means to us. We need to make decisions about what we should do differently after reading studying a section of God's Word, the Bible. In this case, we learn that we need to speak to God about our spiritual needs and our physical needs, but our spiritual needs are most important. All of this prayer, except daily bread, is about our spiritual needs and obedience. That is what we most need to pray about. Now I have decided what this means to me. That is application.

Finally, we commit to DO the things we have just prayed about for ourselves. Is it never enough to simply know what we should do unless we do those things. The Bible is given to us to not only know God and know about God, but especially to obey him. This is where many followers of Jesus fall short in Bible study. We learn what the Bible is saying, what it is saying to us, but we have to complete our study by doing what it is telling us to do.

Write out what you find when you EXAMINE Matthew 6:9-14:

Write out what these things mean to you personally about prayer:

Write out what changes you need to make to begin doing what this passage tells us to do:

How Do We Pray to God?

Lesson 13

There are also four things that we do when we pray to God. God speaks to us through studying his word and we speak to him through prayer. These are the four parts of prayer.

P – Praise God

R – Repent of our sin

A – Ask God for the things we need

Y – Yield to God's Will

After studying Matthew 6:9-15, we can now see all four of these things in the way Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

First, We PRAISE God for being our Father in heaven. We give him praise for who he is and what he does. We are also to focus on those things that we are thankful for when we praise him. This focuses us on what God has already done for us before we even consider what we ask him for. The more we praise God, the more we are reminded of his goodness and love and the less we are concerned about ourselves.

Next, we REPENT of our sin against God. In Matthew 6:12 we are to ask forgiveness for our sin. We confess our sin to God, which means agreeing with him that we have sinned, and ask him to cleanse us. We are agreeing with God that our sin is wrong and that we are willing to give it up and obey him. We confess any and all sin that we know of before God when we repent, not just some of them. Also read 1 John 1:5-10 for more on confessing sin to the Lord.

Next, we ASK God for the things we need. In Matthew 6:11 Jesus tells us to ask for our daily bread. In other words, we are to ask for the things we need for ourselves and others we know. It may be many things, but God already knows what they are. Matthew 6:8 tell us that. But we ask most for the spiritual things we need, like help in facing temptation, help in submitting to his will, forgiving other people as we have been forgiven and other needs.

Finally, we YIELD to God by asking that his kingdom comes and his will is done in our lives. In other words, we submit to his authority and ask for God to help us live his way by his will. We make him our king and obey him in his kingdom and we pray for the help of the Holy Spirit to do that effectively.

Write out all of the things you think are great about God and all of things you are thankful for from him.

Write out all of the sins that you need to turn from doing and be forgiven for by God.

Write out all of the things that you want God to do or provide, spiritual and physical, then ask him to do them or provide them according to his will, in his time.

Write out a statement of your willingness to obey God and live your life according to his will.

How do we Worship God?

Lesson 14

1. Examine the following and describe what God is praised for, how he is praised, and who praises him:

Psalm 95:1-7

Psalm 98

Psalm 100

2. Examine the following and write out the attitude that we should have as worshippers:

Hebrews 12:28

Revelation chapters 4 and 5

3. Examine Romans 12:1-2 and write out what is different about worship from what we have seen in the other verses:

4. Examine Hebrews 13:15 and Psalm 150 and note who is to be the object of our worship:

5: Examine Psalm 73 and describe the feelings of the Psalmist in the first 16 verses. Next, describe what changed his mind in verse 17. Why did worship change his mind?

Lesson 14 Summaries:

1. The Psalms are a collection of Hebrew songs. Here, worship is giving praise and thanksgiving to God in word or song for all he has done in Creation and salvation. It is done by his people who humble themselves before him.
2. As worshippers of God, we should have an attitude of total humility and bow before him as we consider his greatness. This scene in heaven shows the respect that all of the heavenly beings have as they worship God.
3. Here we see that how we live before God and use our gifts to serve him is another way that we worship God.
4. God himself is always to be the object of our worship and the reason we worship. We are offering him a gift of praise when we worship. Many people worship God for the experience they can get out of worship for themselves. This is not the reason we worship.
5. The Psalmist is angry over the injustice that he sees in the world and the fact that the most wicked people seem to be the most prosperous and successful. However, in verse 17, he states he came to the sanctuary of God, which is another way of describing worship. In worshipping God, he was able to see things from the proper perspective. He then saw God as great and eternal and the wickedness of people and treasures of this earth as being temporary. His worship of God and focusing on the greatness of God enabled him to see life on this earth in the proper perspective rather than being caught up in jealousy for the things the wicked enjoy.

Write out and memorize Romans 12:1-2

How do we Give to God?

Lesson 15

1. Examine 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 and list all of the things that impress you about the giving of these Christians:

2. Examine 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and write out the kind of attitude we should have in our giving:

3. Examine the following and write out what things we should not do when it comes to giving to the Lord:

Matthew 6:1-4

Mark 12:41-44

Lesson 15 Summaries:

1. Giving to the Lord begins with us giving ourselves to the Lord. Therefore, everything we have needs to belong to him. We are only keeping for him what belongs to him. As a result of that understanding of what we have, we can give to others generously even when we have little ourselves.
2. God wants us to give generously and with joy since we are able to give back some of what he has given to us. The more we give, the more we are blessed by God for our generosity.
3. We are not to give to get attention from people so that they praise us for our generosity. We do not give to put on a show for people. Instead, God is pleased when we give sacrificially rather than from our extra.

From all of these verses we have looked at, we see that God is much more interested in us giving with the right attitude of joy and generosity, giving in a way that is a sacrifice to us, and giving with thanksgiving for all he has given us. Those things are more important than the amount that we give. Write out your commitment to give to the Lord. How will you begin giving consistently to the Lord? Be specific.

Write out and memorize 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 as a reminder about giving to the Lord.

How do we Serve God?

Lesson 16

1. Examine Romans 12:1-8 and write out what is necessary for us to serve God:

2. Examine the following and list all of the spiritual gifts you read about there:

1 Corinthians 12

1 Corinthians 14

3. Examine the following and write about what is necessary for us to use our gifts in a way that is pleasing to God:

1 Corinthians 13

Romans 12:9-10

Lesson 16 Summaries:

1. We see that we are to give ourselves as a sacrifice to the Lord, and one way to do that is to use the gifts that he has given us to serve him.
2. There are many gifts that the Lord has given to the people in his church. Which of these gifts, along with those in Romans 12, do you think you may have:
3. Our service to God must always be motivated by our love for others, not to draw attention to ourselves. Other people must always be the object of our service and using our gifts to meet their needs. We should never compare our gifts and service with others as some kind of competition for blessing. That would make our service something selfish and not pleasing to God.

Commit to pray about what gifts God has given you and how he wants to use you in service for his kingdom. Write out a prayer about this:

Write out and memorize 1 Corinthians 14:12 as a reminder about spiritual gifts.

How do we Tell others about God?

Lesson 17

1. Examine Mark 5:1-20 and write out what Jesus told the man to go tell people:

2. Examine the following and write out what we need to tell people from the Scriptures about their need for salvation:

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

Romans 10:9-10

Acts 3:19

3. Examine the following and write out the reason that we are to tell others about Jesus.

Acts 1:6-8

Matthew 28:18-20

Lesson 17 Summaries:

1. Telling other people about Jesus begins with telling them about what he has done for us. We testify about what he has done for us by telling our story of how he saved us from our sin.
2. These verses outline what a person needs to know about salvation. They need to know that they are sinners and need a Savior. They need to know that Jesus loves them and has become the sacrifice for their sin. They need to know that they must repent of their sin and confess him as their Savior to be saved.
3. Jesus commanded his disciples to tell others about him throughout the world. Notice that in Matthew he is in Galilee when he tells them this, and in Acts he is on the Mount of Olives, a completely different place. That means Jesus told this to his disciples over and over again. How important must it have been for them tell others about him?

How important is it for us to tell others about him?

Make a list of the people you know that need to know Jesus among your family and friends. Begin praying that the Lord will work in their heart so that they want to know him.

Commit to memorizing these verses; Romans 3:23; 5:8, 6:23, Acts 3:19 and Romans 10:9-10 so that you can tell them about Jesus from Scripture.

Write out your testimony, which is simply your story of salvation. Be prepared to share with the group next week.

What is the Church?

Lesson 18

1. Examine the following and summarize what this tells us about the beginning of the church.

Matthew 16:18 and 28:18-20

Acts 1:4-5 and 2:1-41

2. Examine the following and write out everything we learn here about the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven.

Mark 1:14-15

Matthew 13:1-50

3. Examine the following and write out what you learn here about the church.

1 Corinthians 1:2

Ephesians 1:22-23

1 Thessalonians 1:1

Colossians 1:18

Hebrews 12:23

4. Examine the following and note the qualities of church leadership and how it is to be organized and respected.

1 Peter 5:1-3

1 Timothy 3:1-13

Titus 1:5-9

Hebrews 13:17

5. Examine Acts 2:37-47 and list the activities that the church performed in order to accomplish the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel and growing people in their faith.

Lesson 18 Summaries:

1. Jesus determined to create the church after he ascended into heaven, but spoke about it before that. The church actually began about 10 days after Jesus ascended to heaven when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost and empowered them to establish the church. **The church is God's visible representation on earth of those who have been saved by Jesus.** The church exists to glorify God by proclaiming his good news of salvation and teaching people to mature in their faith until Jesus returns.

2. Jesus spoke of the church as yet to come while he was preaching the good news of the kingdom; which was already present. In other words, Jesus was calling people to repent for forgiveness of their sin and submit to God's authority by faith. That is how they entered the kingdom and how we still enter God's kingdom. But God's kingdom now is an invisible, spiritual kingdom. It is worth giving up everything to enter.

What is the difference between the church and the kingdom? The kingdom of God is God ruling in our hearts by faith when we turn from sin and make him the king of our lives. The church is those who are members of the kingdom. The church began on the day of Pentecost, but the kingdom of God is eternal and has existed since God created man. The church will end when Jesus returns, but God's kingdom and rule over all of his creation will last forever. The church exists only for a time and a purpose, whereas the kingdom of God is eternal and never ends. The kingdom of God in Mark, Luke and John is the same as the kingdom of heaven in Matthew.

3. The church exists in two forms: the universal church is all believers throughout the world who have entered into God's kingdom by repentance and faith. It also exists as individual groups of believers that meet in one place who have spiritual leaders who lead them. We call this the local church. The universal church, represented by local churches, is the body of Christ over which he is the head and authority.

4. Local churches are to be led by elders, also called bishops or pastors in other parts of the New Testament, who are responsible for the spiritual leading, teaching and oversight of a local church. There are also deacons who are responsible for carrying out other ministry matters of the church beyond the spiritual matters the elders care for. The local church is a

gathering of believers in Christ but must have recognized leaders in these positions to be an actual church. Believers are to respect these leaders and submit to their godly leadership.

5. We see here four activities that the church was doing. They are the same things that all local churches should be doing. The church should engage in worship; fellowship, which is caring for the needs of one another; discipleship and evangelism. Any healthy church is to be doing all four of these things. In addition, the local church baptizes new believers, as we have already seen and celebrates the Lord's Supper or Communion, which we will see in the next lesson.

What does Celebrating the Lord's Supper Mean?

Lesson 19

1. Examine the following and describe what Jesus is telling his disciples and showing them regarding the bread and cup:

Matthew 26:17-30

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

2. Examine 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 and write out the warnings Paul gives this church about observing the Lord's Supper the wrong way:

Lesson 19 Summaries:

1. Jesus was showing his disciples what his coming sacrifice would mean by using bread as a symbol for his body and the cup as a symbol for his blood. When he broke the bread, he was showing how his body would be broken as a sacrifice for sin. With the cup he was showing how his blood would be shed to provide forgiveness of sin. He told his disciples to do both of these things in the future to remind themselves of his sacrifice for their sin. Therefore, when we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we are remembering Jesus' sacrifice for our sin with the symbols of bread and the cup.

2. These believers in Corinth were abusing the Lord's Supper by observing it in a sinful way. They were focused on themselves and their eating and drinking, even getting drunk, rather than focusing on Jesus and remembering his sacrifice. Before observing the Lord's Supper each follower of Christ should examine themselves to make sure they are participating correctly and not in a sinful way.

Write out and memorize Mark 14:22-24 as a reminder of the meaning of the Lord's Supper.

What Do We Know About Angels?

Lesson 20

1. Examine the following and note what we learn in these verses about angels.

Psalms 8:3-5; 89:5-7 and 148:2-5

Daniel 10:12-14

Revelation 12:7-9

2. Examine the following and determine what else we learn about the nature of angels:

James 2:19

Luke 8:1-2 and 8:28-34

Matthew 22:30

3. Examine the following to determine what holy angels do in serving God.

2 Samuel 24:16-17

Hebrews 1:14

Acts 12:6-10

Revelation 8:2-5

Daniel 4:17

4. Examine the following. List some of the things that demons do in opposing the work of God.

Ephesians 6:10-13

Matthew 8:28-34

Revelation 16:13-16

5. Study these verses concerning Satan, the head of demons, and write out what he does to oppose God and what his future looks like.

1 Timothy 3:6

John 8:44

Revelation 12:7-10

Matthew 4:1-11

Genesis 3:1-5

Ephesians 6:10-13

1 Peter 5:8-9

2 Cor. 4:4

Colossians 2:15

Revelation 20:3-10.

6. Examine the following and note how the Enemy, Satan, seeks to control us and how he keeps control over us.

John 8:42-47

Ephesians 4:26-27

Lesson 20 Summaries:

1. Angels are created spiritual beings that are organized into various levels of authority. They exist as either holy angels that serve God, or fallen angels, also called demons, princes or evil spirits, that resist the work and plans of God in creation.
2. Angels are able to think and reason, have emotions like fear, can join forces with other angels, do not marry like people and can apparently inhabit animals.
3. Holy angels assist God in his work in the world, guide in the affairs of nations, minister to believers and punish the enemies of God.
4. Demons are spiritual forces of wickedness that promote idolatry and false worship, afflict people mentally and physically, causing suffering, and generally work against God's plans in the world.
5. Satan is the head fallen angel of wickedness who pridefully rebelled against God led other demons in rebellion against God. He is a murderer and a liar, an accuser of believers, and tempts people to sin. In addition, he wages spiritual war against believers and deceives unbelievers about the Gospel. He and his demons have experienced defeat already by Christ's death on the cross and will spend eternity in the lake of fire as judgment.
6. Satan controls us by getting us to believe lies about ourselves, God and himself. He convinces us and tempts us to believe what is not true and whenever we believe and act on his lies, we are doing his will. Whenever we believe and act on the truth of the Bible, we deny the lies of Satan and he has no control over us. The other way we give him control over our lives is by not confessing sin and instead continuing in that sin. One example is Ephesians 4:27 where when we allow conflicts with other people to go unresolved and when we refuse to forgive them of their sins against us.

In the next section we will look more carefully at several things, like unforgiveness or continuing to practice sin, that can keep us from living in victory over the enemy.

Write out and memorize James 4:7 as a reminder of how to deal with the schemes of the devil.

How Do We Walk in Spiritual Victory over the Enemy

Lessons 21-26

Examine the following and note the main difference in what Jesus tells us and what Satan tells us.

John 1:14

John 8:32

John 8:42-47

Summary: Jesus is full of truth and tells us that it is truth that sets us free. Satan tells us lies that keep us under his control when we believe those lies. Therefore, we must seek to know and believe the truth about God and ourselves if we are to walk in spiritual victory and freedom. In Lessons 22 and 23 we are going to make a list from Scripture of the truths that we are going to believe about God and about us to replace the lies we have believed in the past.

So far, in this Discipleship plan, we have been learning the truth about God, ourselves and the Enemy. But there still may be things that we are believing that are not true and that are controlling us. Ask the Lord Jesus in prayer to reveal to you all the lies that you are still believing about him, yourself and the Devil that you need to confess as sin to God, and state out loud that you are rejecting and refusing to believe those lies. These lies can come through things others have told us or especially through participating in false religion or any spiritual practices that are not from the Bible. We need to confess these as sin, repent of them and reject them out loud.

Ask the Lord to reveal to you all sin that needs to be confessed and then write out your confession and rejection of all sin that the Holy Spirit brings to mind. **Keep going with your list on the back of this page until you have written all the sins and false beliefs that the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.** For example:

I confess that I have _____ and I repent of this and reject it.

I confess that I have _____ and I repent of this and reject it.

(Repeat this for as many sins that come to mind)

Then consider praying this simple prayer and repeat it or something similar regularly whenever you find yourself struggling in this area: *Lord, I thank you that your Word says you are faithful and just to forgive my sins. Thank you that the blood of your precious Son, Jesus, was sufficient to pay the penalty for all my sins. I am trusting in that truth alone for my forgiveness. I have confessed the sin of _____ and have turned from it. But I find myself tempted in this area. Your Word says that when I am tempted you will provide a way of escape for me. Show me that way of escape. I choose to follow you and submit to you in all areas of my life.*

What are Truths that I Must Believe about God?

Lesson 22

Write out the truth that you find in each of these verses:

God is (John 14:6) _____

God is (Psalm 103:8) _____

God is (Revelation 4:11) _____

God is (Isaiah 6:3) _____

God is Ephesians 2:4) _____

God is (Philippians 2:13) _____

God is (Job 42:2) _____

God is (Psalm 45:6) _____

God is (Revelation 1:8) _____

God is (Psalm 46:1) _____

God is (Psalm 47:7) _____

God is (Daniel 4:3) _____

God is (Hebrews 4:14) _____

God is (Hebrews 13:6) _____

God is (2 Peter 3:9) _____

God is (Revelation 22:20) _____

God is (Psalm 107:1) _____

God is (Psalm 111:3) _____

God is (Revelation 1:17-18) _____

God is (Psalm 135:5) _____

God is (Psalm 142:5) _____

God is (Psalm 144:2) _____

God is (Psalm 145:9) _____

God is (1 John 1:9) _____

God is (1 John 4:16) _____

God is (Psalm 139:1-6) _____

God is (Colossians 1:15-17) _____

God is (James 1:17) _____

God is (Hebrews 10:23) _____

God is (1 Timothy 1:17) _____

God is (1 Timothy 6:15-16) _____

God is (1 John 4:8) _____

God is (Exodus 34:14) _____

God is (Luke 1:37) _____

God is (Psalm 104:1) _____

Now, pick out 3 of the above verses about God that you will memorize this week.

Write out each of the 3 verses below to help you begin memorizing them.

What are Truths I Must Believe About Myself in Christ?

Lesson 23

In Christ I am (Colossians 1:22) _____

In Christ I am (John 1:12) _____

In Christ I have (Romans 5:1) _____

In Christ I am not (Romans 8:1) _____

In Christ I am (John 15:15) _____

In Christ I am (Colossians 2:13) _____

In Christ I am (1 Corinthians 6:19) _____

In Christ I am (Philippians 3:20) _____

In Christ I am (Ephesians 1:4) _____

In Christ I am (Ephesians 1:5) _____

In Christ I am (Ephesians 2:5) _____

In Christ I am (Ephesians 2:6) _____

In Christ I have (Ephesians 2:18) _____

In Christ I am (1 Corinthians 12:27) _____

In Christ I am (Colossians 3:3) _____

In Christ I am (Romans 8:28) _____

In Christ I am (Romans 8:29) _____

In Christ I am (Romans 8:30) _____

In Christ I will (Revelation 2:7) _____

In Christ I am (Revelation 1:5-6) _____

In Christ I will (Revelation 2:11) _____

In Christ I will (Revelation 2:26-27) _____

In Christ I will (Revelation 3:5) _____

In Christ I will (Revelation 3:12) _____

In Christ I am (Romans 5:10) _____

In Christ I am (1 Corinthians 12:13) _____

In Christ I am (Galatians 2:20) _____

In Christ I can (Philippians 4:13) _____

In Christ I am (1 John 3:1) _____

In Christ I am (1 John 4:4) _____

In Christ I have (1 John 5:1) _____

In Christ I have (1 Peter 1:3) _____

In Christ I have (1 Peter 1:4) _____

In Christ I have (1 Peter 1:5) _____

In Christ I will (John 10:27-28) _____

In Christ I am (Matthew 5:13-14) _____

In Christ I have (Colossians 3:3) _____

In Christ I am (2 Corinthians 5:17) _____

Now, pick out 3 of the verses above that you will memorize this week. Write out each of the 3 verses below to help you begin memorizing them.

Why Is Forgiveness So Important?

Lesson 24

One of the things that keeps us from walking in victory is refusing to extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us. Examine the following and write out what we are supposed to do when we are wronged.

Matthew 6:9-13

Ephesians 4:31-32

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Matthew 18:21-35

Summary: **Forgiveness is not a feeling or an emotion. It is a decision we must make to not hold someone's sin against us, any longer against them.** We must decide to forgive even when we don't feel like forgiving. Jesus demands that we forgive other people the same way he forgives us. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the people that you need to forgive now and declare that you are now forgiving them for their sin against you. For example:

I forgive _____ for _____

I forgive _____ for _____

(Continue on to the back of this page listing everyone that you need to forgive.)

Then consider praying this sample prayer: *Lord Jesus, I confess that I have not forgiven these people but today I decide to forgive them because I have already been forgiven by you. I leave them in your hands to deal with according to your righteousness. I will no longer hold their sin against them. Thank you for forgiving me and now I pray that I can continue to forgive others as I have been forgiven. Amen.*

Next, pray for the Lord to reveal to you all the people that you have sinned against that you need to seek forgiveness from. There are people that need to forgive you. List them below.

I need to seek forgiveness from _____ for _____

I need to seek forgiveness from _____ for _____

(Continue on the back of this page with all the names that are brought to your mind.)

Then consider praying something like this: *"Lord Jesus, I have sinned against you and against these people. Please make a way for me to confess my sin to them and ask for their forgiveness. I know you have forgiven me but I want to have their forgiveness also, so please work in their hearts to enable them to forgive me as well. Amen."*

How do we deal with other Sinful Actions, Beliefs and Thoughts?

Lesson 25

Examine the following and write out what we learn about how to deal with sinful thoughts and actions.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

James 4:7

Romans 6:11-14

Galatians 5:19-21

Ephesians 4:25-31

Summary: Every sinful thought and action must be changed to become obedient to Jesus. Every sin must be confessed, repented of and rejected. If we do not, they become strongholds that the devil can use to hinder our faith and walk with Jesus. We must ask the Lord to reveal to us any strongholds of sin that exist in our lives that need to be brought into obedience to Christ. Every sin from our past or present requires confession, repentance and rejection. (Consider the following list, although it is not exhaustive: pride, sexual lust and immorality, abortion, dishonesty, lying, cheating, envy, stealing, idolatry, drunkenness, witchcraft, greed, anger, unbiblical divorce, gossip, drug use, racism.) List each sin that the Holy Spirit brings to mind and agree with the Lord Jesus that it is sin, repent of this sin and reject it, and ask him for the strength and grace to gain victory over it. For example:

I confess that _____ is sin and I repent of it and reject it as something that cannot remain in my life.

I confess that _____ is sin and I repent of it and reject it as something that cannot remain in my life.

(keep listing and repenting of all the sins that are brought to mind).

Then consider praying something like this: *Lord Jesus, I confess that I have practiced these sins and allowed them to control my life. I now repent of them, reject them and thank you for cleansing me of them. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so that I can live in victory over them and not be a slave to them any longer.*

Write out and memorize 2 Corinthians 10:5 as a reminder of how to deal with these sins.

Why is Submission to Authority So Important?

Lesson 26

1. Examine the following and write out what we learn about the problem of pride:

James 4:6

Proverbs 16:18

1 John 2:16

Proverbs 18:12 and 15:33

2. Examine Romans 13:1-7 and write out our responsibility to submit to the authorities and laws that we are to live under.

3. Examine the following and write out our responsibilities to submit to leaders in our families, work and churches.

Ephesians 5:21-32

1 Peter 2:13-17

Ephesians 6:1-3

1 Peter 2:18-23

Colossians 3:18-21

Hebrews 13:7

Lesson 26 Summaries:

1. The Lord is opposed to those that are prideful and lack humility. This pride is the root of rebellion and often leads to the destruction of the prideful person.
2. We are to obey the laws where we live and submit to their authority because God has established law and order and the people that enforce them as a blessing for us. To rebel against the authority that God has put over us is to rebel against God.
3. God has established an order of authority in the home beginning with father. The father is to be under the authority of Jesus himself. The wife is to respect and submit to the authority of the husband and the children are to be under the authority of their parents. In the same way, at church the leaders are to be respected and at work, workers are to submit to the authority of those over them.

Write out Proverbs 16:18 and memorize it as a reminder of the problem pride can be for us.

What Happens at the End of Time?

Lesson 27

1. Examine the following and note what we learn here about the return of Jesus to earth:

Acts 1:11

Matthew 24:36-44

James 5:7-8

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

Revelation 16:15

2. Examine the following and write out the details of what happens with unbelievers and followers of Christ when Jesus returns:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Revelation 19

3. Examine the following and note what things will be like on the earth as we get close to the return of the Lord:

Matthew 24:3-14

Revelation 6:6-17

2 Peter 3:3-13

4. Now, examine the following and note the details of what will take place right before and with the return of the Lord:

Danial 9:25-27

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Revelation 3:10; Revelation 13; Revelation 7; Revelation 19:11-21 and Revelation 20:1-5

5. Examine the following and write out what happens after the 1,000 years are over.

Rev. 20:7-10; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21; Revelation 22:1-7

Lesson 27 Summaries:

1. Jesus Christ will return to earth at a time that is unknown to anyone but the Father. His return will take place suddenly and will be totally unexpected for unbelievers in Christ. However, followers of Jesus are to patiently expect his return and not be caught unprepared.
2. Those believers who have died before his return will have their bodies resurrected and will join those that are still alive in being caught to meet Jesus in the air and will remain with him forever. This is known as the "Rapture" of the church. They will celebrate the marriage feast of Jesus while Jesus will destroy his enemies that remain on earth.
3. There will be much violence, sinfulness and persecution of followers of Jesus leading up to the time of his return.
4. A seven-year period of intense tribulation will take place leading up to the return of Jesus and especially the last half of this period when the Antichrist will emerge to rule the world and intensely persecute followers of Jesus. During that time, God will pour out his wrath on all unbelievers who are followers of the Antichrist but God will protect his people. They will not be subject to the wrath of God but will be persecuted by the Devil, the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Jesus will slay these enemies at his coming and will bind Satan for 1,000 years. The believers in Jesus that were resurrected and caught up to be with Jesus, and event called the Rapture, will rule with Jesus for 1,000 years and be with him forever. This 1,000 year rule of Jesus and his followers is called the Millenium.
5. At the end of the Millenium, Satan will be freed for a short time before being judged and put in the lake of fire forever along with all of those of all time that have rejected Jesus. Believers in Jesus, however, will join Jesus forever in a new heaven and new earth with no suffering, sorrow or pain ever again.

What Happens at the End of Our Time?

Lesson 28

1. Examine the following and write out what happens when we die:

Hebrews 9:27

James 2:26

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Luke 16:22-23

2. Examine the following and write out what we learn about rewards and responsibilities in heaven:

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Revelation 20:6

Lesson 28 Summaries:

1. We die when our soul leaves our body. For followers of Jesus, our soul goes immediately into the presence of Jesus where we remain until our bodies are resurrected at the coming of the Lord. For unbelievers, they go to hell to await final judgment after the 1,000 years. There is no way to change their future now.
2. Believers in Jesus are rewarded in heaven according to their service to Jesus here on earth. As well, believers rule with Jesus during the Millenium.