



A GUIDE FOR LIVING YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST

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INTRODUCTION

What is a disciple? John the Apostle said in 1 John 2:6, “Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” A disciple seeks to think and live like Jesus. When Jesus called his disciples, he simply said, “Follow Me,” and once they began to follow, they would never be the same again! They didn’t have all the details of where they were going or how they were going to get there. All they knew was that they were going to spend the rest of their lives following him. They would travel with him, eat with him, face challenges with him, listen to him, and learn from him. And he would change their lives forever. The first disciples were not the most highly educated or powerful people in their community. They were just ordinary people who took an extraordinary step of faith and followed Jesus. They had no idea that they would change the world!

A disciple is a person who has trusted in Jesus for salvation and is on a lifelong journey of following him. Discipleship is a lifestyle of passionately pursuing Jesus by learning from and about him, listening to him, and obeying him. It is a dynamic relationship as opposed to a series of sequential steps or rules. It’s not a list of do’s and don’ts. At any given time, a disciple might be growing more quickly in one area of his or her relationship with Jesus than another. Through the reading and studying of God’s word, prayer, and interaction with other believers, the disciple seeks to understand more about Jesus’s life and character and the things that he is passionate about. The intent is to become and behave more like Jesus, and reflect his character and values in our own lives.

My Life His Life is simply a tool—an opportunity to reflect and assess how you feel you are doing as a disciple based on what the Bible says about followers of Jesus. It covers eleven basic areas of a disciple’s life that should reflect Christ. It is based on the Bible because this is the primary source to learn about Jesus and how he lived.

As you read the scriptures, pray for the Holy Spirit to give you understanding and insight into the life of Christ. Be honest with yourself when you answer the questions in each area, and ask God to open your heart and mind to receive and understand what the Bible teaches. Romans 8:29 says, “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.” You might consider using a journal to write down additional thoughts and insights as your work through the material.

Additional resources are suggested in each section to help you do further study in that area. These resources can be used to go deeper in your walk with Jesus, and can provide resources for you to share with others. ***My Life His Life*** is not intended to be an exhaustive resource. It can be a simple start for those just beginning their journey as a disciple of Jesus, or can be a refresher for others who are further along. Either way, ***My Life His Life*** is a means to an end—that being a continuous and growing relationship with Jesus.

All disciples are still growing and being conformed to the image of Jesus. As you work through ***My Life His Life***, consider taking someone else on the journey with you. Jesus intends for his disciples to become disciple-makers. Remember, no one, no matter how long they have been a Christian or how much they have matured in the faith, has arrived. So, enjoy the journey!



FAITH IN CHRIST

Trusting in Jesus for salvation and eternal life is the starting point for becoming a disciple. The fact is, you cannot be a disciple of Jesus until you take the first step of trusting him as Savior and Lord and receiving forgiveness for the sin that separates you from God. You might try to be good and very religious, but you can never be good enough. It's not about how many sins you've committed, but the presence of sin in your life. Sin is not just about the outward deeds, but also the intentions and attitudes of the heart. The Bible considers things like anger, hatred, jealousy, bitterness, and lust, that can be hidden in our hearts and never acted upon, to be sin. The Bible tells us that God looks at the heart and is not fooled by just what we do outwardly.

The bad news is everyone is in the same, helpless situation when it comes to sin, because everyone has sinned. The good news is God took the initiative and provided a way for us to be forgiven of our sin and have eternal life. Jesus gave his life in exchange for yours and mine. It is up to us to individually receive this wonderful gift by faith, and trust in Jesus. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Jesus sacrificed his life on the cross to pay the penalty for

our sin. The “gift” has been purchased and offered. However, the gift does not become yours until you receive it by faith.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Psalms 62:1 - *For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.*

Luke 19:10 - *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Acts 4:12 - *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

Acts 16:30-31 - *Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*

Romans 1:16 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

Romans 3:23 - *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 5:8 - *But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 10:9-10 - *Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Titus 2:11-12 - *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.*

Hebrews 9:28 - *So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

1 Peter 1:8-9 - *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

2 Peter 3:9 - *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

1 John 5:13 - *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

REFLECTION

- If you were to die today, do you believe you would go to heaven, and why?

- If God were to ask you, “Why should I receive you into heaven?” what would you say to God?

- Explain how you first learned of your need for forgiveness for sin?

- Have you ever confessed your sin to God, asked him to forgive you, and put your trust in him for eternal life? Describe the occasion.

- How many of your sins did God forgive?

- Do you believe that you are saved by grace, through faith alone, and not works? Explain why or why not.

- When you might doubt, how can you know that you have eternal life and a home in heaven with God?

- What changes do you see in your life since you came to know Jesus as your Savior?

- What would you tell someone else about how they can go to heaven?

By placing your trust in Jesus Christ through faith, you have embarked on the journey of a lifetime! It won't always be easy and it doesn't mean life will be free from trials and challenges. It does mean that you are now in a new relationship with the Son of God, and priorities and dreams should change. Day by day, you will discover what it means to live and walk in Christ, and experience his life in yours.

If you have doubts about your relationship with God through Jesus Christ, then you can settle it once and for all right now.

As you read in Romans 10:9-10, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." If you believe this, then you can begin a new relationship with Jesus, by expressing the following to him:

I recognize my need for you Lord, and my sin has separated me from you. I believe you lived, died, and were raised from the dead to rescue me from my sin. By faith, I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in you alone, and ask that you forgive me and help me to follow you as Lord.

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

1. Share your good news with us! Contact the church and ask for the Adult Discipleship or Mobilization department so that we can assist you in following through with believer's baptism, worship, and finding a life group.

2. Read the Bible and pray! We learn about God and how to pursue a relationship with Jesus, and experience intimacy with him by communicating with him through prayer. Additional resources are listed below to help you.

3. Find a place to serve! Now is the time to begin to live out your faith in Jesus by serving in a practical way. Go to www.championforest.org/volunteer to get started.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There are many devotionals available that can help in spending time with Jesus every day. Any devotional is just meant to be a tool to help you read and reflect on God's word every day to encounter Jesus. Below are some biblically sound devotional resources you might consider.

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers

The One Year at His Feet Devotional by Chris Tiegreen

Psalms for Living; Daily Prayers, Wisdom, and Guidance by Mark Lanier

www.saysoma.org/devotionals by Dr. Stephen Trammell.

Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health by Donald S. Whitney

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald S. Whitney

www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_PDF_DSC_Spiritual_Growth_Assessment.pdf

www.idisciple.org

www.josh.org/resources/sign-up-for-daily-devotions/



BELIEVERS BAPTISM

Once a person has trusted Jesus for salvation and eternal life, baptism is an outward symbol of what has happened in a believer's life. It is a one-time event that every believer should experience because it represents the cleansing and forgiveness from sin, and our identification with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus said to be baptized once you begin to follow him. It is simply a matter of obedience and following the example Jesus provided by being baptized himself. Believers baptism means that the baptism comes after a person places his or her trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. The word baptism comes from the Greek word *baptizo* which means to immerse under water.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Matthew 3:11-17 - *"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he*

will burn with unquenchable fire. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Acts 8:26-38 - *Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:*

*"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.*

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Acts 16:25-33 - *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.”²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.*

Romans 6:1-4 - *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We*

were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Galatians 3:26-27 - *For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

Ephesians 4:1-6 - *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

REFLECTION

- Have you experienced believer’s baptism?

- If you haven’t, what would prevent you from being baptized?

- Explain what baptism represents?

- How does it encourage you that Jesus modeled baptism for us by being baptized by John?

- Does baptism *make* you a believer or *show* that you are a believer?

- How could you encourage someone else to be baptized?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- 1.** Follow through in believer's baptism. If you have not already experienced believer's baptism, contact the church and ask for the Mobilization department so that we can assist you in following through in this very important step.
- 2.** Share your story with others! Not only will this encourage other believers who can celebrate this very important event in your life, but it can encourage others who have been considering baptism but had never followed through.
- 3.** Find a place to serve! Now is the time to begin to live out your faith in Jesus by serving in a practical way. Go to www.championforest.org/volunteer to get started.

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SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS

How do you get to know someone? Just like any relationship, the only way to find out about his family and where he is from, his interests and hobbies, or her favorite foods and music, her dreams and the things that cause her fear, is to spend time together. When two people fall in love, they want to spend every spare moment with one another. The same is true in a relationship with Jesus. To grow in intimacy with Jesus, a disciple must spend time with him.

Notice how Jesus spent time with the Father. It was his habit to get away from the crowd and find a quiet solitary place where he could pray. Sometimes he would fast while he prayed for extended periods of time. However, it was all to focus his attention on his Father, and foster intimacy with him. By reading and meditating on his word, and talking and listening to him through prayer, one learns about how Jesus lived and how he handled various situations. The more you spend time with Jesus, the more you will begin to take on his character. You will begin to develop your mind in Christ.

Following Jesus should be transformational. Galatians 5:22 says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” As you allow the Holy Spirit to take more control of your life, you should experience changes in your life that reflect that. A disciple should become more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, and kind. Goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and a more controlled life should be clearly seen in a disciple’s life. Not perfection, but certainly transformation. Why? Because we see these things in Jesus’ life, and as your life is more controlled by him, you will behave more like him. It is a lifelong journey of reflecting Christ’s character in everyday life.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Mark 1:35 - *And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*

Matthew 4:19-20 – *And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

Matthew 6:5-8 - *And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And*

when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:9-13 - *Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 6:16 - *"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward."*

Matthew 28:16-20 - *Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Luke 9:23 - *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

John 3:3 - *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

John 8:31-32 - *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 15:5 - *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

Romans 8:29 - *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

Romans 12:1-2 - *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

1 Corinthians 11:1 - *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Ephesians 5:1-2 - *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

2 Timothy 2:2 - *And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

REFLECTION

- Do you have a regular, unhurried time each day to spend with Jesus?

- Do you feel connected to God? Explain.

- Do you thirst to know God more deeply? Why or Why not?

- Describe your relationship with Jesus over the last year?

- Is obedience to Jesus’ commands important to you? Why or why not?

- How would others describe your relationship with Jesus by the way you live?

- In what ways is your life becoming more controlled by the Holy Spirit?

- Do you have confidence that your walk with Jesus is genuine and would you be comfortable for people to imitate the way you live? Explain why.

- Do you find yourself caring more about people and their spiritual condition? If so, in what ways?

- Do you feel a genuine dependence on God or do you feel self-sufficient? Explain why.

- In what ways are you growing more loving?

- Do you hunger for God's word? Explain why or why not.

- What new relationships are you fostering to have an influence for Jesus?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- 1.** Begin to have a daily time with God today. Set aside a time and quiet place to read the Bible, meditate on scriptures, and pray. Several devotionals are recommended below that can be helpful in your quiet time with God.
- 2.** Connect with others. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 10:25 says, “not neglecting to meet, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” While we need to spend solitary time alone with Jesus, God wants us to join with other Christians in worship and small groups to give and receive encouragement in our spiritual growth. Go to www.championforest.org/lifegroups to find a life group to join.
- 3.** Be accountable. Call the church and ask for the Adult Discipleship department so we can help you get connected with a mentoring group.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers

The One Year at His Feet Devotional by Chris Tiegreen

Psalms for Living; Daily Prayers, Wisdom, and Guidance by Mark Lanier

www.saysoma.org/devotionals devotionals by Dr. Stephen Trammell.

Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health by Donald S. Whitney

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald S. Whitney

www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_PDF_DSC_Spiritual_Growth_Assessment.pdf

www.idisciple.org

www.josh.org/resources/sign-up-for-daily-devotions/

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WORSHIP

When we worship God, we are giving him the respect and reverence he deserves as the Creator and Holy God! Worship is not so much an event for a follower of Jesus as it is a lifestyle. Romans 12:1 says “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

Even our work can be done as an act of worship of God. We find clarity in the words of the Apostle Paul when he says in Colossians 3:23, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” In the power of God’s Holy Spirit, we can maintain an attitude of worship all throughout the day.

Worship can occur in solitude, but God also desires for his people to worship him corporately with other believers. Jesus instructed us to pray for God’s name to be glorified and his will to be done on earth *as it is* in heaven (Matthew 6:9–10). Therefore, as God is being worshipped at this very moment in heaven, he desires for his people to come together at appointed times to worship him on earth as well.

When God led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt and began their journey in the wilderness, he gave instructions to Moses for a

tabernacle. The elaborate tent would be at the center of the camp where priests would offer sacrifices for the people's sins, and serve as a reminder that God lived among his people and would lead them. This was where the people would gather together at special times during the year to worship God.

When the people of Israel finally took possession of the land God promised them, he led King Solomon to build The First Temple in the 10th century B.C. Like the tabernacle, it was the focal point of worship for the people, but it was different from the tabernacle because now it was permanent. However, Jesus would tell the woman at the well that the most important thing was not the location or building where God's people gathered to worship him, but that they worship the Father in spirit and truth because the Father is seeking such people to worship him (John 4:23).

We find in the New Testament that God still desires his people to come together and worship him as a group. The church is described as the body of Christ. Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs believers to come together and encourage each other in love and good works, and to not neglect meeting together. We are encouraged to include in our corporate worship the singing of spiritual songs of various sorts, prayer, the preaching and teaching of God's word, celebrating the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and baptism, and even giving offerings to support God's work in the church and around the world.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Exodus 3:18 - *And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'*

Exodus 29:44-46 - *I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.*

Leviticus 23:1-2 - *The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, 'These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.'"*

1 Chronicles 9:33 - *Now these, the singers, the heads of fathers' houses of the Levites, were in the chambers of the temple free from other service, for they were on duty day and night.*

2 Chronicles 5:11-13 - *And when the priests came out of the Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves, without regard to their divisions, and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with 120 priests who were trumpeters; and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD), and when the song*

was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD.

Nehemiah 9:6 - *“You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.”*

Psalms 63:1 - *O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

Psalms 150 - *Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!*

Matthew 6:9-13 - *Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Matthew 28:19 - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Luke 2:11-14 - *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."*

Luke 4:8 - *And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"*

John 4:21-24 - *Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*

Acts 16:25 - *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

1 Corinthians 10:31 - *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - *For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often*

as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 12:27 - *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

Ephesians 5:18-19 - *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.*

Colossians 3:16 - *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

1 Timothy 2:8 - *I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 - *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Revelation 7:11-12 - *And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”*

Revelation 11:16 - *And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God.*

REFLECTION

- Do you want to worship God? Explain.

- What ways can you express worship to God?

- Do you have a private time of worship every day? Why or why not?

- Do you confess your sins during times of worship?

- What things do you find distracting to your worship of God?

- In what ways can your worshipping at church be an encouragement to others?

- How important is it to have the right attitude in worship?

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- Do you feel like you are honestly expressing love and gratitude to God when you worship in church? Explain.

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

1. Make private worship a priority. Matthew 6:6 tells us that Jesus said, “But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

2. Make corporate worship a priority. God is pleased when his people come together in worship of him. Corporate worship is edifying and encouraging to you and others. Be fully present and engaged in the church’s congregational worship services.

3. Make lifestyle worship a priority. In addition to a special quiet time alone with God daily, and attending worship services at church weekly, worship God by the way you live moment by moment. Remember the words of Paul in Romans 12:1, “I appeal to you

therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Air I Breathe: Worship as a Way of Life by Louie Giglio

The Way of a Worshiper by Buddy Owens

The Ultimate Priority by John MacArthur

Real Worship by Warren W. Wiersbe

5

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD

The God of the universe has revealed Himself in the Bible. It is no wonder that it has been the bestselling book of all time. It is a compilation of individual writings by some forty different authors over a span of about 1600 years. God used shepherds, fishermen, kings, peasants, poets, statesmen, philosophers, musicians, a physician, and a tax collector to record the most important story ever told-- God's story!

By reading and studying God's word, we learn about the God that we were created to know and worship. We also learn details about Jesus and the life he lived. The word of God reveals our purpose in living, God's agenda for the world, and how we can eventually live with him forever when this life is over. The Bible is not just an ordinary book, but it is God's word to us that changes us. We shouldn't just study the Bible to have more knowledge, but we should study it to be changed and impacted as the Holy Spirit reveals life-changing truths to us. Studying the Bible will give us direction, comfort, insights, and wisdom for life.

We are blessed to live in a time where there are so many resources available to us to help us study the Bible. It might seem overwhelming at first, but if broken down and studied in organized,

smaller steps, anyone can study the Bible. Don't miss out on the journey of a lifetime!

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

Joshua 1:8 – *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Psalms 119:11-17 - *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*

Psalms 119:105 – *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Matthew 4:4 - *But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

Hebrews 4:12-14 - *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

2 Timothy 2:15 - *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 3:16 - *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.*

2 Peter 1:20-21 - *Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

John 5:46-47 - *For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?*

John 17:17 - *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

REFLECTION

- Do you regularly study the Bible?

- Do you find the Bible intimidating? Why or why not?

- If you do study the Bible, what approach do you take?

- Do you feel you have become more knowledgeable of the Bible in the last year? What about the last 5 years?

- Is prayer important to you? How often do you pray?

- Have you ever fasted along with prayer? Describe your understanding of the purpose of fasting.

- How do you define worship?

- How do you use God’s word in your worship?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- 1.** Start to study the Bible. Read the section below on “Principles of Bible Study” to help you get started.
- 2.** Go to www.championforest.org/guide/lifegroups to find a life group to join. Or, simply contact the Adult Discipleship department and we can help you find the right Life Group and Bible study for you.
- 3.** Invite a friend to study the Bible with you.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Knowing Scripture by R.C. Sproul

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

How to Study Your Bible by Kay Arthur

Living by the Book by Howard and William Hendricks

www.championforest.org/life-groups

www.championforest.org/guide/precept

www.bible.org

www.gotquestions.org

Principles of Bible Study

The Bible is so important in the Christian's life. The believer cannot grow spiritually without it. Christians who neglect the study of the Bible do so to their own peril. You do not have to be a scholar to study the Bible and understand it. Every believer can do it because the Holy Spirit is present within you, and will teach and guide you. All it takes is some time and effort. God led men to record the words of the Bible in the everyday language of the people of their time. That tells us that God wants everyone to be able to know and understand the Scriptures. Christians should study God's word to know Him more deeply and to be molded by Him.

There are several methods of Bible study that are worthwhile. However, every great method starts with prayer, and simply reading the Bible. If we all just read our Bibles as much as we read newspapers, e-mails, or watch TV, the word of God would impact us so much more deeply. So, just remember, good Bible study

begins with reading the Bible! Here are just a few examples of the many ways you can study the Bible for yourself.

Methods of Bible Study

The very first step in being able to study the Bible is to get a good translation of the Bible. Be sure to use a translation and not a paraphrase. Good translations would include *The English Standard Version*, *The New International Version*, *New American Standard*, *The King James Version*, *The New King James*, and the *New Living Translation*. Paraphrases are helpful but should not be the primary study Bible. Good paraphrases are *The Message*, the *Living Bible* or the *Good News Bible*.

1. Devotional Bible Study

This form of study can be done every day and does not require too much time. You are reading the Bible and asking God to give you insights into life and His will.

Practical suggestions:

- Pray for God's insight.
- Have a plan, such as reading through the whole Bible in a year or for reading a book at a time.
- Have a notepad so that you can record insights that God gives you.
- Ask God to show you what applies to your life and how you should respond in obedience.
- Are there instructions for you to follow?
- Is there any prayer for you to pray?

2. Topical Bible Study

Perhaps you want to see what the Bible says about a specific subject. You may study the Tabernacle, Temple, fasting, spiritual gifts, tithing, the Twelve Disciples, love, prayer, marriage, discipline, discipleship, etc. You can do this by looking up key words in a Bible study tool called a *concordance*, a *topical Bible*, or a *study Bible*.

Practical Suggestions:

- Pray for God's insight
- Be sure to use the Bible as your primary reference.
- Look at all passages of Scripture that deal directly and indirectly with the topic.
- Take time to read and re-read the related scripture references.
- Consult a concordance to cross-reference scriptures that use similar words.
- Take care to consider the context of the passages.
- Consult other study tools like commentaries, Bible dictionaries, language tools for Greek and Hebrew, etc.

3. Curriculum Bible Study

Many can appreciate the work of other gifted teachers, authors and pastors. Names like John Piper, Timothy Keller, Kay Arthur, Beth Moore, John MacArthur, Charles Stanley, R.C. Sproul, John Ortberg, and Henry Blackaby have become familiar to many Bible students and have contributed greatly to the spiritual growth of many believers. These teachers have produced videos and/or study books to guide the Bible learner through the study. Less research is

required of the student, however, personal study with the help of the curriculum and looking up passages of Scripture is still required.

Practical suggestions:

- Pray for God's insight.
- Be sure to use the Bible as your primary reference.
- Don't stop with only the blanks that are provided in a study manual.
- Make notes in the margins when further study is required on the subject.
- Make notes about thoughts or ideas that God gives you about more in-depth studies on related subjects.
- Remember that the curriculum is only a means to an end and not the end itself.

4. Inductive Bible Study

While all the other types of Bible study will involve inductive principles, a systematic inductive method can pay huge spiritual dividends. Inductive study simply means that the Bible is the primary source of information about the Bible. It requires one to slow down and read the Bible carefully to see what it is saying. You get to dig into the Scriptures for yourself apart from the conclusions of other scholars, Bible teachers, or others who have drawn conclusions through their own study. These have valuable information to offer; however, when someone gets to dig into the study of God's word for themselves, they will learn and retain more. The works of others are only consulted after you have done a thorough examination of the Scriptures on your own first.

For a complete explanation of the Inductive Bible Study Method read the book, [How to Study Your Bible](#) by Kay Arthur.

We will only hit the highlights of the Inductive Study Method here. However, this will get you started and with a little effort, you can be on your way to an exciting adventure of learning God's word like never before!

As always, begin with prayer for God's insight into your study. Make sure that you have chosen a time and a place where there will not be interruptions.

There are three very important principles to remember when studying the Bible.

- **Observation** - What does the passage of Scripture actually say?
- **Interpretation** - What does the passage of Scripture actually mean?
- **Application** - How does the meaning of the Scripture passage actually apply to me?

Application comes from accurate *interpretation* which flows out of careful *observation*.

The essential process of *Observation*, *Interpretation* and *Application* are further explained in the book by Howard and William Hendricks entitled, Living by the Book.

Observation

While observing a passage, you must read it very slowly and carefully. You will also need to read it several times. To make sure that you do not automatically force your own feelings, background and presuppositions into the text, taking your time is imperative.

In journalism, every good reporter is supposed to consider the 5 W's and the H.

Who wrote it? Who is the main character in the passage? Who are the people mentioned? To whom is the author writing? Who is he speaking about?

What are the key events? What is the passage speaking about? What is the major teaching?

When was it written? When did this happen? Is it talking about something in the future?

Where is this taking place?

Why is this being written about? Why is this being said?

How did this event or teaching come about?

Make sure that you pay attention to words or phrases that repeat. If there are words that are not familiar to you or that you don't understand, then look them up in a dictionary. Consult a concordance to see where similar words, places, people or things occur to understand the context. If you are looking at an entire passage, break it down into an outline.

Interpretation

Many times you will find that *interpretation* will happen simultaneously with observation. It is quite common to hear people say things like, "Well, I think this scripture means this..." or "To me, this verse means..." Sometimes they will get it right, but many times one's own bias can enter the picture. Often you will need to do further work with a concordance or word studies to help you in your interpretation. Only use commentaries and Bible dictionaries to check your initial conclusions.

Things to remember:

- Considering the context is essential. Do not base your beliefs on obscure verses of Scripture. Pay attention to the verses, paragraphs and even chapters around the part you are studying.
- Consider what type of book you are studying. Is the literature, history, poetry, proverb, prophetic, a letter (Epistle)?
- Check out other passages of Scripture that speak to the subject matter you are studying.
- Be careful to consider the author's intended meaning in the passage.
- The Bible does not contradict itself, so when an *apparent* contradiction turns up, keep searching the Scriptures to find the explanation. Also keep in mind that God's ways are not our ways. The creation cannot understand everything about the Creator. For instance, how can we fully understand how God's sovereignty and man's free-will go together? How can we fully understand the virgin birth of Christ?
- Consult reliable commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and language reference tools to check your conclusions.

Application

Once you have read the passage several times during the observation and interpretation stages, now comes the time to apply what the Bible is teaching in the part that you are studying.

Things to consider in applying a passage of Scripture to your life:

- Is there a sin that you need to confess and forsake?
- Is there a command for you to obey?
- Is there a promise to claim?

- Are there instructions for you to follow?

Let's suppose you are studying 1 Samuel 15 where Saul is commanded by God, through the prophet Samuel, to kill the Amalekites including women, children and animals. You would have to consider what type of literature this is. 1 Samuel is telling the history of Israel during the time of Saul's reign as king. This is important because God does not instruct us to go around killing people, even if they are not good or worship false gods. This was a specific command of God to a specific person for a specific time and reason.

Suggested Resources for Bible Study

Bible Versions

The English Standard Version (ESV)

The New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The New King James Version (NKJV)

The New International Version (NIV)

The New Living Translation (NLT)

The Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

Concordances

The New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

Young's Analytical Concordance

Word Study

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

The Complete Word Study Dictionary by Spiros Zodhiates

Reference Tools

The New Bible Dictionary

Unger's Bible Dictionary

The Holman Bible Handbook

Commentaries

The Bible Knowledge Commentary 2 Volumes (Old and New Testament)

The Life Application New Testament Commentary

Matthew Henry's Commentary of the Bible

Geography and Customs

Manners and Customs of Bible Times

Moody Bible Atlas

Bible Study

How to Study Your Bible by Kay Arthur

Knowing Scripture by R.C. Sproul

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods by Rick Warren

Witnessing/Evangelism

More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell

The Face that Demonstrates the Farce of Evolution by Hanegraaff

Know Why You Believe by Paul Little

Share Jesus Without Fear by William Fay

6

EXPERIENCING LIFE WITH OTHERS

We were not made to be alone. When God made man in the beginning, He said that it wasn't good for him to be alone. After Adam had named all animals and worked hard in the field, God acknowledged that the man needed another like himself—a human being.

Jesus lived life in community with his disciples and other people. Jesus promised his followers that he would never leave them alone. God created people to long for relationships with other people. While there are times when we will all experience a sense of loneliness, God never intended for us to go through life alone. This is an important part of growing spiritually. There is a benefit to being in community with others. Whether married or single, as human beings created in the image of God, we were made to seek meaningful relationships and friendships, and to grow together as we grow in Christ.

Getting involved with a small group of believers is so important to personal spiritual growth. Whether they are called Life Groups, small groups, cell groups, discipleship groups, care groups, they serve basic and essential functions of helping to connect people in

the church with one another and meeting needs. Small groups provide the opportunity to study God's word together, receive encouragement, accountability, and develop lasting relationships. Small groups provide the most efficient way to care for the needs of people in the church.

Members within a small group will be the first to know when another member or couple in their group has experienced a challenging life event such as the loss of a job, a death in the family, or is dealing with a sickness or in the hospital. They will also celebrate milestones in each other's lives such as a promotion, a wedding, or the birth of a child.

God wants believers to connect with him and with one another. This is how we fulfill Hebrews 10:24-25 by meeting together and encouraging one another in our walk with Christ and ministry. You can blend into a crowd, or be a face in the crowd, but you cannot connect with a crowd. You can only connect with a smaller group of believers, so that you can experience meaningful relationships on the life-long journey of faith.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Genesis 2:18 – *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*

John 3:35 – *The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.*

John 17:13-24 – *But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.*

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Acts 2:42-47 – *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having*

favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 – *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 – *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

1 Peter 4:8-10 – *Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

1 John 4:7 – *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*

1 John 4:20-21 – *If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

REFLECTION

- Have you had positive experiences in relationships in the church? Explain.

- Do you find yourself fully invested in relationships within the church or are you more reserved?

- Who do you have the most support from outside of your immediate family?

- Do you love the community in the church?

- If you are a part of a Life Group, who do you spend time with in spiritual conversations?

- Do you meet with members of your group outside of Sundays? Why or why not?

- Do you stay connected with members of your group through the week? Explain.

- If you are not a part of a Life Group, would you make the commitment today to get connected?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- 1.** Go to www.championforest.org/lifegroups to find a life group to join. Or, simply contact the Adult Discipleship department and we can help you find a Life Group.
- 2.** Invest and be invested in. Find a person that you can begin to help in their walk with the Lord. But don't neglect finding someone who can do the same for you. Mentoring relationships should always be appropriate and within the same gender. To find or be a mentor, ask your Life Group leader, or simply contact the Adult Discipleship department.
- 3.** Invite a friend to your Life Group.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.championforest.org/guide

Everyone's Normal Until You Get to Know Them by John Ortberg

Community That Is Christian by Julie A. Gorman

7

SHARING YOUR STORY

Jesus said that his followers would be his witnesses. All disciples have a story to tell about how they came to learn about their sin and need for forgiveness, the salvation that Jesus offers and eternal life, and how they came to believe. But the story doesn't stop there. It continues with what God has been doing in and through them since coming to know Jesus. So many Christians never share their story with other people who might not know Jesus because they are afraid of being rejected, think they might say the wrong thing, or might feel they just don't know what to say at all. Remember, Jesus told his disciples to be his witnesses—just telling what they know and have experienced and what the Gospel message really is.

One of the most amazing stories in the Bible is in Mark's gospel where we have the account of Jesus casting many demons out of a man. The man was so grateful and just wanted to go with Jesus. But Jesus told him to go home and tell his friends how much the Lord had done for him. Jesus wanted the man to simply share his wonderful story!

You can learn to tell your story! Just simply tell about your life before Jesus, how you came to know Jesus and what he has been doing in your life since you became a believer.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Psalm 71:15-16 - *My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.*

Acts 1:8 – *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 4:33 – *And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.*

Acts 20:24 – *But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 – *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

Ephesians 2:10 – *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

2 Timothy 2:2 – *And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

1 Peter 3:15 – *But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

1 John 4:14 – *And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.*

REFLECTION

- Describe your life before you met Jesus Christ as your Savior?

- Describe the events that led up to your coming to faith in Jesus?

- How has putting your faith in Jesus impacted your life? Explain.

- When was the last time you shared your story? Describe the occasion.

- Does the thought of sharing your story make you nervous? Explain why or why not.

- Do you look for opportunities each day to share your story?

- Who do you know that is not a follower of Jesus?

- When was the last time you invited someone to church?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- 1.** Share your story with a friend or neighbor today. It doesn't have to be long or complicated. Simply tell how you learned about your need for Jesus and how your life has changed since you began a relationship with him.
- 2.** Sign up for Life on Mission. Go online and find out when the next Life on Mission training will be offered and sign up. Go to www.championforest.org/lifeonmission. Or contact the Mobilization department and we can provide more information and help you get registered for the training.
- 3.** Begin to learn the 3 Circles Life Conversation. You can go to the link listed below to learn more information on this conversational approach to sharing your faith. You may also download a free app of the 3 Circles Life Conversation.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide

How to Give Away Your Faith by Paul E. Little

Just Walk Across the Room by Bill Hybels

Apologetics Ministries

Stand to Reason, www.str.org

Cross Examined, www.crossexamined.org

Reasonable Faith, www.reasonablefaith.org

www.gotquestions.org



USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Every follower of Jesus has been given spiritual gifts to serve the body of Christ. That's right, gifts, selected by God and given to you, to be a vital part of his family. Some people have the spiritual gift of teaching so the Holy Spirit uses them to teach the word of God to other believers in a way that equips them and assists them to live in Christ. However, some people would be scared to death by the prospect of having to teach a Bible study. Instead, they might have the gift of mercy or helps, which enables them to easily offer encouragement and assistance to someone who is hurting or in need. Others may have the gift of faith or discernment, and offer much needed service behind the scenes. We all don't have the same gifts. God gives gifts to individuals within the body of Christ so that the body will be whole and healthy.

It is important to know, however, that even if you do not have the gift of mercy, or serving, or faith, it does not mean that you do not need to show mercy, or serve somewhere in the church, or have faith. Jesus had all the spiritual gifts. As you grow in intimacy with Jesus, you will demonstrate more of his character. Therefore, you should be more merciful, willing to serve, and have faith in all circumstances. Just because we may not be uniquely gifted by the

Holy Spirit in an area within the church does not mean we think, “Oh, that’s not my gift so I’ll let someone else in the church worry about that.” Galatians 5:22-23 says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” A follower of Christ should not think, “Oh, patience is not my gift, so people will just have to understand my impatience!” Spiritual gifts are given by God to individual believers to uniquely enable them for specific ministries within the church for the equipping of other believers. Spiritual gifts are evidence of the Spirit in the life of an individual as opposed to natural talents and abilities.

Have you discovered your spiritual gifts? You have a part in the body of Christ, and you have been uniquely equipped by God.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Romans 12:3-8 – *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 – *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

1 Corinthians 12:27-28 – *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.*

Ephesians 4:11-16 – *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

1 Timothy 4:14-16 – *Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

1 Peter 4:10-11 – *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

REFLECTION

- Have you ever studied the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible?

- Do you see yourself as an important part of the body of Christ? Why or why not?

- Is it important to you that God has uniquely gifted you to serve in the church? Explain your answer.

- Do you desire to be used by the Holy Spirit? Explain.

- How sensitive are you to the needs of others? Explain your answer.

- Do you seek out ways to serve the church and others? Why or why not?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

1. Discover your spiritual gift(s). Take the survey at www.championforest.org/spiritualgifts. If you would prefer a hardcopy, download a PDF from the link under Additional Resources. What is your gift(s)? Learn more about the basic gifts mentioned in the Bible by reading the descriptions of the gifts under Additional Resources.

2. Take the Motivational Gifts Survey. The motivational gifts survey is a more statistically based instrument. It is a tool that can help us in the Mobilization department help you find places to serve that best suit your God-given gifts. This can also help you

learn more about yourself and identify areas that match your abilities and interests where you will feel most comfortable, effective, and satisfied. Go to www.gifttest.org/survey to take the Motivational Gifts Survey. Be sure to print off the results or your test from your browser or take a screenshot with your smartphone before exiting the page.

3. Start serving. Go to the link below on volunteering at Champion Forest, or contact the Mobilization department and can help you find a place to serve in the church.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.gifttest.org/survey

www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_wmn_SpiritualGifts_List.pdf

www.championforest.org/spiritualgifts

www.championforest.org/volunteer

9

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

How generous are you? Not just with money, but also with your time, service, and possessions. Generosity is a key indicator of how much we have grown spiritually. Why? Because our God is incredibly generous. Jesus said that he has shown us the Father. In other words, if we want to know what God is like, then all we must do is look at Jesus. And, among the many things that are so beautiful and good about Jesus, his generosity is unmatched!

Jesus, the Son of God, said that he came to serve and give his life for mankind. He took time for people and listened to them even when he was busy and on a schedule. He stopped and healed people when he was tired and had people around him all day long. He accepted dinner invitations from people that were despised and rejected by the rest of society, just so he could show God's love to those who didn't deserve it. He made the ultimate sacrifice by giving up his life on a cross to make a way for human beings to receive forgiveness for their sins and the hope of a home in heaven forever.

If we think we are growing spiritually, while not becoming more generous, then we are deceiving ourselves. Jesus talked about wealth, property, and possessions often; and He warned that those

things in our lives can easily enslave us if we do not have the right perspective towards them and practice generosity.

Both the Old and New Testaments record numerous examples of God's people contributing their money and possessions to God's work on earth. Specific occasions of generous giving included God's people providing resources for the building of the Tabernacle or Temple where they would worship God, rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem after returning from exile in a foreign land, or raising funds to help others who were suffering and impoverished. Giving of financial resources has long been a practical way that God's people have demonstrated their faith and trust in him to provide and meet their needs.

King David, who owned much, still said that he would not sacrifice to the Lord in a way that really did not cost him anything. Jesus took special notice of a poor widow who gave two small copper coins in the offering because she gave everything she had while others gave what they could easily afford. Jesus said that when it came to the heart, she gave more than anybody else that day.

As we give attention to all areas of our daily walk with Christ, it is important to be honest with ourselves and assess whether our generosity reflects total trust in God. Obedience in the area of generosity is important to him, and he wants us to reflect his character in this area of spiritual discipline as well.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Leviticus 27:30 – *Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD.*

2 Samuel 24:24 - *But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

Psalms 24:1 – *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.*

Psalms 41:1-3 – *Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble, the LORD delivers him; the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies. The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.*

Psalms 119:36 – *Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!*

Proverbs 11:24-26 – *One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.*

Proverbs 19:17 – *Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.*

Malachi 3:10 – *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says*

the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

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

Matthew 10:42 – *And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.*

Mark 10:42-45 – *And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Luke 19:1-10 – *He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to*

him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 21:1-4 – *Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."*

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Acts 4:32 – *Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.*

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 – *We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 – *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Galatians 6:2 – *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Philippians 2:3 – *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

1 Timothy 6:6-9 – *But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*

1 Peter 4:7-9 – *The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

REFLECTION

- Do you see yourself as a generous person? Explain.

- Would others say you are generous? Why or why not?

- Do you love to give of your time, money, or possessions? Explain your answer.

- When was the last time you gave sacrificially? Describe the occasion.

- When was the last time you met someone's need anonymously? Describe the occasion.

- Are you interruptible?

- Do I see my financial resources as a tool for God or a tool for me? Reflect on this as honestly as you can.

- Do you give regularly to support the ministries of your church? Why or why not?

- Could you give something away today? What would it be and why?

- Could you stop and do something not on your schedule? Explain.

- Do you have a plan for giving to the church regularly?

- Why do you think conversation about money in church so often awkward and uncomfortable? Explain your answer.

- As you examine your giving, do you give generously and with a cheerful heart? Why or why not?

- If you do not presently give, would you be willing to start giving regularly this Sunday? Why or why not?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

1. Start giving today. If you are not systematically giving, ask God to show you how you can begin to trust him in the area of giving today. You may say, “My circumstances are such that I can’t afford to give anything.” Start with a dollar, or five, or ten. As God provides for you, and he will, then you can give more. Many times, as we take an honest look at our lives, we can find things we are spending money on that we really do not need which causes us to feel over-extended financially. God will help us break free from financial bondage if we ask him, and then are obedient to stick with a plan of generosity.

2. Enroll in Financial Peace University. To find out when the next class begins, go to www.championforest.org/financialpeace. Contact the Adult Discipleship department for more information. Discover other practical ways and free resources to help you to take control of your money at www.daveramsey.com.

3. Start practicing “Give, Save, Live” system. Go to www.generouschurch.com/andy-stanley-give-save-live to learn more about this practical system for financial freedom and generosity.
Invite a friend to study the Bible with you.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.championforest.org/volunteer/giving

www.daveramsey.com

www.championforest.org/financialpeace

www.generouschurch.com/andy-stanley-give-save-live

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper

10

DEVELOPING A HEART FOR OUR WORLD

In John 3:16, Jesus said, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” It stands to reason that as a disciple grows in their relationship with Jesus, a heart of love and compassion for people will grow as well. Why? Because a follower of Christ will become passionate about the things Jesus is passionate about.

When a lawyer came up to Jesus one day and asked him what the greatest commandment was, Jesus answered him by saying, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:36-40). In other words, love God and then love people. Jesus said you can’t separate the two.

Disciples long to point people to Jesus because he is the source of all hope and deep love. We point people to Jesus by loving and serving them. Jesus told his followers, “In the same way, let your

light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

A disciple starts by loving those closest to them—within the family, next door, or down the street. It means loving people who are not like you. Jesus wants his followers to love people that are ethnically and culturally diverse. It involves going beyond to take the love of Jesus to people across the country or in another corner of the world. Loving God and loving people!

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Genesis 12:1-3 – *Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

Psalms 82:3-4 – *Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

Matthew 5:16 – *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 28:19-20 – *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have*

commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Mark 11:17 – *And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”*

Mark 16:15 – *And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”*

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

John 20:21 – *Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”*

Acts 1:8 – *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Romans 10:11-15 – *For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*

1 Peter 2:12 – *Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

1 John 4:19 – *We love because he first loved us.*

Revelation 7:9-10 – *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

REFLECTION

- Describe the last time you talked with one of your neighbors?

- Do you have a desire to see the Gospel spread throughout the world? Explain your answer.

- Who do you know that needs to hear the Gospel?

- Do you have friends from different ethnic or cultural backgrounds from you? Why or why not?

- What do you know about diversity in our community?

- Could God be calling you to a ministry right here in your city? Explain your answer.

- Have you ever been on a short-term mission trip? Why or why not?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

1. Learn about our strategy to reach our world. Go to the website and find out more about missions at Champion Forest Baptist Church at www.championforest.org/missions, and what we are

doing to reach our community, state, country, and world with the gospel.

2. Go on a short-term mission trip. You will find a list of mission trips planned for this year and more information on each project. Call the missions office at the church to find out the requirements to be a part of the team and how to get signed up.

3. Be a sponsor. Perhaps you are not able to go on a mission trip right now, but you can help someone else go. Contact the missions office to find out how you can be a sponsor to help another go on mission.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.championforest.org/missions

Let the Nations Be Glad by John Piper

The Insanity of God by Nik Ripkin

Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream by David Platt



HELPING OTHERS WALK WITH JESUS

Jesus expected his disciples to eventually disciple others. Every follower of Jesus should be pouring their life into someone else. The most loving thing a disciple of Jesus can do is to tell someone how they can know Christ, and experience the forgiveness, mercy, and grace of the Father. However, to go on to develop a relationship with someone, to pray for them, to encourage them in their walk with Jesus, and to teach them more about living as a disciple is something all believers should be doing. Many Christians never become disciple-makers because they may not feel they know enough, or are not willing to invest the time and effort. But it can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a believer.

Becoming a disciple-maker does not have to be complicated. Pray and ask God to lead you to the right person to might be open to being discipled. To disciple someone, simply start by being a friend. Invite the person to join you with spiritual growth as the priority. It doesn't even have to start out with formal roles of the disciple-maker and the disciple. Just make a commitment to meet and stay

in contact with one another regularly, and encourage one another by praying together, and reading and referring to God's word for answers to various life circumstances.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS - English Standard Version (ESV)

Matthew 4:19-20 – *And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

Matthew 28:19 – *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Luke 6:40 – *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.*

Acts 2:42-46 – *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts.*

Philippians 2:3-4 - *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - *Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

2 Timothy 2:2 – *And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 - *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

1 John 2:3-6 – *And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

REFLECTION

- How have you experienced God’s grace and guidance in your life?

- How have you learned to handle various circumstances in life through prayer and applying God's word?

- Would you be willing to share your life journey with Jesus with someone else? Why or why not?

- Are there things about being a disciple-maker that you find intimidating? What are they?

- Would you be willing to begin praying for God to lead you to someone who would like to begin the journey in discipleship? Why or why not?

- Do you enjoy fellowship with others? Explain.

- Who has helped you grow spiritually? Describe that person and how they have helped you.

- Have you ever invited someone to attend a Life Group with you? Why or why not?

- Would you invite someone to share a meal and talk about spiritual matters? Explain your answer.

- Would you be willing to ask someone in your Life Group to help you grow in your walk with Jesus? Explain.

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- 1.** Invite someone to work through *My Life His Life* with you. This could be a friend, family member, or even a neighbor. Perhaps you know of a new Christian that you can help begin a deeper walk with Christ.
- 2.** Invite someone in your life group to journey *through My Life His Life* with you. Ask your life group leader if they know of someone who has expressed an interest in being mentored. Mentoring relationships should always be appropriate and within the same gender.
- 3.** Invite someone to serve in a ministry with you or go on a short-term mission trip.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Rediscovering Discipleship by Robby Gallaty

Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health by Donald S. Whitney

Design for Discipleship series of booklets by NAVPRESS

Disciples Path series of booklets by LifeWay

Aspire: Developing and Deploying Disciples in the Church for the Church by Matt Rogers

Are You a Disciple? Saying Yes to a Life Beyond Casual Christianity
(An 8-week Bible study for Women) by Laurie Cole