

Seeking God

Small Group Lessons for
Spiritual Seekers



Disciplemaking Book 1



Brooklyn
Evangelical Free
Park Church
God's Heart for ALL People

Seeking God: Small Group Lessons for Spiritual Seekers

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Other Books in this Small Group Series:

Loving One Another: Small Group Lessons for Growing Believers - Book 2

Sharing Christ: Basic Accountability Group Lessons for Christ Followers - Book 3

Serving Others: Ongoing Accountability Group Lessons for Lifelong Disciples - Book 4

Scripture quotations are from the New International Version (NIV), Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by the New York International Bible Society.



Detailed Definition of a Disciple

As a church you are committed to making disciples of Christ Jesus in obedience to His Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). But what is a disciple of Jesus Christ? A disciple is a believer who is in the process of becoming more like Christ: displaying His character, daily living out His values and disciplines, answering Christ's call to a life of service to others. This is a basic definition of a disciple but growing as a follower of Jesus is also a process. Each book in this small group series is based on a Detailed Definition of a Disciple that provides a sequential outline of the disciple's growth process and the transformational indicators from the four phases of Jesus' ministry described in the Gospels. The following is a general description of the growth phase covered in this first of four books in this disciplemaking small group series:



SEEKING GOD: Drawing near to God in worship and prayer, personally and corporately.

COME AND SEE – Level 1 Spiritual Seekers to Growing Believers

General description: A disciple who has completed this phase has come to understand that Jesus Christ is God and has accepted Him as his/her personal Savior. They have given testimony of their faith in Christ by being publicly baptized and regularly participate in personal and public worship.

Major Intent: To introduce a non-believer to Jesus Christ, guide them through the process of accepting Jesus as their personal Savior and guide them into consistent personal and public worship.

Duration: 4 - 24 months or longer, depending on the point from which the person begins.

Disciple's Involvement:

- Asks questions, seeking truth.
- Sees personal spiritual need.
- Attends public worship.
- Begin personal Bible reading and prayer.

Commitment: Moves from doubt to faith, from hesitant, casual or no participation to regular personal and public worship.

Distinctives:

- Low commitment.
- Strong emphasis on attraction rather than on training.
- Comes to believe in and personally accepts Jesus Christ as the Son of God.
- Worships: publicly and personally.

Transformational Indicators: By the end of this phase a disciple...

1. Is introduced to and develops a sincere interest in Jesus and spiritual things. John 6:44
2. Hears the Good News and becomes convinced that Jesus is God. John 20:31

3. Accepts Jesus as His/Her Personal Savior. John 3:16
4. Identifies publicly with Jesus and is baptized. Romans 6:4
5. Worships God, personally and publicly, experiencing the power of God. Hebrews 13:15



Table of Contents

Home Group (Level 1 - Outreach) - Small Group Lesson Format

Note to Leaders: You may use the following small group discussion series in any order that you choose. You may skip any that do not fit your group or purpose. Some groups or individuals may have the spiritual hunger and commitment to advance more quickly to “Come And See” Level 2. That is fine. Be flexible and ready to help your members grow.

Lesson Series:

- **Asking God, “Why?” (2 lessons)**
- **Lessons to Live By (5 lessons)**
- **Who is Jesus? (3 lessons)**
- **Strength for the Struggle (3 lessons)**
- **When God Came Near (8 lessons)**
- **Christ's Death And Resurrection (6 lessons)**
- **Christian Baptism (1 lesson)**
- **Ten Rules For The Road (10 lessons)**
- **Building Your Marriage (4 lessons)**



Home Groups

Level 1 - Small Group Lesson Format

Use this basic format for leading a “Come and See” level 1 outreach small groups.

CONNECTING

The first few minutes of the meeting are usually reserved for getting better acquainted.

1. Welcome everyone.
2. Introduce guests.
3. Ice breaker or
4. Share about what has happened throughout the previous week.

DISCUSSION: Lesson Title: _____ (Scripture: _____)

[Use any of the following small group lesson discussion guides here.]

CLOSING

Thank Everyone For Coming. Remind Them Of The Next Meeting. Enjoy Additional Time Together For Refreshments And Fellowship.



ASK GOD, “WHY”?

Why Do Good Things Happen To Bad People?

1. Why is pain sometimes called “the gift nobody wants”?
2. Does it seem sometimes that God’s people suffer more than the wicked? The psalmist thought so! (*Psalm 73:2-14*) How did he get into that position?
3. How was the psalmist set free? (*Psalm 73:23-24*)
4. What eternal principle in *Psalm 73:1* helps us to hold our ground against Satan’s attacks?
5. In the Garden of Eden, Satan touched the nerve of envy in Eve. How would the concept of a “Good God” in *Psalm 73:1* have prevented Eve from falling into sin?

Who suffered when Adam and Eve believed Satan’s lies that God did not want the best for them?

6. Have you felt the way the psalmist did in *Psalm 73:2-3*?
7. What is the answer to the psalmist found in *Psalm 73:17*?
 - a. How did entering the sanctuary of God help him understand the final destiny of the wicked?
 - b. What sacrifice do we bring to God in *Psalm 73:1*?
8. For us to win the victory over this temptation, to ask “why do good things happen to bad people,” what else are we to do?
 - a. *Psalm 73:23*
 - b. *Psalm 73:24*



Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?

1. When was the last time you asked God “WHY?”
2. Read together *1 Peter 2:21-25* and discuss what you can learn about suffering from this passage.
3. Suffering involves two main issues: My pain and my response. Which of these two do you think a person should expend their energy on?
4. Describe what kind of man Job was (*Job 1:1-5*).
 - a. What did God say to Satan about Job? (*Job 1:8*)
 - b. How did Satan reply to God’s affirmation of Job (*Job 1:9-11*)?
5. List the five disasters that happened to Job. (See *Job: 1*)
 - a. Disaster #1 – *Job 1:14-15*
 - b. Disaster #2 – *Job 1:16*
 - c. Disaster #3 – *Job 1:17*
 - d. Disaster #4 – *Job 1:18-19*
 - e. Disaster # 5 – *Job 2:7-8*
6. How did Job respond to the first four disasters? (*Job 1:21-22*) How did he respond to the fifth disaster when his wife began to turn against him? (*Job 2:9-10*)
7. Talk about these four different types of suffering and give illustrations from within your group experiences in suffering:
 - a. Natural disaster such as an earthquake:
 - b. Man’s inhumanity to man, such as war:
 - c. Suffering illustrated by Job’s life when he is under the attack of Satan. It is important to remember that Satan was out to beat God and Job merely was an object or target as a means to an end.
 - d. Suffering from our own erroneous actions:
8. Is it natural to ask why?
 - a. When we are asking why, what kind of counsel do we need?
 - b. When a friend is suffering, what do they need from us? Do they need quick answers?
9. In *Chapter 38-40*, God gives His answer to Job’s “why” by asking Job seventy questions. Read some of these passages together. What is the bottom line for Job? What does the sovereignty of God mean to you?
10. In *Job 42:1-5*, what made the difference for Job? What was the turning point for him? Why didn’t the question “why” matter anymore?

Discuss: “If there is anything that a sufferer needs, it is not an explanation but a fresh, new look at God.

LESSONS TO LIVE BY



Lessons To Live By Knowing and Loving God

Isaiah 40:9-31

Lesson 1

1. What are some common opinions about what God is like?
2. Read Isaiah 40:9-14. God's people, even in the Old Testament, have a desire to tell the world about Him (40:9). What is the *good news* about God? (40:10-11)
3. How do Isaiah's questions encourage us to trust God? (12-14)
4. Read verses 15-24. What comfort is there for Israel as they are held captive by the superpower Babylon? (40:15-17)
5. What comfort do you receive from knowing God has power over the nations?
6. How do the idols of the rich and poor compare with the reality of God's power? (40:18-24)
7. What kind of idols do we worship in our culture?
8. Why, for many, does worshipping idols seem preferable to knowing the living God?
9. Read verses 25-31. Some people view God as an uninvolved Creator who stands at a distance to watch His universe. What does verse 26 reveal about God's involvement?
10. Judah complains that God doesn't know what is happening to her (40:27). When have you been tempted to lament that God was unconcerned about your struggles?
11. What hope does Isaiah offer us during such struggles? (40:28-31)
12. Those who know God look to Him for help. How do you need to be renewed and strengthened by God this week?

Lessons To Live By Seeing The Invisible God

Psalm 19

Lesson 2

1. Think of a close friend. How did your friendship form?
2. Read Psalm 19:1-6. How does the psalmist help you perceive the presence of the invisible God?
3. The psalmist says that creation speaks in every language and in every corner of the world. What can anyone know about God through creation?
(Ps 19:1-6 also Romans 1:20)
4. What aspects of creation have helped you learn the most about God and His glory? Explain.
5. Read Psalms 19:7-14. The psalmist shifts his focus from the way God makes Himself known in creation to the way He reveals Himself in His law. What words does the psalmist use to describe God's law?
6. According to the psalmist, what are the benefits of knowing God's law?
7. What benefits have you received from God's law?
8. What can you learn about God from His law that you can't learn from creation?
9. Why would reflecting on God's creation and His law cause the psalmist David to think about his own responsibility before God? (11-13)
10. How do both nature and God's law bring up the idea of sin and your need of forgiveness?
11. God is a person who is making an effort to be known. What should you be willing to do to know Him better?



Lessons To Live By Dealing With Anger

Matthew 5:21-24

Lesson 3

1. Why do people seem so angry in today's society?
2. What commandment was Jesus addressing in Matthew 5:21?
See (Exodus 20:13)
3. What was the penalty for violators of this law?
4. How did Jesus interpret the meaning of the law against murder? (5:22)
5. Why did Jesus focus on the emotions behind the violent actions?
6. Read Ephesians 4:26-27. What does Paul have to say about dealing with anger?
7. Compare Exodus 20:15 with Paul's instructions in Ephesians 4:28. What does Paul have to say regarding the issue of stealing?
8. Why did Jesus say you should stop worshipping until you have settled your unfinished business? (5:23-24)
9. Why is it necessary to make things right with people before we come to worship God?
10. Is there an issue of anger, or have you wronged a brother in some way? If so, how can you correct that today?

Lessons To Live By True Love Waits

1 Corinthians 6:12-7:5

Lesson 4

1. In your opinion, is it more difficult to remain sexually pure in today's society?
2. In 1 Corinthians 6:13, Paul declares that our bodies are not made for sexual immorality. For what are our bodies meant?
3. How does Paul say that sexual sins differ from other sins? (6:18)
4. For Christians, what is unique about their physical bodies? (6:19-20)
5. In 1 Corinthians 7:2 Paul states that each man should have his own wife. Why did Paul make this comment and how does it relate to the commandment given in Exodus 20:14?
6. What obligation does a Christian couple have toward one another? (7:3)
7. When married, to whom does your body belong according to Paul's teaching? (7:4)
8. Under what circumstances may married partners refrain from normal sexual relations? (7:5)
9. Why is it important for husbands and wives to seek to meet the sexual needs of each other? (7:5)
10. God has intended that sexual love be shared only between a husband and a wife, two people who have made a lifetime commitment to one another. What advice would you give to a single young adult regarding his/her sexuality? What advice would you give to a couple who has been married for several years?



Lessons To Live By The Golden Rule

Luke 6:27-36

Lesson 5

1. If you were to ask 10 of your friends and neighbors to explain the meaning of the "Golden Rule", what would they tell you?
2. What different kinds of mistreatment did Jesus refer to in Luke 6:28-30?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says to "bless those who curse you"? (6:28)
4. The "Golden Rule", as it is called, is found in a negative form in Rabbinic Judaism, and also in Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism. It also occurred in various forms in Greek and Roman ethical teaching. The negative form reads, "Don't do to others what you do not want them to do to you". How does Jesus' "Golden Rule" differ in how we should respond to our enemies? (6:31)
5. How does the "Golden Rule" help us keep the commandments listed in Exodus 20:13-17?
6. List the three positive actions about which Jesus asks, ". . . what credit is that to you?" (6:32-34)
7. What results can you expect from God when you practice loving your enemies? (6:35)
8. When we show mercy to our enemies who are we imitating? (6:36)
9. What do you find difficult about the kind of love that Jesus wants us to show?
10. Explain how you can apply the "Golden Rule" in your relationships this week with both friends and enemies?

WHO IS JESUS?



The Person Of Jesus

Jesus is the center of our faith. It's important to understand who He is and what He has done for us.

1. What did Jesus claim concerning Himself? State in your words what Jesus meant when He said these things:
 - a. *John 10:30-33*
 - b. *John 14:6, 8, 9*
 - c. *Matthew 28:19, 20*
 - d. *Mark 14:61, 62*

2. What did others say about Jesus? State in your words what each of the following meant:
 - a. His enemies (*John 8:13*)
 - b. Peter (*Matthew 16:16*)
 - c. Martha (*John 11:27*)
 - d. Thomas (*John 20:24-28*)

3. How did Jesus come into the world?
 - a. According to *John 17:5*, where was Jesus before He was born?
 - b. Read *Matthew 1:18-23*. What was unique about Jesus' birth?

4. The life and ministry of Jesus.
 - a. Describe Him as a teacher.
 - b. Describe Him as a miracle worker.
 - c. Describe Him as a healer.

5. Why did Jesus have to die? (*1 Peter 2:18*)

6. The resurrection of Jesus.
 - a. What does *John 20:1-18* tell us?
 - b. Why did Jesus rise from the dead? (*1 Corinthians 15:3-6*)

7. Where is Jesus now? What do the following scriptures tell us?
 - a. *Mark 16:19*
 - b. *Hebrews 4:14*

8. What does the future hold?
 - a. *Matthew 26:65*
 - b. *Acts 1:11*

If Christ Is Not Risen

1. How old were you when you first experienced the death of someone close to you?
2. What was your understanding of death at that time?
3. Approximately how many people actually saw Jesus in His resurrected body?
(*Matthew 28: 1-10, 16-20; John 2:11-18; Luke 24:13-35; John 20:26-28; Acts 1:3-8*)
4. What are some popular theories (then and now) that try to refute the fact that Jesus did, in fact, come from the grave?

Note: The Apostle Paul and the other first century Christians were willing to stake their very lives on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They fearlessly preached it. They were persecuted as a result of preaching the resurrection of Jesus, not His death. In *I Corinthians 15:12-22* Paul shows that our faith stands or falls on this one point. Read *I Corinthians 15:12-14*.

5. If Christ is not Risen (*I Corinthians 14*) Have you ever felt that your faith was futile? Why?
6. If Christ is not Risen (*I Corinthians 15-16*) How would this affect the way you feel about deceased loved ones and your own death?
7. If Christ is not Risen (*I Corinthians 17*) What difference does this fact make in your daily life?
8. If Christ is not Risen (*I Corinthians 18*) When the dead are raised, who is the first person you want to visit with? Why?
9. If Christ is not Risen (*I Corinthians 19*) According to this verse (and verse 13) what difference does it make in our world if Jesus Christ is still dead?

Conclusion: Read again the angel's message in *Acts 1:9-11*. What does it mean, "in the same way you have seen him go"? How did He go to heaven?



Who Is Jesus Christ To You?

1. Who is Jesus?
2. How is Jesus different from other “religious leaders”?
3. Read together these “I am” passages from the Old Testament:
 - a. *Isaiah 46:9*
 - b. *Deuteronomy 32:39*
 - c. *Isaiah 43:1-3*
4. In the following “I am” passages where Jesus claims His Deity as God, what does He say about Himself?
 - a. *John 4:26*
 - b. *John 6:35*
 - c. *John 8:23*
 - d. *John 8:58*
 - e. *John 9:5*
 - f. *John 10:7*
 - g. *John 10:36*
 - h. *John 11:25*
 - i. *John 13:13*
 - j. *John 14:6*
 - k. *John 15:1*
 - l. *Revelations 1:8*

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAID ABOUT JESUS:

5. What did John the Baptist say in *John 1:29* and *John 1:34*?
6. What did Peter say about Christ? (*Matthew 16:16*)
7. What did Martha, a close friend of Jesus, say to Him? (*John 11:27*)
8. What did Stephen say when he was being stoned? (*Acts 7:59*)
9. What did Thomas say when confronted with the resurrected Jesus in *John 20:26-29*?
10. What do you say about Jesus?
 - a. Who is Jesus to you personally?
 - b. What difference does He make in your life today?

Why would you recommend Jesus to a friend?

STRENGTH FOR THE STRUGGLE



Strength For The Struggle

1. What are some of the struggles that individuals are going through today?

What struggles are you going through right now?

2. Read *Isaiah 40:31* in unison, “*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*”

What message is here for you to apply in your life?

3. How does the chapter begin? (*Isaiah 40:1*)

What is the message in *verse 2*?

4. What do these two verses tell us about God and what He wants to do in our lives?

5. In *Isaiah 40*, we see the contrast between the frailty of man and the strength of God. How is the frailty of man described in *verses 6-8 and 23-24*?

6. How is the strength and glory of God described in the following verses?

- a. *Isaiah 40:5*
- b. *Isaiah 40:10*
- c. *Isaiah 40:11*
- d. *Isaiah 40:15*
- e. *Isaiah 40:26*
- f. *Isaiah 40:28*

7. In *Isaiah 40:28* what are the three things that we learn about God that give us great comfort?

8. God wants to strengthen us in our struggles (*Isaiah 40:29*). What is it that keeps us from yielding to Him in full trust?

9. What is our part of the promise of *James 4:10*?

What is God's part in this promise?

Sinners, Saints, Lost Sheep And A Loving God

1. *Luke 15:15* opens with the tax gatherers and sinners flocking to Jesus. What was the Pharisees big gripe about this?
 - a. How did the Pharisees see themselves in relation to God?
 - b. How did the Pharisees see others in relation to God?
 - c. What kind of a corner does a person work themselves into when they can't admit they are a sinner? (*John 1:8-10*)
2. The Pharisees think they know what God is like. They are right on one point – God hates sin. But they missed the boat on those who commit sin. God loves sinners. God values sinners so much that what happens when one of them repents? (*Luke 15:7-10*) Who are modern days Pharisees?
3. Read the Parable of the Prodigal Son. What picture do you get of the son who squandered his wealth?
 - a. Of the other son?
 - b. Of the father?
4. What does the prodigal son's experience teach you about the effects of sin?
 - a. What does the other son's attitude teach you about self-righteousness and an unforgiving spirit?
 - b. What does the father teach you about God's love?
5. Notice the father. He didn't quarrel when the boy demanded his share. He didn't judge when the boy repented. He didn't say, "I told you so," when the son wanted to be a hired hand. What does this teach you about parenting?
6. The attitude of the father should be that of the church: loving, accepting and forgiving. When the church loses sight of these things, what becomes of its effectiveness in the world? Any church is only as good as the individual parts. What kinds of attitudes do we need to maintain toward sinners?
7. What does *Romans 3:23* teach us?
8. What do we need to encourage ourselves or anyone else to do when we fall into sin? *Luke 15:7,10,18*.
9. What does it mean to repent?
10. Look at *Luke 15:16*. We are to love, accept, and forgive. How does holding people accountable fit into this? *Luke 15:17* tells us the outcome of this tough love situation. What is it?



Shedding The Shame –The Power Of The Blood

1. Why does sin bring shame?
2. Where does the feeling of guilt come from? (*Leviticus 5:17*)
3. Are there any people in the world who are not guilty of sin? (*Romans 3:10-20*)
4. What are some of the ways modern man tries to deal with guilt?
5. How were the people of the Old Testament instructed to handle guilt and sin?
6. Was the sacrifice of the bulls and lambs able to totally cleanse from sin? (*Hebrews 9:9,10,22; 10:1-4*)
7. Read *Hebrews 9:11-14*. How did Christ remedy the guilt problem for you?
8. Discuss this statement: “God did for us what no one else can do.”
9. Fill in the six ways Christ shed His blood for us. Discuss how each might be important to you.
 - a. *Luke 22:24*
 - b. *Luke 22:63*
 - c. *Mark 15:15*
 - d. *Matthew 27:29*
 - e. *Matthew 25:35*; note *Luke 24:40*
 - f. *John 19:34,35*
10. Explain what these words mean: “What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” (*Romans 3:24,25*)
11. Is there any reason why you should still feel “shame” for sin?
(*Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 1:7*)

Affirm together your spiritual, emotional, and physical freedom in Christ. (*Rev. 1:5*)

WHEN GOD CAME NEAR



When God Came Near A Shocking Announcement

Luke 1:1-25

Lesson 1

1. When have you been completely surprised?
2. Read Luke 1:5-10. What do you learn about Zechariah and Elizabeth?
3. What do you know about the social status of the women in the ancient world who were unable to have children? (see Genesis 17:15-21; 18:9-15; Judges 13; and 1 Samuel 1:1-20)
4. What experience did Zechariah have that gripped him with fear? Where was he and what was he doing at the time? (Luke 1:11-12)
5. What promises and instructions did Gabriel give to Zechariah? (1:13-17)
6. Why was Zechariah rendered unable to speak until the time of John's birth? (1:18-22)
7. When have you doubted God's promised provision for you?
8. How did Elizabeth react to the good news that Gabriel had given her? (1:23-25)
9. Is there a long-term frustration in your life that needs to be given to God? How can you strengthen your belief that God is in control of the events of your life?

When God Came Near An Unexpected Honor

Luke 1:26-38

Lesson 2

1. When was a time you received an unexpected announcement of good news?
2. Who was sent to speak to Mary and how did he greet her? (Luke 1:26-28)
3. What was Mary's first response to Gabriel's greeting and how did Gabriel put her at ease? (1:29-30)
4. What were the details of Gabriel's announcement? (1:31-33)
5. How did Mary's response to the angel (1:34) differ from Zechariah's? (1:18-20) Why wasn't Mary struck dumb as Zechariah was?
6. How has the fact that "with God, nothing is impossible" become a vital truth for you?
7. How was Elizabeth's pregnancy an encouragement to Mary? (1:36-37)
8. What kind of attitude was apparent in Mary's response to the angel's visit? What was her final statement to Gabriel about her faith in God? (1:38)
9. What can you do to maintain a servant's "Yes, Lord," attitude as you live from day to day?



When God Came Near A Visit From Mary

Luke 1:39-56

Lesson 3

1. Mary was from Nazareth in northern Israel. Where did she hurry off to and who did she visit? (Luke 1:39-40)
2. What remarkable thing happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth? (1:41)
3. How did Elizabeth indicate that she knew the significance of Mary's pregnancy? (1:42-45)
4. What kind of reassurance do you think Mary felt when she heard Elizabeth's words?
5. What titles for God did Mary mention in her song and what actions did she say God had taken for her? (1:46-49)

Titles

Actions

6. How did Mary describe herself? (1:47-48)
7. What characteristics of God did Mary list as she continued her song? (1:50-56)
8. According to Mary's song, What kind of people did Mary declare are given God's favor? (1:50-55)
9. How can you "glorify the Lord "and "rejoice in your Savior"?
10. Who needs to hear you express your faith and love for God this week?

When God Came Near The Birth of John the Baptist

Luke 1:57-80

Lesson 4

1. How do parents often choose names for their children?
2. What response did the relatives have when Elizabeth told them the child wouldn't be named after his father or another family member? (Luke 1:61)
3. Why did they have to make signs to Zechariah about what he wanted to call the child? (1:62)
4. What did Zechariah do when his voice was restored? (1:63-64)
5. What effect did all these things have on the people where Zechariah and Elizabeth lived? (1:65-66)
6. Who gave inspiration for Zechariah's song? (1:67)
7. What does Zechariah declare about God in his song? (1:68-75)
8. What outstanding title did Zechariah say would be given to his son? (1:76)
9. What was to be Zechariah's son's purpose in life? (1:76-77)
10. What limited information did Luke include to summarize John's childhood? (1:80)
11. Review Zechariah's song and use all or part of Luke 1:68-75 as a personal prayer of praise and worship to the Lord.



When God Came Near The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Lesson 5

1. When have you endured a long uncomfortable trip?
2. Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?
(Luke 1:1-4)
3. What was Joseph and Mary's marital status at the time of their journey to Bethlehem? (2:5)
4. Why was this trip especially difficult for Mary? (2:5)
5. What are the historical facts prompting this trip that provide an approximate date of Christ's birth? (2:1-4)
6. In what ways did God manage the events of history to get Joseph and Mary where He wanted them at the appropriate time and why was this necessary (Matthew 1:4-6)?
7. Describe this event based on Luke 2:5-7. How long were they there before Christ's birth? Where did they stay? Was the town crowded, etc.?
8. Were people in Bethlehem aware of the great event that had happened?
(2:15-18)
9. Are people around you living with an awareness of Christ's Glory and Majesty?
10. How can you demonstrate in your everyday life that you have room for Christ the Lord?

When God Came Near The Angels and the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

Lesson 6

1. What is the most unique birth announcement you've ever seen?
2. At what time and place did an angel of the Lord appear to the shepherds?
(Luke 2:8)
3. How many angels were first present when the shepherds were told the news of Christ's birth? (2:9-12)
4. What names were used to describe Jesus and by what sign would the shepherds recognize Him? (2:10-12)
5. How many angels did the shepherds hear praising God and what was their message of praise? (2:13)
6. If you had been one of the shepherds on the night Christ was born, what would you have done after the angels left?
7. How did the shepherds react to the news? (2:15-16)
8. After finding the Christ child, what did the shepherds do? (2:17-20)
9. How should we handle the good news that God has entrusted to us?
What is our responsibility since we have "discovered" the good news about Jesus, the Christ?
10. Who do you know that needs to hear the good news of what God has done through Jesus Christ our Lord?



When God Came Near Mary & Joseph Dedicate Baby Jesus

Luke 2:21-40

Lesson 7

1. What ceremonies, rituals or traditions does your family or church have to honor the life of a newborn child?
2. What was the first significant ceremony or ritual Mary & Joseph did for their child? When was it and what took place? (Luke 2:21)
3. Following the birth of a son, according to Jewish Law, the mother had to wait 40 days before going to the temple to offer sacrifice for her purification. Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple? (2:22-24)
4. Who was Simeon and what was the significance of his encounter with baby Jesus in the temple? (2:25-29)
5. How did Simeon's prophecy point out that Christ would be the Savior for the whole world? (2:30-32)
6. How did Mary and Joseph respond to Simeon's words? (2:33)
7. What additional things did Simeon say to Mary and why were his words important? (2:34-35)
8. Who was Anna? And what was her response to finding Mary, Joseph, and the Christ child in the temple? (2:36-38)
9. Were you dedicated to God as a child? Have you chosen to dedicate your life to God now that you are grown?
10. How can you demonstrate this week that you are a person who has been dedicated to God?

When God Came Near Jesus, the Boy at the Temple

Luke 2:41-52

Lesson 8

1. Have you ever accidentally left someone behind while on a trip or outing?
2. How did Jesus get left behind in Jerusalem and why did three days go by before Mary and Joseph located Him? (Luke 2:43-46)
3. What was Jesus doing during the three days that He was on His own in Jerusalem? (2:46)
4. What effect did Jesus' dialogue have on the teachers of the law in Jerusalem? (2:46-47)
5. All adult Hebrew men were required by law to attend three annual feasts: Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. (Exodus 23:14-17; Deuteronomy 16:16) What might cause you to believe that Jesus had attended the Feast of the Passover with his parents in years prior to this trip? (2:41)
6. What kind of pattern or model were Mary and Joseph setting for Jesus by their family traditions? What happens when parents try to pass on to their children, beliefs or habits which they do not practice themselves?
7. How did Mary respond when she and Joseph finally found Jesus? (2:48)
8. How did Jesus answer His parent's concern for Him and after replying to His parents, what did Jesus do? (2:49-51)
9. If Jesus were being raised under your care, what positive traits, characteristics and patterns for life and worship would He pick up from you? How would your pattern of living help Him grow "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (2:52)



CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Christ's Death and Resurrection The Last Supper

Luke 22:7-38

Lesson 1

1. What was significant about the day of Unleavened Bread, the day that Jesus sent Peter and John to make special preparations for this "Last Supper"? (Luke 22:7-13)
2. What was this meal to commemorate? (Exodus 12:12-28)
3. Why was Jesus so eager to eat Passover with His disciples? (22:15-16)
4. What did Jesus instruct His disciples to do in remembrance of Him? (22:17-20)
5. What did the bread and cup represent? (22:19-20)
6. Why do you think Jesus chose the Passover elements of bread and wine to represent His body and the new covenant? Why is Communion important for Christians to observe?
7. How will you prepare yourself for Communion so that you better appreciate what Jesus has provided for you?
8. What did the disciples begin to argue about after the meal? (22:24)
9. What did Jesus say in response to this dispute? (22:25-27)
10. Why is it so tempting to seek greatness and recognition? How can we follow Christ's example of servant-hood this week?



Christ's Death and Resurrection Jesus Arrested

Luke 22:39-65

Lesson 2

1. What would you describe as a low point in your life?
2. What was Jesus referring to when He said, "Take this cup from me"? (Luke 22:42)
3. How did God choose to strengthen Jesus at this difficult time? (22:43)
4. What happened while Jesus was praying that demonstrated the extreme anguish that He felt? (22:44)
5. How do you respond to painful events in your life?
6. What place should prayer have in your times of struggle and anguish? (22:45-46)
7. Who was leading the crowd to Jesus? (22:47-48)
8. How did Jesus respond during His betrayal and arrest? (22:49-53)
9. How did the guards treat Jesus and how do you think Christ responded? (22:63-65)
10. How do you think Jesus wants you to respond to criticism or persecution? How would spending additional time alone with God in your personal "garden of prayer" help you be better prepared to face your trials?

Christ's Death and Resurrection Jesus' Crucifixion

Luke 23:26-49

Lesson 3

1. When have you had to endure teasing, slander or even abuse?
2. Read Luke 23:26-38. Describe the situation in your own words.
3. What did the criminals have to say to Jesus? How did Jesus respond to the plea of one? (23:38-43)
4. How are people like these two criminals on the crosses? Which one do you wish to identify with?
5. At the time of Jesus' death, what unusual things happened? (23:44-46)
6. What is significant about what took place at the temple? (23:45)
7. How did the Roman centurion react to Jesus' death? (23:47)
8. How did the spectators react? (23:48)
9. How did Christ's death on the cross make a new relationship with God possible? (Romans 5:1-11)
10. Tell how Jesus' death on the cross has changed your life and relationship with God.



Christ's Death and Resurrection Jesus' Resurrection

Luke 24:1-12

Lesson 4

1. When did you tell a true story that people found hard to believe?
2. Why did the women go to Jesus' tomb? (Luke 24:1)
3. What unexpected things happened upon their arrival? (24:2-8)
4. How did the apostles react to the report given by the women? (24:9-11)
5. Even though Peter may have doubted the women he investigate their report. What did he find and how did he respond? (24:12)
6. Why did the disciples express doubt even though Jesus told them He would rise from the dead?
7. What was it Paul wished to remind the Corinthian people of and why was it important? (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)
8. What was the "Gospel" Paul had preached by which they had been saved? (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
9. What evidence helps you hold firmly to the "Gospel" of Jesus Christ? What evidence could you use to persuade others this week about the truth of the Gospel.
10. Who can you talk to this week that may need to learn about Jesus Christ and what He has done by His death and resurrection?

Christ's Death and Resurrection Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Luke 24:36-49

Lesson 5

1. When have you been really surprised and/or frightened?
2. Why were the disciples frightened and how did Jesus calm their fears and reassure them? (Luke 24:37-48)
3. If Christ had not, in fact, been raised from the dead, what would be true of Christians and Christianity? (1 Corinthians 15:12-18)
4. How is Christ's resurrection from the dead a "first fruits" or a sign that He is first of all those who will be resurrected from the dead? (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)
5. What things do you find described in the Bible about Jesus' resurrected body? (Read Luke 24:13-53; John 20:19-31; Acts 1:1-11)
-it was recognizable...
6. Paul describes the resurrected body that you will have. How does your earthly body differ from the heavenly body that you will enjoy after your resurrection? (1 Corinthians 15:35-53)

<u>Earthly Body</u>	<u>Resurrected Body</u>
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7. Because of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection what should be our hope as Christians? (1 Corinthians. 15:54-57)
8. In light of our resurrection hope in Christ Jesus, how should we live? (1 Corinthians 15:58)



Christ's Death and Resurrection Jesus' Ascension

Luke 24:50-53

Lesson 6

1. From whom would you most wish to receive a "blessing"?
2. What happened as Jesus blessed his followers? (Luke 24:50)
3. What instructions and promises had Jesus given them prior to His ascension? (Acts 1:1-8)
4. What does Acts 1:8 teach us about the mission of the church?
5. What happened as they watched Jesus ascend into heaven? (Acts 1:9-11)
6. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' ascension into heaven? (Luke 24:52, Acts 1:10,11)
7. How did Jesus' followers express their worship at His ascension? (Luke 24:52)
8. Why were the disciples so joyful? (Luke 24:52)
9. What did Jesus' followers do after He had returned to heaven? (Luke 24:53, Acts 1:14)
10. The disciples worshipped Jesus by listening to His words and obeying Him. What has Jesus indicated for you to do and how can you demonstrate your obedience this week?

BAPTISM



Baptism

Christian Baptism is the public testimony that new spiritual birth has taken place through Christ Jesus the Lord. Just as burial is a public declaration that someone has died, so baptism declares that the believer has died with Christ to sin, his past is buried and he has risen with Christ to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:1-4). Baptism is a public statement that a person has forsaken the ways of the world and has set the direction of his/her life to live God's way. Christian baptism means identification or association with the person of Jesus Christ, His message of salvation and His Church—the Body of believers.

What Baptism Is Not

1. It is not a means of washing away our sins.
2. It is not a requirement for salvation.
3. It is not a way to earn forgiveness.

What Baptism Is

4. It is a matter of obedience to the Lord. (Matthew 28:19-20)
5. It is a matter of public profession before God and man. (Acts 2:41; 18:8)
6. It is a matter of symbolic meaning to believe. (Romans 6:1-10)
 - a. A symbol of death to sin. (6:1-3)
 - b. A symbol of new life in Christ. (6:4-7)
 - c. A symbol of an eternal hope (6:8-10)

Who Should Be Baptized?

7. Those who are disciples of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20)
8. Those who are true believers in Jesus Christ. (Acts 8:12-13; 16:31-34)

When Should a Believer Be Baptized?

Those who have experienced the “new birth” through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord ought not to wait, but should step forward to publicly declare their identification with Christ. If you have trusted Jesus Christ for your salvation, then declare your faith in Him through the symbol of baptism.

Baptism

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Why Be Baptized?

1. Obedience to Christ's command. (Matthew 28:19-20)
2. Public identification with Christ. (Romans 6:4-6)
3. Public identification with Christ's body, the Church. (Acts 2:41)

How Should A Person Be Baptized?

In the New Testament, baptism seems to have been either by immersion or by pouring. Different groups of Christians have various traditions. Let's talk about how we do baptism at our church.

Baptismal Information Checklist:

Have you asked Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sins and to come into your life; do you confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is your personal Savior and Lord?

Have you committed yourself to follow Jesus Christ, to live for Him in obedience to everything that He has directed you to do?

Do you wish to publicly demonstrate your faith and trust in Jesus Christ by obedience to His command to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit?

The date we will have our next baptism is _____.

Here are some practical instructions regarding clothing and other related items:



TEN RULES FOR THE ROAD (10 Commandments)

The God Above All Gods Rule For The Road No. 1

1. How many of the Ten Commandments can you recall from memory?
2. Where did they come from? (*Exodus 19-20*) To whom were they given? Why were they given to us?
3. What makes the Ten Commandments more relevant today than ever?
4. Commandments one through four (written on the first tablet) have to do with what? Commandments five through ten (written on the second tablet) have to do with what?
5. Read *Exodus 20:1-3*. State, in your own words, the first “Rule for the Road” “You shall have no other gods before Me...”
6. In these modern times, how do some people try to find value and meaning – order and purpose – in their lives?
7. How does your concept of God effect how you view human life? How you view others? How you view yourself?
8. What did Paul teach the Greeks in Athens about who was the true God? (*Acts 17:22-27*)
9. Where does worshipping false gods lead?
10. Talk about these popular myths in relation to what God is like?
 - a. Santa Claus
 - b. Harsh Tyrant
 - c. Magician
 - d. Giant Aspirin

In the Lord’s Prayer (*Matthew 6:9-13*) Jesus taught us that the true concept and understanding about God is that He is our Heavenly Father. How has your relationship or lack of relationship with your earthly father affected either favorably or unfavorably you concept and relationship with God?



Care Enough To Choose The Very Best Rule For The Road No. 2

1. What was your favorite thing to play on as a child when you went to a playground?
2. Read *Exodus 20:4-6*. What is the sin of idolatry?
3. How does the keeping or breaking of the second “Rule for the Road” (*Exodus 20:4-6*) affect the generations to come?
4. How is sin like a slippery slide?
5. Read together *Exodus 32*. While Moses was up on the mountain receiving the Ten Commandments, how were the children of Israel already breaking the Commandments?
 - a. How did this affect Moses?
 - b. Why did this upset God so much?
 - c. What was the one thing that saved the nation of Israel from being completely wiped out by God for this terrible sin?
6. How does idolatry open the door to more sin?

What kind of sins did the children of Israel commit after they started worshipping the golden calf they had created?

7. How serious is the sin of idolatry? (*Romans 1:18-32*) Talk about the possessive/digressive nature of sin.
8. What are some of the gods that people in our society bow down to worship as their god?
9. Close with the penetrating question that Jesus asked Peter three times in *John 21:15-17*.

What is the “more than these” in your own life?

10. Do you love Jesus more than anything else?

Cleaning The Gutter

Rule For The Road No. 3

1. Describe the consequences when people no longer respect and obey the traffic laws in our community.
2. In your own words, what is the third Rule for the Road? (*Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 22:31-32*)
3. Do you think there has been an increase of gutter language spoken by the average person today as opposed to 25 years ago? Why do you think so? What are some contributing factors?
4. In *James 3:3-12*, what do we learn about the power of words?
5. How does speaking profanity or speaking positive words affect the following:
 - a. Your body?
 - b. Your relationships?
 - c. The way people judge you?
 - d. Self-esteem – both the other person's and yours?
 - e. Your relationship with God?
6. What does it mean to misuse the name of God? (*Exodus 20:7*)
7. Why is it so offensive to God when we swear at another person?
8. Discuss: **Praise builds love for life, while profanity destroys the love for life.**
9. Where do both praise and cursing come from? (*James 3:10*)
10. What is really needed to put a stop to the sin of profanity? (*Jeremiah 31:33*)
11. Have someone in your group share from their own life how they have broken the swearing habit.

Thought Question: Do you think the rise of praise and worship in churches today is God's way of helping Christians counteract the epidemic of profanity in our society today?



Fit Stop Rule Of The Road No. 4

1. Discuss this thought: As important as work is for a good life, there is more to life than labor.
2. When you hear the words “Fit Stop,” what thoughts come to your mind?
3. What is Rule No. 4 for the road? (*Exodus 20:8-11*) What does the word “remember” suggest?
4. **The FIT STOP is written into the very fabric of creation.** During the first six days of creation, God moved from the most basic elements of creation to the more complex. For example, on the fifth and sixth days, He filled the earth with animals. And then, the last thing He did on that sixth day was to create man and woman by breathing into them the breath of life. What did God do on the seventh day? (*Genesis 2:2-3*) Why did He do this? Did He need the rest from all the strenuous labor? Was He personally fatigued? Or, what was it He was trying to teach us?
5. *Exodus 16:22-30* gives us a living illustration of this principle. God supplied manna every day for the church of Israel when they were out in the desert. What happened on the sixth day and what were they instructed to do? In *Exodus 27:16* what happened? What is the lesson for us to learn from this?
6. In the Jewish tradition, the Sabbath was practiced on what day of the week?
 - How did most Christian churches come to observe the Sabbath on Sunday? (*Colossians 2:16-23; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Galatians 4:9-11*)
 - Do you think it really matters on which day one chooses to celebrate the Sabbath as long as they obey the Sabbath principle in the cycle of their week?
7. What are the benefits of regularly going to a public worship service in the weekly cycle? How important is the spiritual fit stop in your life?
8. **True or False:** When things are the most stressful and demanding is when we need to observe the fit stop all the more.
9. What are some of the problems of observing the Sabbath in modern society? How do you intend to practice the Sabbath principle?

Close with a prayer and a renewed commitment to *Hebrews 10:25*

Make Peace With Your Parents

Rule For The Road No. 5

1. Review the first four commandments in *Exodus 20*.
 - The second group begins with one that deals directly with our family relationships. (*Exodus 20:12*) What does this tell us?
 - List all the benefits that come from being brought up in a family where there is honor, cooperation, respect and love.
2. How does your relationship with your parents affect your relationship with God? How does rebellion against parents affect the way one relates to authoritarian figures in their life?
3. What does it mean to honor? What are we promised if we keep this commandment?
4. What do we learn from *Ephesians 6:1-4* that gives a clear understanding of the fifth rule for the road?
5. Read *Ephesians 4:29-32* and make a list of those things we can do to make our family a mutual admiration society.
6. Personal question: Are you a giver or a taker? A selfish person or a team player?
7. “Whether your parents are good or bad, for your own good you need to make peace with them.” How have you found this to be true in your life?
8. Describe an irregular parent.
 - a. How is it possible to stop the chain of abuse and destructive patterns in a family?
 - b. Talk about the baton in a relay race and how what you do with it (in the time that you have it before you pass it on), is up to you.
9. Is it too late to change? _____ Why not?

Close with this thought: God calls us to forgive and put love into action no matter what other family members do or do not do.



Life Is Fragile- Handle With Care Rule For The Road No. 6

1. Describe one of your favorite birthdays (the celebration of your life).
2. Why do Christians believe that life is sacred? (*Genesis 2:7*)
3. What is the sixth rule for the road? (*Exodus 20:13*)
4. Read about the first homicide in *Genesis 4:1-12* and answer the following questions:
 - a. Who were the first two sons of Adam and Eve?
 - b. Why was the one son's sacrifice to God accepted and the other's sacrifice rejected?
 - c. What was the strong emotion that Cain experienced?
 - d. What do we learn from *Genesis 4:7*?
 - e. What did Cain do to his brother? What did God ask him? What was his reply?
 - f. What was the penalty or punishment that was given to Cain for committing the act of murder?
5. What are the results of anger when it is allowed to run out of control? Who is responsible for your anger?
6. Talk about some healthy ways to handle anger as opposed to some unhealthy ways of handling anger.

Some tough questions we have to answer in our world

The sixth rule for the road: "You shall not murder." Is it ever right to take another person's life?

1. What about war?
2. What about capital punishment?
3. What about abortion?
 - a. How has the 1973 US Supreme Court ruling affected our nation's attitude about life?
 - b. Is the fetus a human being or not? What does genetic science show? What does medical science show? What do x-rays show? What does ultrasound show?
 - c. If the fetus is a human being, then abortion on demand for convenience is what?
4. What about suicide? What does *1 Corinthians 6:19-20* say? If someone commits suicide that is all mixed up in their mind, how does God provide for that person's sin of suicide?

What about euthanasia? Is it ever right? _____ Why do you think so? How do you feel about people being kept alive on machines?

Sex, Sin And Self-Control

Rule For The Road No. 7

True or false

- T ___ F ___ 1. Everybody is doing it, so it must be okay.
- T ___ F ___ 2. If your mate is cold or unresponsive, then you have an excuse to have an affair.
- T ___ F ___ 3. If you are a single person, it is all right for you to go out and sleep with someone.
- T ___ F ___ 4. An affair can be good for a marriage and can revive a dull one.

1. How does our world view and sell adultery? What is adultery?
2. Who invented sex in the first place? (*Genesis 1:27-28; 1:31; 2:24-25*) What is significant about the fact that sex came before sin? What kind of lovers do you think Adam and Eve were in the garden? What does the Bible mean when it says that they were naked and unashamed? (*Genesis 2:25*)
3. When the Bible says the male and female came together and became one flesh, is this physical, emotional, or spiritual? What do you think?

Note: The devil takes what God has already created and tries to get us to pervert it and misuse it. Sin always **diminishes** pleasure. That is why, in sexual sins, people have to keep seeking new adventures to get any pleasure.

4. Read *Proverbs 5:1-23* and write down several of the consequences of the misuse of our sexual gift.
5. Talk about the following seven things that adultery is against:
 - a. Against love
 - b. Against the other person
 - c. Against your own body.
 - d. Against your emotional health
 - e. Against our self-esteem.
 - f. Against the church.
 - g. Against God.
6. What are we told to do in *1 Corinthians 6:18*? How do we do this?
7. Four things that will help you flee from sexual sins.
 - a. Stay away from pornography.
 - b. Control your thought-life.
 - c. Stop when you are tempted and talk a long look.
 - d. Accept God's moral laws as absolute and right for yourself. When is the time to decide you are going to live a clean life?
8. What is the answer for someone who has fallen into a sexual sin? (*John 8:1-11*) How would you help this person?



The High Cost Of Stealing

Rule For The Road No. 8

1. Share an experience when your private property was taken and the emotions that you felt.

How does the teaching of Jesus: "Treat others as you want to be treated," relate to stealing?

2. What are some of the high costs of stealing what we all have to pay for?

3. What is Rule No. 8 for the Road? (*Exodus 20:15*)

4. What does giving a fair day's work to your employer have to do with stealing? (*Ephesians 4:28*)

Discuss: If you do not make your employer a profit, your employer cannot afford to keep you.

5. How big of a problem is tax evasion?
As Christians, what are we to do according to *Romans 13:6-7*?

6. At what point does something you borrow and have not taken back become something that you have stolen?

Is it important to take things back quickly that we have borrowed?

7. Read together *Luke 19:1-10*. What do we learn from this passage about the cure for stealing? How was Zaccheaus' character rebuilt?

8. What did Jesus do for the thief on the cross that asked for forgiveness?

Why do we all need Jesus' forgiveness and grace? (*Romans 3:23*)

The Truth About Lying

Rule Of The Road No. 9

1. Define these five different ways to lie:
 - a. Bold face lie:
 - b. Shading the truth:
 - c. Slandering:
 - d. Exaggeration:
 - e. Insinuation/implication:
2. What is the ninth rule for the road according to *Exodus 20:16*?
3. What do you think is the root cause of lying? What are some reasons why people chose to tell a lie?
4. What's wrong with spreading lies, commonly known as gossiping? What are some reasons we excuse ourselves from gossiping? What harm does gossiping do?
5. How does lying destroy trust? How important is trust to a marriage? How important is trust to any relationship?
6. Is it true that people who have a habit of lying also have trouble trusting other people?
7. Who is the father of lies? (*John 8:44*)
How is it that lying plays into the hands of Satan?
8. What is the cure for lying?
 - a. Confess the truth about the deceitfulness.
 - b. Repent (turn away) from it.
 - c. Begin this day to live in cooperation with "the Spirit of Truth" (the Holy Spirit).
9. How can we learn to love truth?

What did Jesus mean when He said the truth will set you free?



Turn On To Contentment

Rule Of The Road No. 10

1. Why does the grass always seem to be greener on the other side of the fence?
2. Read Rule for the Road No. 10 in *Exodus 20:17*. Now define in your words what it means to covet. How does Rule No. 10 summarize the first nine?
3. Why is covetousness such an insidious sin? (*James 1:14*)

How does this sin open the door to the breaking of the other Commandments?

Talk about some people in the Old Testament who illustrate what happens when one turns on the sin of covetousness.

4. Is desire right or wrong?

When does desire become the sin of covetousness?

5. Speaking of material things-how much is enough? (*Proverbs 30:7-9*)
6. What happens when a person tries to be like someone else?

How do you feel when the other person gets the award, the position, or the trip that you wanted?

7. Read *Philippians 4:11-13*. Where was Paul when he wrote these words and under what condition? What was Paul's secret of contentment?
8. Ask yourself these questions:
 - a. Have you accepted Jesus Christ and His plan for your life?
 - b. How well do you accept other people who are honored above you?
 - c. How do you react when you do not get what you want?
 - d. What is missing in your life that causes you to have discontent?

Remember: In Christ's presence there is contentment, both now and forevermore.

A FOUR LESSON STUDY OF MARRIAGE



Building Your Marriage Constructing a Good Relationship

Genesis 2:24

Lesson 1

1. What does it take to build a good marriage?
2. Read Genesis 2:24. Once a couple has received each other as God's gift (Genesis 2:18-23), they must leave their parents. How does a couple establish and maintain proper independence from their parents?
3. What are some ways couples do not leave their parents?
4. What can happen in a marriage when parents try to hold on and the son or daughter remain dependent on their parents rather than their mate?
5. According to Genesis 2:24, what should happen after the man leaves his father and mother?
6. What insights does Matthew 19:6 add to your understanding to becoming "one flesh"?
7. Is becoming "one flesh" something that happens at a point in time or an on-going process? Or is it both?
8. Physical intimacy obviously contributes to achieving oneness in a marriage. Sexual relations by themselves are no guarantee that oneness will result. What makes the difference?
9. Why is acceptance of and commitment to your mate important in achieving openness and oneness in your relationship?
10. What is one area of your marriage where you could do some remodeling in order to improve your oneness?

Building Your Marriage Servant Leadership

Ephesians 5:23-29

Lesson 2

1. What various roles must you fulfill to be a success in society today?
2. What kinds of preparation, schooling, training courses, books, etc. did you have to have for filling these roles?
3. In order to write a biblical job description for being a husband who serves as Christ intends, read Ephesians 5:23-29. How is a husband's position illustrated?
4. What might Paul be describing when he says that the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church? (5:23)
5. What are the responsibilities involved in being "the head" of a group of people or an organization?
6. What additional insights do you gain about leadership from Mark 10:42-45? Which of these concepts is the most challenging to you as you think of your leadership in your home?
7. What is servant leadership?
8. How would becoming a "servant" leader change a man who tends to be passive and who does not accept his responsibilities? How would it change a man who is dictatorial and refuses to listen to his wife?
9. How would becoming a "servant" leader affect the ability of a wife to support her husband's leadership?
10. List 1-3 practical ways in which "servant" leadership can be demonstrated in your relationship in the coming weeks.



Building Your Marriage Loving and Caring

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Lesson 3

1. What factors in society and in marriage make it difficult to be a good husband or wife?
2. What are your greatest struggles in being a good mate?
3. According to Ephesians 5:25-27, why is loving unselfishly so important?
4. How does this kind of love, this denial of self, communicate love to the wife?
5. How is following the description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 meaningful to you?
6. Which of these descriptions of love do you need most to help build your marriage? (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7)
7. How would you make self-denial a willing act of love and not a grudging duty?
8. What does Ephesians 5:28-33 add to your view of your responsibility to your mate?
9. Why is caring so important?
10. What "elements of nourishment" does your mate need from you to help them grow?
11. How can you show your spouse that you esteem and value him/her?
12. Choose one act of unselfish loving or caring toward your mate that you agree to be accountable for this week.

Building Your Marriage Building a Legacy

Psalm 78:3-8

Lesson 4

1. What comes to mind when you think of a "heritage" or "legacy"?
2. Read 2 Tim 1:5. Describe the heritage your parents left to you and the values it represents.
3. What legacy did Joshua desire for his descendants? (Joshua 24:14-15)
4. According to 3 John 4 and Psalm 78:3-8, you can leave spiritual as well as physical descendants. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and 2 Timothy 2:2 and talk about how you can leave a spiritual legacy.
5. According to Deuteronomy 6:1-9, how do you leave a godly legacy with your children by your influence?
6. Your marriage should leave a legacy of love that will influence future generations. Describe what you want that legacy to be?
7. Describe the gifts (spiritual and/or physical) you desire to leave to your children and grandchildren.
8. Describe the legacy you desire to leave to your spiritual descendants; those you lead to Christ and disciple.