

Answers to Common Questions About *One on One with God*

What is *One on One with God*?

One on One with God is a twelve-week process of discipleship training that connects you directly to God:

A Path that leads to knowing Jesus personally,

A Lifestyle of walking daily in intimate fellowship with Him,

A Tool for making disciples and producing disciple-makers.

How does *One on One with God* work?

The ideal is to:

- Meet once a week for twelve consecutive weeks.
 - Why twelve weeks?
 - They say it takes twelve to fifteen weeks to build patterns into our lives.
 - Why consecutive weeks?
 - To maintain momentum.
- Allow two hours to complete each session.
 - Why two hours instead of less time?
 - It generally takes two hours to cover all the material and give everyone an opportunity to participate and learn how to do the things we are challenging them to do in each session.
- Meet in small groups with a leader and no more than six disciples.

What if you don't have the ideal situation described above?

Adapt to the situation, but make sure that you cover all the material and that your disciples understand how to apply the truths.

What are some examples of situations where you have made disciples in less than ideal situations as previously mentioned?

Once we disciplined a group of seventy people in one group, but I don't know of one person in that group who caught the vision and continued making disciples as a lifetime mission. There were too many people in the group and too little time for everyone to participate in every session.

Twice we have disciplined more than seventy people in small groups over an eight-week period by meeting with each group twice a week.

Once, in a one-week “J-term” in seminary, we took a group through *One on One with God*, completing our full thirty hours over a five-day period.

The key—is to adapt to the situation without sacrificing the time needed for God to produce strong disciples and disciple-makers through you.

But remember—the ideal is to meet for twelve consecutive weeks, for two hours each week

What if the people I am disciplining are not making disciples?

Continue to pray for and encourage your disciples to make disciples, but remember that ***we go out in the energy of and under the control of the Holy Spirit, and we leave the results to God.*** He is the One who must illuminate their minds and convict their hearts to make disciples.

Be faithful to God's commission and call upon your life to make disciples, and in His timing you will see results.

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DEDICATION

One on One with God is dedicated to our parents, children, grandchildren, future generations of our family, and to all disciples who are willing to invest their lives in making disciples who will make disciples.

From our notes in this leader's guide and a *One On One with God* workbook, you will find an abundance of principles that God will use to bless you. Meditate on them and apply them to your life. We encourage you to walk through life with your eyes on Jesus, yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit. Let Him be boss in your life each day. On the journey, daily saturate your life with God's Word and prayer, and keep Jesus as the center of your life around Whom all else revolves. Let your determined purpose be to know Jesus deeply, intimately, and personally. Set out to master the Bible, and you will soon find that it is mastering you. Invest your life in that which is eternal. Know God, for He is eternal. Saturate your life with God's Word, the Bible, for it is eternal. Make disciples by winning people to Christ and training them to walk with God, for the souls of men and women, boys and girls are eternal. Practice these principles, and you will be like a mirror through which Jesus can reflect Himself to everyone you know. As you go through life, make disciples. It is the greatest way you can show your love for Jesus and for others. Jesus Himself is our model. Never be discouraged! Jesus is our hope! He is God! He is the powerful controller of all things! He is faithful, and He is coming again!

In Him,

Jerry and Marilyn Fine

INTRODUCTION

We encourage you to make *One on One with God* your own. A pastor I discipled said, “In the past, I spoke of Jerry and Marilyn’s *One on One with God*, but now it is mine.”

Please feel free to use the illustrations and stories in the authors’ notes while making disciples, but we also want you to feel free to substitute your own illustrations and stories. In fact, we encourage you to do so. As you begin sharing your own stories and illustrations while discipling others, *One on One* will become more your own.

We are praying for you as you trust God and, as an act of faithfulness to Jesus, practice and communicate all the biblical principles contained in *One on One with God*.

May God bless you as you “Go and make disciples.”

TIPS FOR LEADING *One on One with God* GROUPS

The following tips are things we have learned from leading *One on One with God* groups since 1970:

1. One disciple alone or up to six disciples being trained in the same group is acceptable. **Four disciples being trained in the same group is probably ideal because:**
 - There is enough time for everyone to participate in class.
 - Group members learn and are challenged by each other.
 - Prayer partners for the disciples can be other class members.
2. When we first began making disciples, we met with just one disciple at a time. One advantage to this was that we could include the disciples in our personal lives and ministry. Remember that the *One on One with God* lifestyle is caught as well as taught.
3. It is wise for men to disciple men and women to disciple women. If it is necessary for a man or woman to disciple people of the opposite sex, make sure it takes place in a group. Never meet to disciple only one person of the opposite sex unless you are husband and wife.
4. If possible, meet in a home with as few distractions as possible. A relaxed, homelike atmosphere is very helpful.
5. Allow about two hours for each session, although some of the sessions may not require quite that much time.
6. If you serve refreshments, keep them simple and not time-consuming. Coffee, tea, or a soft drink should be sufficient.
7. Practice what you teach. God and the disciples are watching you.
8. Do not be uneasy or impatient with periods of silence when you ask questions. Let the disciples know that it is okay to think about their responses. You may need to rephrase your question.
9. Teach with humility. Let the disciples know that you also are on this journey of spiritual growth.
10. Our purpose in discipling is to produce true disciples who will invest their lives in making disciples. This is best accomplished by keeping your groups small—six or fewer in each group.

The Big Picture of Discipleship

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you...” (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV).*

Matthew 28:18-20 is not a great commission. It is *the* Great Commission, and it is *our* Great Commission. Every true believer is charged with the responsibility of being involved in the five key elements of making disciples:

- **Go is stated**—We are not to sit back and passively wait for people to come to us. We are to go to them, and we are to go with a purpose.
- **Evangelize is implied**—Who were Jesus’ disciples going to baptize? The new believers they had led to Christ (those they had evangelized).
- **Baptize is stated**—These new believers were to quickly identify themselves as obedient followers of Jesus by being baptized.
- **Teach/train is stated**—These new believers were to be taught how to know God, to love God, to serve God, and to walk with God in absolute obedience.
- **Multiply is implied**—These disciples were to be sent out on a mission with a conviction and mind-set to spiritually reproduce not only disciples but disciple-makers. This is true for every true believer in every generation.

The Players—Jesus and True Disciples

What is a true disciple?

- Why do we use the term **true disciple**? The people who followed Jesus were called *disciples*. In John 6:66, we have the record that *“From this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him.”* The fact that they never followed Him again was proof that they were not true disciples (1 John 2:19).
- The **true disciple** should have a consuming passion to allow the Holy Spirit to control his/her life and to become more like Jesus: *“...we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him and reflect His glory even more”* (2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT).

- The life of the **true disciple** is a dynamic life, which means it is constantly changing. We are either moving forward, with increased spiritual growth and maturity, or moving back, away from God.

In true discipleship . . .

- **Jesus is the star, and we are mere players.** It is He who transforms an unbeliever into a disciple and then transforms the new disciple into a disciple-maker. Yet He tells us to “*go make disciples*,” which simply means to cooperate with Him and become His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20)—disciples through whom He can spread His message to reach the world with His love.
- **Jesus, the only perfect producer of disciple-makers, is our teacher and model.** We learn not only from what He said but from what He did. Jesus told us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19). Although He did not use the actual words “produce disciple-makers,” here are three situations that communicate this truth:
 1. Jesus became a producer of disciple-makers when His disciples began making other disciples.
 2. Matthew 28:20 NIV speaks of future generations of new disciples. Jesus said, “*teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*,” just after He said, “*go and make disciples*” (Matthew 28:19 NIV). Therefore, every new believer is to be taught to obey the command to “*go and make disciples*.” John 8:31 (AMPC) describes true disciples as those who believe in Him, abide in His Word, and obey His teachings. **When we are obedient to make disciples and those disciplined are obedient to make disciples, we become producers of disciple-makers.**
 3. Paul understood this principle of producing disciple-makers. As a result, he instructed Timothy, “*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others*” (2 Timothy 2:2 NIV).

The Passion—Make Disciples

Why make disciples?

- Jesus commanded us to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).
- **People without Jesus are without hope**, “*...living apart from Christ...excluded from God’s people...without God and without hope*” (Ephesians 2:12 NLT).

The Process—Discipleship

The word *disciple* not only describes a person but a process. Jesus has both invited and instructed us to be involved in this process.

- A disciple is the product of the discipling process, which ultimately relies upon the transforming power of God. When we say we have “discipled” someone, we mean that God has allowed us to be involved in the process.
- We are to continue to grow, mature, and become better trained so that we might be more usable instruments in God’s hands (Romans 12:1-2), *“strong in character and ready for anything”* (James 1:4 NLT).
- Paul modeled never giving up but constantly pressing toward becoming all God wanted him to be. *“I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing; Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven”* (Philippians 3:13-14 NLT).

In the process of discipleship, what is *my responsibility*, and what is *the responsibility of the Holy Spirit*?

- ***My responsibility is to:***
 - Be available—*“Come to Me [Jesus]...and learn of Me [Jesus]”* (Matthew 11:28-29 AMPC).
 - Live under God’s control—*“...yield yourselves unto God”* (Romans 6:13). Let Him be boss in your life today.
 - Abide in Jesus (John 15:4).
 - Live in His Word and obey His teachings (John 8:31 AMPC).
 - *“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances...”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 RSV).
 - Deny yourself, take up His cross daily, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23).
 - Be Jesus’ ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20). Be a witness for Him (Acts 1:8).

- Go in Jesus' POWER to make disciples—He sends us out in His power (Matthew 28:18-20).
- Adopt Jesus' PLAN—as you go, share His message (Matthew 28:19-20).
- Stand on Jesus' PROMISE—“*I am with you*” (Matthew 28:20).
- Run a disciplined race (1 Corinthians 9:24-27 JBP).
 - Set your goal to win.
 - Train seriously.
 - Be determined.
 - Practice discipline and self-denial.
- ***The Holy Spirit's responsibility is to:***
 - Illuminate the mind (1 Corinthians 2:12-14).
 - Convict the heart (John 16:8-11).
 - Live in us (Romans 8:11).
 - Teach us (John 14:26).
 - Comfort us (John 14:16).
 - Help us (Romans 8:26).
 - Guide us (John 16:13).
 - Empower us (Micah 3:8).
 - Produce fruit in us (Galatians 5:22-23).

The Product—Disciple-Makers and Producers of Disciple-Makers

How do individuals or churches become disciple-makers or producers of disciple-makers?

- **View the model**—Jesus.

- **Catch the vision**—cast by Jesus.
- **Set a goal**—to invest their lives in making disciples who will continually reproduce themselves spiritually in disciples who will make disciples.
- **Follow the example**—Jesus.
- **Repeat the process.**
 - Years ago I read a booklet with the title “How Jesus Trained Leaders” by Dr. W. Maxfield Garrett, a missionary to Japan. I have never forgotten his closing statement concerning training leaders, a statement that is also true about making disciples. He said, **“To get results comparable to His [Jesus’], all you have to do is to be like Jesus and live close enough to few enough men for them to acquire His image through you. Very simple.”**

You can become

the *TRUE DISCIPLE,*

DISCIPLE-MAKER,

and *PRODUCER OF DISCIPLE-MAKERS*

God wants you to be!

Just take the next step.

The Challenge God Has Given Every Christian— Leave Lasting Fruit

One of the greatest challenges in the Bible is when **Jesus reminds us that He chose and appointed us to leave lasting fruit.**

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last (John 15:16 NIV).

Are you leaving lasting fruit?

How do we leave fruit—fruit that will last for eternity?

Jesus summed up how to leave lasting fruit when He said, **“Go and make disciples of all nations”** (Matthew 28:19 NIV). Making disciples involves going, evangelizing, baptizing, training, and then sending the new disciples out to multiply (make disciples).

Discipleship is how you multiply the ministry God has given you.

If we had died before 1970, there would have been only a few people in heaven as a result of our ministry because although we were witnessing and sharing Christ with others, we were not discipling. We would have left very little lasting fruit. Since 1970 we have invested our lives not only in sharing Christ with the lost but in making disciples and producing disciple-makers. Now those we have disciplined are scattered around the world, making disciples and leaving *lasting fruit*. When we die, the ministry God has given us will multiply year after year as those who have been disciplined continue to disciple others. *We simply saw what Jesus did when He was on earth and decided to invest our lives in the same thing: giving priority to making disciples.*

Here is a plan that will make you effective in leaving **lasting fruit**, but **you must be willing to work the plan.**

Disciple at least one group per year—Each year take a group of two to six people through *One on One with God*. Meet once a week for 12 sessions. Allow two hours for each session.

Multiply—Encourage and send out your disciples to **leave lasting fruit** by obeying the command to “*go and make disciples of all nations*” (Matthew 28:19).

An Example of Leaving Lasting Fruit

Jerry and Marilyn disciplined a young couple while the husband was in medical school. When he finished his residency, they moved away to a university town and began making disciples. After about a year, they decided that discipling was moving too slowly. They felt that it would be better for them

to invest their time with large groups instead of discipling just a few at a time. So for the next fifteen years or more, the couple invested their lives in large groups of international students. They loved them, encouraged them, tried to help meet their needs, had them in their home, assisted them in adapting to life in America, witnessed to them, invited them to church, and led some of them to faith in Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

Sixteen and one-half years later, however, the couple called us. The husband told us that for the last year, God had been convicting him out of John 15:16 with this thought: Where is the lasting fruit in your life? His response was that there was no lasting fruit in their lives. He said,

I don't mean that we have not had a ministry because we have. We have been involved in the lives of about 400 international students. But we do not have any lasting fruit because we did not disciple them and train them in how to have an intimate and personal walk with God and how to spiritually reproduce themselves in the lives of other people. Now many of them are back in their home countries, but they are not equipped to stand up under the pressures at home, and they are not equipped to make disciples and produce disciple-makers. Unless God performs a miracle in their lives, we have no lasting fruit that will go beyond this generation to penetrate the next generation. Send us some *One on One with God* workbooks! We're getting back to what helped us personally: being disciplined. We're going to disciple others.

One of the first couples this husband and wife disciplined after receiving the books was a couple from China. The husband was working on a Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering, and his wife was also taking college classes. While going through *One on One with God*, they both accepted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. When they graduated, they moved to New Mexico, where he began working for the government. The wife contacted us because she felt that God did not want her to work; instead, He wanted her to translate *One on One with God* into Chinese for her people. We gave her permission to translate *One on One*, and she began this difficult task. With some help from her husband in the latter days of her pregnancy, she gave us the first rough draft of *One on One with God* in Chinese. Today, after many years and with the help of many others, we are printing and discipling with *One on One with God* in both Simplified and Traditional Chinese in the USA and other countries.

The medical doctor and his wife now have lasting fruit, and we pray that their investment in making disciples and producing disciple-makers will penetrate every generation until Jesus comes again. They did not know that the investment of their time in discipling one couple in a small group would result in translations that are now available in the language of approximately one-third of the world's population.

Leader's Guide with Author's NotesSession 1

1. Start with prayer.
2. Welcome everyone.
3. Give each person a workbook.

Explain: Tell and show the disciples how to use the workbook. Do not assume that they know how.

- This is a book for study which should be read with care, to understand the message.

Ask: Does anyone have a question about how to use the workbook?

4. Read/discuss **My Commitment to Discipleship Training**, and encourage the disciples to sign and date this commitment (p. 13).

Explanation: It is important for those you are discipling to make a commitment to discipleship training for their own benefit. They are more likely to finish with you if they sign and date this commitment. The greatest blessings are for the disciples who take part in all the classes and complete the assignments each day.

Encourage: At the end of the first session, encourage each disciple to enlist another member of the class as a prayer partner. Both of them will grow by praying together, and this encouragement and support will help them through some difficult times.

5. Read/discuss **"For my determined purpose is that I may know Him"** (p. 9).

Story: Paul was in prison in Rome when he wrote Philippians. The room in the prison where scholars believe he was held was small. It had no windows and no doors; therefore, there was no light from outside. The prisoner was lowered into the room from a hole in the ceiling. In one part of the room there was a post to which he was probably chained. The walls were blocks of chiseled rock, and on one wall a block had been left out to provide room for a bed. It was cold, damp, and probably infested with rats. Yet in this difficult and dangerous situation, Paul was not concerned about his release from prison but only that he might

know Christ more deeply and intimately than he had ever known Him.

Explanation: The word *know* in the Greek language means not only an intellectual knowledge but also an intimate involvement.

- Titus 1:16 NIV: *“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for doing anything good.”*

Questions: Ask the disciples to write down the following at the bottom of p. 9:

Four questions about getting to know Jesus:

1. If not here, where?
2. If not this way, how?
3. If not now, when?
4. If not at all, why?

Observation: Sometimes when the disciples begin practicing spiritual disciplines like Bible reading, Bible study, scripture memory, meditation, and prayer, they mistakenly begin to focus on the disciplines rather than on Jesus and Jesus alone. The result is that some fall by the wayside and become ineffective for God. Therefore, we will review Philippians 3:10 AMPC (p. 9) in every session to remind ourselves that we are reviewing the verse for at least one of the following three reasons:

1. **To keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him.**
2. To remind us that the **disciplines are not an end in themselves. They are simply a means God has given us to know Jesus** deeply, intimately, and personally. Therefore, we practice the disciplines so that we may know Him.
3. To meditate on the powerful truths in this verse. To move them from the page, to our heads, and then to our hearts through meditation **so that God can use them to transform us into Jesus’ likeness.**

6. Read/discuss **General Lifetime Goals** (pp. 14-15).

Question: Ask the disciples to name some of the goals that men/women have today.

Key words: To reach any goal, we must become familiar with these two words: **eliminate** and **concentrate**. In our walk with God, it means to eliminate the unnecessary things and concentrate on what God considers to be important. Most of us make the mistake of eliminating what God considers the most important and concentrating on that which is unnecessary.

Now turn to the **General Lifetime Goals**. Notice that they reflect an eternal rather than a temporal perspective. God wants to use these goals to transform our lives, but we must be willing to eliminate and concentrate. ***The following goals can and should be the consuming passion of every Christian.***

1. **To know Him in four ways:**

- Progressively, deeply, intimately, and personally
- Perceiving, recognizing, and understanding the wonders of this person, Jesus
- By experiencing in our own daily living that same supernatural power that He demonstrated in His resurrection
- By sharing in His suffering because it is through these experiences that God transforms us into His likeness

2. **To glorify Him:**

- In 1 Corinthians 10:31, circle the words “*do it all to the glory of God.*”
- *Glorify* means “to honor and magnify.”
- This is to be our motive for every thought, word, attitude, and action.
- Even in the routine and simple things of life, such as eating and drinking, we can and should bring glory to Jesus.
- In John 17:4 NKJV, Jesus glorified the Father through absolute obedience.

- It points out to us that God is especially glorified through our obedience to Him.

Quote: “Life is a stewardship from God to be used for His glory.”—John MacArthur, Jr.

3. **To become like Him in our will and in our character.**

Like Him in our will—When we come to a point where we have so much confidence in God that we want His will more than our own, we adopt His will as our own.

- In Matthew 26:39 NIV, we see the beautiful picture of Jesus in prayer asking the Father, *“If it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*
- This was possibly the most difficult decision Jesus faced because *this cup* represented the guilt, shame, and separation from the Father caused by our sins, and this meant:
 - Jesus would have to take all our sin upon Himself to pay for our sin. Think about it. He had never experienced sin or the Father’s wrath that comes with sin.
 - Because Jesus was willing to be obedient and take our sin upon Himself, our sin separated Him from the Father. Think about it. Jesus had never been separated from the Father.
 - When Jesus said, *“Yet not as I will, but as you will,”* He modeled for us to always desire God’s will above our own, regardless of the cost.

Like Him in our character—When we yield and cooperate with God, He transforms us into His likeness:

- **Holiness:** Absolute purity in every area of life, learning to live like Him, a process completed when we get to heaven.

- **Righteousness:**

- In Romans 10:10, “*man believeth unto righteousness.*”
- It is His righteousness, not our own—Titus 3:5; Philippians 3:9; Romans 10:3; Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:21-22.
- **Story:** When our boys were young, they sent in a cereal box top with \$2.00 to a cereal manufacturer and ordered a code book advertised on the cereal box. When the book arrived, every page was filled with continuous letters so that you could not read individual words or sentences. But with the book came a clear red piece of plastic. When you put the plastic over any page in the code book, it blocked out certain letters, and then you could read the message. When I saw that, it spoke to me about God’s righteousness. I saw the clear red piece of plastic as the blood of Jesus shed for me on the cross. And it helped me see that since I have received Jesus into my heart as my personal Lord and Savior and I am trusting Him, even though I sin, when the Father looks at me, He looks at me through the blood of Jesus, and it blocks out my sin. Therefore, although I sin, He sees me as righteous because my sin is covered by the sacrificial blood of Jesus who died in my place.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT—This verse gives us tremendous hope. Each one of us can be a mirror that brightly reflects the glory of the Lord. We simply need to yield (Romans 6:13) to God and allow Him to control our lives every moment of every day so that He can work freely within us to make us more and more like Himself and at the same time use us as mirrors through which He reflects Himself to others. What an awesome God!
- Romans 12:2 RSV:

- The phrase **“Do not be conformed to this world”** is translated by J.B. Phillips as **“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold.”**
- The phrase **“renewal of your mind”** is translated in the *Amplified Bible*, *“But be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind—by its new ideals [goals] and its new attitude...”*
- A passionate pursuit of the **General Lifetime Goals** is one way of renewing our minds.
- A passionate pursuit of **new attitudes** is another way of renewing our minds. Philippians 2:5-8 NIV says, *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”* Here is how this passage describes His attitude:
 - *“made Himself nothing”*
 - *“taking the very nature of a servant”*
 - *“humbled Himself”*
 - *“became obedient to death...even death on the cross!”*
 - Possibly the greatest of these new attitudes might be the **attitude of obedience**, which says, “Lord, I will obey; You just speak.” This is the attitude expressed by Peter when he responded to Jesus by saying, *“at Your word I will”* (Luke 5:5 NKJV).
 - The attitude of obedience can help us respond the right way in a crisis.

Story: A pastor told me this story about a man who attended one of my discipleship classes

in Romania. This man was a Christian and was working with streetcars. He was committed to obey Christ no matter what the cost. One day ten of his bosses came in and told him that he must stop being a Christian or they would take his job—and that meant that he would probably be put in prison for not working. He simply waved good-bye and started to walk out the door. He was practicing the attitude of obedience. He was committed to obey when God spoke, and God had already spoken to him about whether his God or his job was more important. He was such a good worker that his bosses stopped him and told him he could keep his job. As you might guess, he never received another promotion, but he has the peace and joy that come from knowing that he was faithful to Jesus.

Question: After you have finished reading and discussing these General Lifetime Goals, ask the disciples how they can use these three goals to help make the right decision every time.

Answer: At every crossroads, each time we are faced with making a decision, we simply ask ourselves these three questions concerning our choices:

1. Which choice will help me to know Jesus better?
2. Which choice will help me to bring more glory to Jesus?
3. Which choice will help me to become more like Jesus in my will and/or in my character?

Then we make the decision, based on the choice that gives us the greatest opportunity to reach our General Lifetime Goals.

7. Read/discuss **A Look at This Class** (p. 16).

Explanation: When talking about lifestyle patterns (section II, C. 2), it is important to emphasize that one way we develop these patterns is by doing the assignments in *One on One with God* each day. It is very important to do the assignments daily because we are not only trying to teach truth but to develop a lifestyle that reflects Jesus.

Explanation: When talking about the plan that we will follow as we go through *One on One with God*, it is important to understand that **Jesus used this plan in training His disciples:**

- **Jesus introduced a subject.** In John 15:12 NKJV, He said, “This is My commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.”
- **Jesus told them why.** In Matthew 4:18-19, He asked them to follow Him. Why? He wanted to make them into men who would invest their lives in fishing for men.
- **Jesus showed them how.** Mark 1:35 is an example of how Jesus modeled for His disciples how to get alone with God by seeking a quiet, solitary place early in the morning where He and the Father would not be interrupted. Jesus was emphasizing to them and to us the importance of having time alone with God each day.
- **Jesus got them started.** In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus showed us that once disciples are made, they need to be sent out to make disciples. All true disciples are to be deliberate, intentional producers of disciples who make disciples. Therefore, like Jesus, we should get them (our new disciples) started producing other disciple-makers.
- **Jesus followed up.** In Matthew 26:38 NIV, Jesus told Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, “*Stay here and keep watch with me.*” Three times in Matthew 26: 40, 43, and 45, Jesus came back from His personal time alone with God in prayer to follow up on them.

8. Read/discuss **A Verse That Brought Peace** (pp. 17-18).

Explanation: “A Verse That Brought Peace” will give you the opportunity to discover two very important things:

- Is each of your disciples confident about his/her salvation experience?
- Are your disciples doubting God's Word or standing on His promises?
 - Sometimes Christians are not effective for God because Satan keeps raising questions in their minds about their salvation. God wants us to get it settled and experience peace. He has told us that we can know for sure that we are saved (1 John 5:13). If we doubt God's Word, we doubt God's integrity. We must stand with confidence on His promises.
 - You might want to ask your disciples these two great Evangelism Explosion questions:
 1. Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?
 2. Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" What would you say?
- Through the years we have had the privilege of seeing many people trust Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior by sharing the following verses with them: Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, John 3:16, John 1:12, and Ephesians 2:8-9. It might be helpful to share these verses with your disciples.
- We have also seen many people find assurance of salvation after we have shared a story of how one man found assurance.

Story: Satan was constantly attacking a man about whether or not he was saved. So one day after reading John 5:24, the man went out behind one of his buildings and drove a wooden stake into the ground. He wrote on that stake *John 5:24* and the date, then got on his knees and prayed, "Lord, I am not sure if I am saved, but if I am not, I know I have sinned and I know that You died for my sins. I am willing to turn from my sins and turn to You and You alone. Please forgive me of my sins and come into my heart as my personal Lord and Savior right

now. Lord, based on the fact that You are faithful and always fulfill Your promises, I stand on Your promise in John 5:24. I know that I am now saved. Thank You, Lord.” After this experience, when Satan showed up to try to cause the man to doubt his salvation, the man walked out behind the building and pointed to the stake, saying, “Satan, I stand on God’s promise. My salvation was settled on the date written on the stake.”

Explanation: Another reason why it is important for us to read and discuss “A Verse That Brought Peace”:

Story: Sometimes we make a mistake by assuming too much. One time Marilyn was discipling a young lady who was one of the outstanding young singles in our church. She was a natural leader, and we could always depend on her. As they were going through *One on One with God*, Marilyn decided that although she had never done this before, she would skip “A Verse That Brought Peace” since the young lady appeared to be such a fine Christian. Then Marilyn sensed in her spirit that she should not skip this section, so she had the young lady read aloud “A Verse That Brought Peace.” As she was reading, tears began streaming down her cheeks. She said, “Marilyn, I have never done that [been born again]. When I was a little girl, I followed my brother down the aisle; they filled out a card on me, and I was baptized with my brother. Since then everyone has thought that I was a Christian, but I have known for all these years that I was not saved.” Marilyn and the young lady got on their knees in our living room, and she trusted in Jesus and Jesus alone as her personal Savior and Lord. The following Sunday she presented herself to the church for believer’s baptism.

- This experience taught us two things:
 1. **Do not assume** that the people you are discipling are true believers.
 2. **Never skip** anything in the workbook when you are discipling because it may be exactly what someone in the group needs.

Invitation: After you have finished reading “A Verse That Brought Peace” in class, invite those who do not have this peace to remain after class or to call you to talk about how they can have peace. We are confident that you can help the people who respond to your invitation by sharing with them the information from the previous pages, but if you are hesitant, make an ap-

pointment with one of your pastors or someone you know. Take the person with you, and let your pastor or friend explain to your disciple how he/she can have peace through God's forgiveness by standing on His promises.

- Many people have found Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior while going through *One on One with God*.

Explanation: After you read “A Verse That Brought Peace,” tell your disciples that this section contains an important principle, an underlying principle, and raises an important question:

Principle—“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes in Him who sent Me **has** everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24 NKJV).

Underlying principle—Believe and stand on what God says.

Question—Is God's Word (the Bible) the authority in my life?

9. Read/discuss **Baptism** (pp. 19-20).

Explanation: One of the first acts of obedience for the new Christian is to be baptized.

- Luke 6:46 NLT says, “*So why do you call me ‘Lord,’ when you won’t obey me?*”
 - Jesus is the One who gave the instruction that new believers should be baptized (Matthew 28:19).
 - If Jesus is to be our Lord and Savior, it should be very clear that we must be obedient to His command and be baptized.
- Since baptism is a picture of what has already happened in our hearts and identifies us as followers of Jesus, then those who were baptized before they trusted Jesus as personal Savior should be encouraged to be baptized again. Otherwise they may never have peace since God's Word teaches that salvation must come before baptism.

10. Explain how to use the assigned **Daily Bible Reading Challenge: Psalm 119, Sessions 1-5** (p. 250).

Explanation: Reading God’s Word daily is part of the lifestyle we try to help the disciples cultivate.

- **Write**—this brief prayer at the top of p. 250. Then each morning before you read the Bible, pray, “Lord, please open my understanding as I read Your Word this morning” (see Luke 24:45 NKJV).
- **Write**—this brief prayer at the bottom of p. 250. Then each morning after you have read the Bible, pray, “Lord, thank You for the time I have had with You this morning” (see 1 Chronicles 29:13).
- Matthew 4:4 NKJV—“*But He answered and said, ‘It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’*”
- Jeremiah 15:16 NKJV—“*Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.*”
- Psalm 34:8 NKJV—“*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man that trusts in Him!*”
- 2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV—“*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...*”

11. Call the disciples’ attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 21-22).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 21 aloud in class and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

12. Explain how to use the **Follow Up** sheet (p. 23):

Explanation—Tell the disciples: Beginning with session 2, you will have a Follow Up sheet to complete before each session. At each session your leader will check and initial the new Follow Up sheet you prepared for that week. You will need the following information on your Follow Up sheet each week:

- Print your **name**.
- **Reporting Date** is your next meeting date.

- **Start Time** is just before you pray and ask God to speak to you as you read the assigned scriptures each day.
- **Stop Time** is when you stop working on your *One on One with God* assignment for the day and have prayed to thank God for the time with Him.

13. Close with prayer.

Notes

Leader's Guide With Author's NotesSession 2

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God. During the next few weeks you will ask the disciples to pray with their eyes open while walking, standing, driving, etc., but you want them to understand that it is important to get on their knees and pray when they can.

2. Have everyone write the name of his/her prayer partner at the bottom of the **Follow Up** sheet due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 23).

Accountability: Checking and initialing their Follow Up sheets each week trains the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12. It also helps you as the leader see if your disciples:

- Are doing the homework and developing the lifestyle or
- Need your encouragement.

3. Review **My Commitment to Discipleship Training** (p. 13).

Encourage: Have the disciples sign and date this commitment if they have not already done so.

- The disciples are more likely to finish *One on One with God* if they sign the commitment sheet.
- The greatest blessings are for the disciples who take part in all the classes and complete the assignments each day.

4. Read **"For my determined purpose is that I may know Him"** (p. 9).

Write down and discuss: Ask the disciples to write at the top of p. 9:

Hindrances to knowing Jesus Christ deeply, intimately, and personally (Luke 8:14 LIV):

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 1. Worry | 3. Responsibilities |
| 2. Riches | 4. Pleasures |

Observation: Sometimes when the disciples begin practicing spiritual disciplines like Bible reading, Bible study, scripture memory, meditation, and prayer, they mistakenly begin to focus on the disciplines rather than on Jesus and Jesus alone. The result is that some fall by the wayside and become ineffective for God. Therefore, we will review Philippians 3:10 AMPC (p. 9) in every session to remind ourselves that we are reviewing the verse for at least one of the following three reasons:

1. **To keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him**.
2. To remind us that the **disciplines are not an end in themselves. They are simply a means God has given us to know Jesus** deeply, intimately, and personally. Therefore, we practice the disciplines so that we may know Him.

Explanation: Our experience has been that as we practice these spiritual disciplines to reach our goal of knowing Him, the joy of discovery displaces thoughts like *I must, I have to, or I ought to* practice this discipline.

3. **To meditate on the powerful truths** in this verse. To move them from the page to our heads and then to our hearts through meditation **so that God can use them to transform us into Jesus' likeness**.

5. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 22).

Explanation:

- Have different people in the group volunteer to read one of the questions and share their answers.
- After someone has read question 4 on p. 22 and shared an experience, encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.

6. Read/discuss **Meditation Challenge** (pp. 268-271).

Explanation:

- Meditation is how we move truth from our heads to our hearts. Truth will never work its way out in application until it gets to the heart. Therefore, **meditation is essential to application** (Joshua 1:8).

- It is also very important to explain to the disciples that when we ask them to meditate, we are not asking them to explain what the passage means.
 - Meditation is more personal than simply explaining the meaning of the passage. It involves **Pondering**, **Picturing**, and **Praying** (abbreviated “**PPP**”) a prayer of devotion directly from your heart to God.
 - Meditation is moving truth to our hearts where God uses the truth to change us, to transform us into His likeness, and to set us free.
- When you ask the disciples to share the picture(s) they see, always ask them to start with the phrase, **“This is the picture I see.”**
 - Someone recently asked if the idea of picturing (imagining) taught in the Old Testament was also taught in the New Testament. The answer is *yes*. In 1 Timothy 4:15, the word *meditate* in Greek means “to imagine” (“Greek Dictionary of the New Testament” in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, p. 47, number 3191).
- When you ask one of the disciples to pray his/her picture back to God as his/her personal prayer:
 - Never say, “How would you pray it back to God?”
 - Always say, **“Let us listen as you pray it back to God as your personal prayer.”** We just want to listen as the disciple actually prays.

Meditating on scripture helps us know God.

7. Read/discuss **Prayer Challenge** (pp. 272-273).

Explanation:

- Ephesians 6:18 (NLT):
 - **How to eliminate worry**—If you haven’t prayed about it, don’t think about it.
 - Pray anywhere, everywhere, and about everything.

Story: E. F. “Preacher” Hallock prayed about everything—including a parking spot. One day Preacher had driven to the bank, and as he approached the bank, he asked God to give him a parking spot in front of the bank. When he arrived, there was no parking spot, so he drove around the block and again asked God for a parking spot. This happened several times and finally he parked down the street. The moment Preacher got out of his car and stepped up on the sidewalk, he ran into a lost man he had been trying to visit for several weeks. There on the sidewalk, in just a few moments, he led this man to faith in Christ. God had a better plan for Preacher than Preacher had for himself, and he was open to God’s redirection. “...*Yet not as I will, but as you will*” (Matthew 26:39 NIV).

Explanation:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 RSV
 - “*Pray constantly.*”
 - This raises a serious question. How can we pray constantly when we must concentrate on other things at certain times?
 - **Illustration:** The proof of whether we pray “constantly” can be seen in this simple illustration. Think of your mind as a giant rubber band. When you are concentrating on an important project, your mind is stretched. The key question is that when the project is finished, or you just sit back to relax for a moment, does your mind immediately spring back to thoughts of praise, adoration, and thanksgiving to God? Has talking with God in prayer become the normal preoccupation of your mind and heart?

Explanation:

- The acrostic **A-C-T-S** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication):
 - To the left of the letter **A** in **Adoration** (p.273) write the word *FACE*, because we adore God for His FACE, for who He is:
 - We adore God because He is holy.

- We adore God because He is righteous.
- We adore God because He is truth.
- We adore God because He is love.
- We adore God because He is faithful.

Story: One of our former pastors told about how he was studying one night, trying to prepare a message for Sunday. He was in his upstairs study at home when his baby daughter, who was just beginning to talk, climbed the stairs and came to his door. She wasn't strong enough to turn the doorknob but kept trying to open the door. Finally she got the door open and walked in. Our pastor was pretty upset by this time because the noise she had been making had kept him from studying. So he turned to her very sternly and said, "What do you want?" She simply went over to him, crawled up into his lap, and said, **"I didn't want nothing, just wanted to tell you I love you!"** She knew how to express adoration.

- To the left of the letter **C** in **C**onfession (p. 273) write these words: *When do we confess sin?* Then write this answer: *The moment we become conscious of our sin. Why? To restore fellowship with God because sin breaks our fellowship with God.*
- To the left of the letter **T** in **T**hanksgiving (p. 273) write the word *HAND* because we thank Him for what He has done, is doing, and will do for us.
 - Throughout every day we give thanks to God for all things, even the things we sometimes take for granted. We are to cultivate an attitude of gratitude and learn to express our thanks to God while we are walking or driving or in any situation. We want to learn to talk with God not only as our Lord and Savior but also as our best friend.
- When discussing **S**upplication (p. 273), note that intercessory prayer is a form of supplication. It is asking on behalf of another person.

8. Explain how to use the **Daily Prayer Reminder** (pp. 274-275).

Explanation:

- Put today's date at the top of the page where it says, "From: _____ To _____."
- Jesus is worthy of our great confidence in Him. We must believe that He will hear and answer our prayers in His timing. The more intimately we know Him, the more confidence we will have in Him.
- We pray until God gives us peace. We may have peace several years before we see the actual answer. In that case, we just continue to express our adoration and thanksgiving to God for the answer.
- For now, put only the name of your prayer partner on this form and pray for him/her daily. We only add other names and other things to our lists as we want to or as God leads us. Then we will find that using a prayer list like this will be something we want to do rather than something we have to do.
- **Point out that FREE additional Daily Prayer Reminder pages are available on the website (see p. 288 for details).**

Story: Recently I had the joy of seeing a man pray to receive Christ as his personal Lord and Savior for whom I had prayed almost every day for thirty-seven years. Don't give up.

9. Read/discuss **Three Important Characteristics of True Disciples** (p. 27). Have three people select a different characteristic and then have them **Ponder** that characteristic. Listen as they share their **Pictures**. Listen as they **Pray** the characteristics back to God as their personal prayers of **Adoration**, **Confession**, **Thanksgiving**, or **Supplication**.

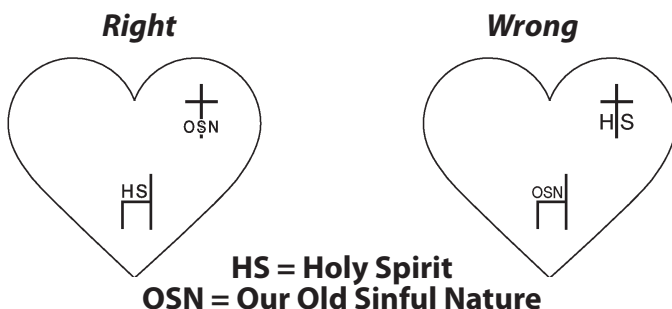
Explanation:

- All disciples, by definition, are followers and learners, but in John 8:31 AMPC, **only obedient followers and learners are true disciples**. Those who turn back or fall by the

wayside and never follow Jesus again are not true disciples (John 6:66; 1 John 2:19 NKJV).

- In Luke 9:23 NKJV, the best way to picture what is meant by the phrase *“let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me”* is to imagine that in our hearts we have a throne and a cross. These are the only two positions in our hearts, and there are two forces that want to rule on the throne: our old sinful nature and the Holy Spirit. When we voluntarily, by an act of our will, choose to yield the throne to the Holy Spirit, there is only one place for our old sinful nature to go, and that is the cross. When we do this, we have denied ourselves the right to be boss in our own lives, and we are living under the control of the Holy Spirit. **This is not a once-in-a-lifetime experience but must be practiced throughout each day.**

Illustration:



- Matthew 11:29 NKJV—A yoke is for working. Therefore, the phrase *“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me”* implies that learning and growing spiritually is work. We picture a yoke where two are pulling together, and the one pulling with us is Jesus. He shares our load. We should be willing to pay the price to learn and grow spiritually because this is the expressed will of God and the reward for obedience is great.

10. Read/discuss **Some Qualities a True Disciple Needs to Cultivate in His Life** (p. 28). Have four people select a different quality, and then have them **Ponder** that quality. Listen as they share their **Pictures**. Listen as they **Pray** their qualities back to God as their personal

prayers of **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, or **S**upplication.

Explanation:

- Matthew 22:37 NKJV—These are the words of Jesus. He is talking about loving God wholeheartedly. We should love Him with all our being and more than anyone or anything else in life. We should be totally committed and dedicated to God.

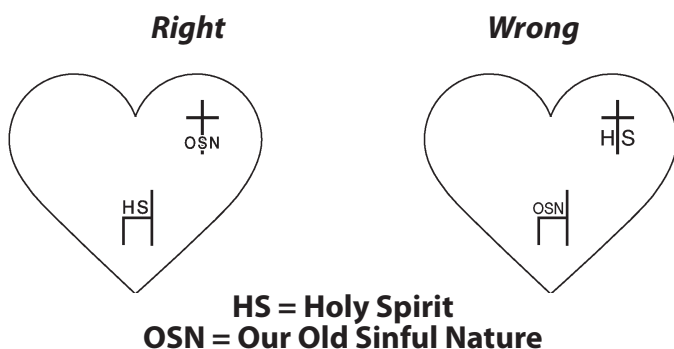
Story: Through the years we have had several dogs, but none showed such love and joy as one little English setter. Often she sat at our window just waiting to catch a glimpse of me, her master. The moment she saw me, she began to prance with both of her front feet, in pure joy. There was no way to mistake that she loved me dearly. Her heart belonged to me.

- God deserves for us to love Him with all our hearts. It should be obvious to everyone that our hearts belong to God.
- Acts 17:11 RSV—Here we see a group of people eager to know the truth and willing to apply themselves to discovering the truth. They were open and teachable.
- Matthew 11:28 AMPC—The phrase “*Come to Me*” is a loving invitation to come to Jesus. Now is the time for us to respond and make ourselves available to Him.
- Matthew 11:28-30 AMPC—Contains some interesting words and phrases:
 - *Yoke*—A yoke is for harnessing animals so that work can be done, but until an animal is broken to the yoke, it is not very useful to its master. If we want God to use us, we must make ourselves available to learn, and we must be willing to be broken to the yoke. One commentator says, “The yoke is easy and not harsh because it is lined with God’s love.”
 - “*Learn from Me*”—In verse 28 we are told to come to Jesus, and here in verse 29 we are told why. The reason we should come to him is to sit at His feet and learn from Him.

- *Meek*—The word *meek* in verse 29 does not mean “weak.” In times of kings and castles when men fought on horseback, the strong, powerful stallions they rode were called *meek* because the word *meek* meant “power under control.” The horse’s master was in full control. When our master, Jesus, is in full control of our lives, we will make ourselves available to Him so that He can teach us and use us as He pleases.
- Luke 9:23 NKJV—If a person is willing to deny himself, he will be willing to sacrifice to learn.

Repeat: The best way to picture what is meant by the phrase “...let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” is to imagine that in your heart you have a throne and a cross. These are the only two positions in your heart, and there are two forces that want to rule on the throne: your old sinful nature and the Holy Spirit. When, by an act of your will, you voluntarily choose to yield the throne to the Holy Spirit, there is only one place for your old sinful nature to go, and that is the cross. When you do this, you have denied yourself the right to be boss in your own life, and you are living under the control of the Holy Spirit. **This is not a once-in-a-lifetime experience but must be practiced throughout each day.**

Illustration:



11. Explain how to use the **Daily Bible Reading (DBR) Notes** (pp. 252-253) by discussing the **Sample Daily Bible Reading (DBR) Notes** (p. 251).

Explanation:

- When you read God's Word, God is speaking directly to you and sharing truths that He wants you to apply to your life. God's Word is His love letter to His children. These truths are usually the things that stand out to you as you read in His Word. In other areas of your life, when you hear something really important, you usually write it down so that you do not forget. Doesn't it make sense that when God speaks to you, you should write it down so that you do not forget something He wants you to remember and apply to your life?

Six things you can do to get the most out of your Bible reading:

1. **Ask God to speak** to you just before you begin to read.
 2. **Concentrate on what you are reading** and don't let your mind wander. It is helpful to keep another piece of paper handy to write down things that come into your mind that you do not want to forget. They may be things to add to your "to-do" list. After writing them down, you can get back to concentrating on your Bible reading without being fearful that you will forget something that might be very important.
 3. When you read, **be there**. Simply picture yourself in the situation you are reading about and imagine your response.
 4. **Make it personal**. Imagine that God is sitting across the table from you, looking you in the eye, calling you by name, and saying, "This is just for you."
 5. **Write down the things that stand out** to you so that you will not forget what God said.
 6. **Meditate on what you wrote down.**
- **Point out that FREE additional Daily Bible Reading Notes pages (pp. 252-253) are available on the website (see p. 288 for details).**

Meditating on our Daily Bible Reading Notes helps us know God.

12. Read/discuss the **Note Helps** (p. 254).

Explanation: It would be wise for the disciples to keep these four questions on p. 254 in their minds as they read God's Word; therefore, encourage them to turn back and review this page often.

13. Call the disciples' attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 29-30).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 29 aloud in class and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

Read in class: Two reasons for having your quiet time early each morning:

1. **Jesus modeled it.**

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed (Mark 1:35 NIV).

2. **The scripture emphasizes it.**

The words **seek** and **early** in Isaiah 26:9 and **early** in Psalm 63:1 come from the Hebrew word **shachar**, which means **"to seek diligently early in the morning."** (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, "Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary," Page 114, number 7836)

Therefore, these verses could be translated:

...I will seek You diligently early in the morning...
(Isaiah 26:9).

...O God, You are my God; I will seek You diligently early in the morning... (Psalm 63:1).

14. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Notes

Leader's Guide With Author's NotesSession 3

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God. During the next few weeks you will ask the disciples to pray with their eyes open while walking, standing, driving, etc., but you want them to understand that it is important to get on their knees and pray when they can.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 31).

Accountability: Checking and initialing their Follow Up sheets each week trains the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12. It also helps you as the leader see if your disciples:

- Are doing the homework and developing the lifestyle or
- Need your encouragement.

3. Read **“For my determined purpose is that I may know Him”** (p. 9). Have someone share his/her **Picture** of one part of this verse and listen as he/she **Prays** it back to God as a personal prayer of **Adoration**, **Confession**, **Thanksgiving**, or **Supplication**.

- **One reason we review this verse each week is to keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him**.

Write down this quote on p. 9:

“The ultimate experience of life is knowing God.”
—Billy Graham

Explanation: Show the disciples p. 10, and call their attention to how the verse is divided into four parts:

- Encourage them to take one of the four parts of the verse to meditate on each day.
- Then listen as one of the disciples **Ponders**, **Pictures**, and **Prays** one part of the verse back to God.

4. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 30).

Explanation:

- Have different people in the group volunteer to read one of the questions and share their answers.
- After someone has read question 7 on p. 30 and shared an experience, encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.

5. Review the **Meditation Challenge** (pp. 268-271).

Repeat: Meditation is how we move truth from our heads to our hearts. Truth will never work its way out in application until it gets to the heart. Therefore, **meditation is essential to application** (Joshua 1:8).

- Sometimes Christians are only twelve inches away from living a successful Christian life—the distance between the head and the heart. Why? Most of the truths we think we have learned are only in our minds and have never been moved to our hearts through meditation. Therefore, we don't experience the joy or see the fruit that comes from application when truth is accepted and received into our hearts through meditation.
- **Example:** David was a master at taking scripture and praying it back to God as his personal prayer, which is an essential part of meditation. This personal Prayer from David's heart in Psalm 60:10-12 reflects his **Pondering** and **Picturing** what God was saying to him in Joshua 7:12.

Scriptural meditation helps us know God.

6. Review the **Prayer Challenge** (pp. 272-273).

Remind the disciples:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (RSV) explains at least part of God's will for us concerning prayer:
 - Rejoice always.
 - Pray constantly.
 - Give thanks in all circumstances.

- Praying is to become as normal as breathing or eating.
- Every true disciple of Jesus should have an effective prayer life.

Explanation: One purpose of using the acrostic **A-C-T-S** is to help us recognize how our prayer lives might be out of balance and show us how to keep them in balance. Probably 99% of our praying is supplication or asking God for something. The Bible tells us to ask, but it also teaches us to express our adoration and thanksgiving to God, as well as to agree with God that we have sinned and to confess our sins. How do you think God would respond if over half of our praying was simply to express our adoration and thanksgiving to Him?

Illustration: A parent would be brokenhearted if his/her child was always asking for something but never expressed love or appreciation to the parent.

7. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading (DBR) Notes** (pp. 252-253) the disciples made this past week. Have one of them:

- Share** one of his/her notes.
- Ponder** that note.
- Picture** that note.

Remind the disciples that to picture the note does not mean to explain the note. Ask them to start by saying, **“This is the picture I see.”**

- Pray** that note to God as a personal prayer of **A-C-T-S**. After the disciples finish sharing, be an encourager.

Reading God’s Word, making notes, and meditating on those notes helps us know God.

8. Read/discuss the **Daily Bible Study Challenge** (p. 35).

Remind the disciples that beginning tomorrow they will begin the **Study** section of the workbook in their quiet times.

- The information we gain from Bible study is only head knowledge or intellectual assent until we meditate on the truths we discover.

- Meditation is essential to application. Through meditation God transforms us and sets us free.

Meditating on the truths we find in Bible study helps us know God.

9. Read/discuss in detail the study **Allowing Jesus Christ to Be the Center and Lord of My Life** (pp. 37-43). As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder, Picture, and Pray**.

Page 37:

- **Write down** at the top of the page—*The two most difficult things in the Christian life:*

1. **Balance**—*The key to balance is being Christ-centered.*

Explain—Most people think of *balance* as dividing their time appropriately between family, work, church, recreation, etc. To God, balance occurs when Christ becomes the center of our lives and everything in our lives revolves around Him.

Illustration—A few years ago when you took your car to have the tires balanced, the mechanics took the tire off the car and placed it on a machine. The first thing they had to do before they could balance the tire was to center the tire on the machine. It is the same in the Christian's life. There is no hope of ever balancing our lives unless we start by allowing Jesus Christ to be the center of our lives around whom everything else revolves. When our families, work, church, recreation, and everything else in our lives revolve around Jesus, then we are on the right path to experiencing balance as a Christian.

2. **Consistency**—*The key to being consistent is being Christ-controlled.*

Explain—Consistency occurs when we learn to **yield** to the control of the Holy Spirit and **abide** (live) under His control.

Think about it—When Jesus lived here on earth, He was consistent and didn't sin, and when He is in full

control of our lives, neither will we. Our lives are mirrors through which either our old sinful natures or Christ are reflected, depending on who is in control.

- Paul explains our problem with consistency by sharing his personal experience:
 - Romans 7:15 NIV—“*I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*” Paul is simply saying that when Christ is not in control, it is impossible to reflect Christ and live a consistent Christian life.
- Our problem is that we keep grabbing the control of our lives out of God’s hands after we have yielded that control to God. In that very act, we sin, which breaks our fellowship with God and makes us inconsistent in our Christian walk.
 - We will talk more about this later.

Page 38:

- The phrase “I voluntarily yield to God’s control” in the first line of the first paragraph causes us to face an important decision: Who am I going to allow to be boss in my life today—God or myself?
- Have the disciples write down these strong supporting references beside Colossians 1:15-19 LIV:
 - John 5:23; Titus 2:13; Philippians 2:6; John 20:28; Colossians 2:9; John 10:30; John 1:3.

Why allow Jesus Christ to be the center and Lord of my Life? (pp. 38-43, section II)

Page 39:

- After someone has read aloud section C on this page, tell the following story:

Story: 1 Corinthians 6:20 NLT—“...*God bought you with a high price...*” This is the story of a little boy who lived in a village on the shore of a large lake. The little boy made a sailboat, and with great excitement he took it to the lake and put it on the water to watch it sail. While he was watching it glide across the water, a big wind came up, caught the sails,

and took the boat out into the middle of the lake and out of sight. The little boy was brokenhearted.

A few days later he was walking in his village when he passed a shop and saw his boat in the window. With great joy, he ran inside and said to the shop owner, “Mister, that is my boat in the window! I made that boat!”

The shop owner said, “I am sorry, but I paid another little boy some money for that boat, so if you want it, you will have to pay me.”

The little boy ran home and broke open his bank. Money in hand, he returned to the shop and placed the required coins on the counter. The shop owner went to the window to get the boat and gave it to the little boy. The little boy lovingly clutched the boat in his arms, and as he went out the door, he was heard to say, “Now you are mine twice. I made you and I bought you.”

This is a beautiful picture of what Jesus did for us. **He made us and He bought us.**

Page 40:

- Have the disciples **write** these strong supporting scripture references:
 - Beside Isaiah 45:22 NKJV, **write down** the reference Deuteronomy 7:9 NKJV, which says, “...*the Lord your God, He is God.*”
 - Beside John 10:30 NKJV, **write down** the reference Titus 2:13 NKJV, which says, “...*our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*”

Page 41:

- After reading this page and allowing some of the disciples to **Ponder, Picture, and Pray** back to God some of these scriptures:
 - Ask the disciples to **write down** the following to the right in the note column beside where you filled in the blank for the word *CONTROLLER* below 1 Timothy 6:15 JBP:

God is the powerful controller of all things; therefore, nothing touches our lives except what God allows. If God allows it, then He has promised that since we love Him and are called according to His purpose, He will see that all things work together for our good (Romans 8:28).

Page 42:

- Ask the disciples to **write** beside 2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV this phrase:

God must fulfill His promises.

- Part of God's moral character is that He is faithful. He cannot be unfaithful because He cannot deny who He is. Therefore, He must fulfill His promises. You can count on it.
- Think about the blessings that are ours because God is faithful. We know that if we are 99.99% faithful, that means we are unfaithful. Faithful means 100%, and that means that God will always do what He promises to do. You can count on it.
- Ask the disciples to **write** this statement at the bottom of this page:

Therefore, yield to His control, abide in Him, and let Him be boss in your life.

Page 43:

- Ask the disciples to **write** this statement beside letter D:

This is a life of faith, trusting God, and living under the control of the Holy Spirit.

- Ask the disciples to **write down** these questions at the bottom of this page:
 1. Will you let Jesus be the center and Lord of your life today?
 2. Will you let Jesus be boss in your life today?

Pausing to meditate on the truths learned in our Bible study helps us know God.

10. Read/discuss and meditate on (**PPP**) the truths in **Where Do You Find Worth and Significance as a Person?** (pp. 44-46)

Explanation: When we understand why we have worth and significance, it is easier to maintain God's perspective on life.

Story: A pastor in America grew up not understanding what made him significant. As a five-year-old child, his father and uncles liked to watch him dance. They gathered around, and as long as he danced, they threw money on the floor for him. It seemed harmless enough, but early in life he began to think that he was significant only when he performed, and this became a problem for him later in life.

• **Explanation:**

- Two thousand years before we were born and had any way of performing to prove our significance, Jesus died on the cross for our sins and proved that we are significant to Him.
- Here we see a beautiful picture. We know that in and of ourselves we have no worth, value, or significance, but as an act of love, grace, and mercy, **God willed** that we do have worth, value, and significance. Then **He proved** it by taking our place on the cross and dying for our sins. What an awesome God!

Illustration: The paper that money is printed on is of little value, but when value has been attributed to it by people in authority, it becomes valuable. In that same way God, who possesses all power and authority, attributes value to us. That makes each of us a person of worth, value, and significance.

Summary of why we are significant:

- **God willed it**—He willed that we were significant from the beginning.
- Ephesians 1:4 (WEY—*The New Testament in Modern Speech* by Richard Francis Weymouth)—“...*He chose us as His own in Christ before the creation of the world...*”

- 2 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV—“*From the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.*”
- **God proves it**—in three tenses (past, present, and future).
 - **Past**—2,000 years ago God proved our worth, value, and significance by allowing His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins.
 - John 3:16 NKJV—“*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*”
 - **Past, Present, and Future**—God proves our worth, value, and significance in the loving way He refers to us in His Word.
 - Isaiah 43:4 proves that God attributes worth, value, and significance to us and that He loves us:
 - “*Because thou art precious in mine eyes, and honoured, and I love thee.*” (RHM—Rotherham)
 - “*Because of your value in my eyes, you have been honoured and loved by me...*” (BAS—Bible in Basic English)
 - “*So prized, so honoured, so dearly loved...*” (Knox)
 - Deuteronomy 7:6 proves that God attributes worth, value, and significance to us by addressing us as:
 - “*his prized possession*” (Moffatt).
 - “*His treasured people*” (TOR—*The Torah: The Five Books of Moses*).
 - **Past, Present, and Future**—God proves our worth, value, and significance in the fact that He has good plans for our lives:
 - Jeremiah 29:11 LIV—“*For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*”

11. Call the disciples' attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 47-48).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 47 aloud in class and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

- ***Encourage them to be faithful to God and to meet with Him every day for their quiet times.***

12. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Leader's Guide With Author's NotesSession 4

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God. During the next few weeks you will ask the disciples to pray with their eyes open while walking, standing, driving, etc., but you want them to understand that it is important to get on their knees and pray when they can.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 49).

Accountability: Checking and initialing their Follow Up sheets each week is training the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12.

3. Read **“For my determined purpose is that I may know Him”** (p. 9). Have someone share his/her **Picture** of one part of this verse and listen as he/she **Prays** it back to God as a personal prayer. **Remind the disciples to keep their focus on Jesus** (Hebrews 12:2).

- One reason we review this verse each week is to remind us that the **disciplines are not an end in themselves. They are simply a means God has given us to know Jesus** deeply, intimately, and personally. We practice the disciplines so that we may know Him.
- Have the disciples **write down** these thoughts on p. 9:
 - Exodus 33:13—Moses was determined to know God.
 - John 10:14 NIV—Jesus said, “*My sheep know Me.*”
- **Story:** Paul’s determined purpose was to know Jesus. What is our attitude about knowing Jesus today? When I think about this, it brings to mind three old hunting dogs. They were very different. To me, they represent three of the many **different attitudes** that Christians have today about knowing Jesus, growing spiritually, and serving Him.

One of the dogs was a pointer who always **watched me from a distance**. We didn’t enjoy a close fellowship be-

cause he wasn't interested in having fellowship with me, his master. He had his own agenda, and it didn't include me unless I took him hunting, which was something he wanted to do. Does this sound like some Christians?

The second dog was a German shorthaired pointer, and she liked **brief encounters** with me but spent most of her time just out of my reach. I could pat her once or twice and she was gone. She was not interested in anything more than a "bump and run" type of fellowship. Even in the backyard where there was time for us to get to know each other, she was not really interested. So our fellowship was very shallow and not very meaningful. Does this sound like some Christians?

The third dog was a little English setter, and she was a pure delight to us. She brought us much joy because she not only wanted to serve me with a willing heart as we hunted together, but she constantly showed her love to me and the rest of the family. She stood at the door just watching for me, and when she saw me, she got so excited she could not stand still. **She lived for our time together**, and we had great fellowship. I am happy to say that our lives have been touched by some Christians who modeled this type of love and devotion to Christ.

God loves us and desires our fellowship, but He will not force that fellowship upon us. It is time for us to pursue that fellowship.

Repeat: Show the disciples p. 10, and call their attention to how the verse is divided into four parts:

- Encourage them to take one of the four parts of the verse to meditate on each day.
- Then listen as one of the disciples **Ponders, Pictures, and Prays** one part of the verse back to God.

Observation: Sometimes when the disciples begin practicing spiritual disciplines like Bible reading, Bible study, scripture memory, meditation, and prayer, they mistakenly begin to focus on the disciplines rather than on Jesus and Jesus alone. The result is that some fall by the wayside and become ineffective for God. Therefore, we will review this verse each week for three main reasons:

1. **To keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him.**
 2. To remind us that **the disciplines are not an end in themselves. They are simply a means God has given us to know Jesus** deeply, intimately, and personally. Therefore, we practice the disciplines so that we may know Him.
 3. **To meditate on the powerful truths** in this verse so that they will move from the page to our heads and then to our hearts **so that we will be transformed into Jesus' likeness, mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord.**
4. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 48).

Explanation:

- Use question 4 on p. 48 to encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.
 - Let someone in the group tell about an experience from the past week when he/she talked with someone about Jesus or shared something God is teaching him/her.
5. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading (DBR) Notes** (pp. 252-253) the disciples made this past week. Have one of them:
- a. **Share** one of his/her notes.
 - b. **Ponder** that note.
 - c. **Picture** that note.

Remind the disciples that to picture the note does not mean to explain the note. Ask them to simply start by saying, **"This is the picture I see."**

- d. **Pray** that note to God as a personal prayer of **A-C-T-S**. After the disciples finish sharing, be an encourager.

Explain to the disciples that they are not to tell you what they *would* pray but are to *actually* pray and simply let you and the rest of the group listen as they talk with God.

Meditating on our Daily Bible Reading Notes helps us know God.

6. Read/discuss in detail the study **How can I allow Jesus Christ to be the center and Lord of my life?** (pp. 53-61) As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder, Picture, and Pray.**

Page 53:

A very important principle: It is found in Matthew 6:11, and it is the principle of learning to *live one day at a time.*

Why did Jesus teach us to pray, “*Give us this day our daily bread*”? Why didn’t He teach us to ask for bread for a week, month, year, or a lifetime?

Answer:

- God wants us to understand that He loves us and wants us to trust Him for everything every day. He is the only one who can meet all our needs.
- God desires our fellowship each day, and He understands that many of us would never seek His fellowship if, at our conversion, He gave us everything we needed for life. We would totally miss the abundant life here on earth, which involves trusting Jesus for everything each day.
- God is not just interested in getting us from point *A* to point *B* or from where we are to maturity. He created us to enjoy moment-by-moment fellowship with Him while we are involved in the process of moving from where we are to maturity. This is a day-by-day, moment-by-moment fellowship.

Illustration: How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

- How do you live the Christian life? One day at a time.

Confirm: Nothing is impossible for those who trust God, live under His control, and apply His principles.

- We must learn to break our lives down into one-day compartments and then live each day for Jesus.

At the bottom of the page in the box containing the formula there are **two important words** to ponder:

1. **Direction:**

- The direction referred to here is not like the direction given by a traffic policeman who points and says, “You go here, and you go there.” Nor is it like a taxi dispatcher who calls a driver over the radio to tell him to go to a certain location.
- The type of direction referred to here is like that given by a hunting guide or a travel guide who gives you direction by going with you and staying with you.
- Jesus directs us by staying with us. He never leaves us or forsakes us (Isaiah 41:10).

2. **Success:**

- There is no greater success than **to be in the center of God’s will today, moment by moment.**

Page 54:

- On this page we see one of the most important principles taught in God’s Word:

Principle—“*The just shall live by faith.*”

- “...whatever is done without a conviction of its approval by God is sinful” (Romans 14:23 AMPC).
- We are to live our lives with conviction because we know God approves when we base our thoughts, attitudes, and actions upon the principles from His Word.
- When the Bible mentions a principle one time, that means it is very important. On this page we see that the

Bible mentions this principle four times; therefore, it must be extremely important to God that we understand this principle.

Page 55:

- After someone shares the answers following John 15:4-5 NKJV, suggest that the answer *nothing* refers to the fact that without Jesus we can do nothing of eternal significance. We might impress man—but not God.

Page 56:

- After you have read John 10:28, and filled in the answer in the box, which is S A L V A T I O N, tell this story:

Story: A little boy was wading in the middle of a river, in water that was only about waist deep. There was a heavy rain in the area, and water from the rain began to run off the fields into the river, causing the water level to rise very quickly. Before the little boy could get to shore, the water was over his head, and he could not swim. An older boy on shore saw that the little boy was in trouble and swam out to save him. Holding the little boy in one arm, he began swimming back to shore. But because the water was coming faster and faster and was getting deeper and deeper, the older boy could not swim while holding on to the little boy. So he took the hand of the little boy and told him, “Hold on to my belt while I pull you to shore.” It took all the older boy’s strength to swim, and when he reached the shore and turned around to get the little boy, he was gone. The strong current had washed the little boy downstream, and he had drowned.

- Thank You, Lord, that my salvation does not depend on my ability to hold on to You, but that You have promised that You are strong enough to hold me securely in the palm of Your hand.
- What a great and powerful God we have because when we were drowning in our sin and He came to save us, He did not say to us, “The trials, difficulties, and problems in life will make it very difficult, but hold on to Me and I will try to save you.”
 - Jesus said, “*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand*” (John 10:28).

- For something or someone to take us out of the hand of God, it or they would have to be more powerful than God, and we know that nothing is more powerful than God.

Question: What is the difference between having life and having abundant life?

Instructions:

- Under the answer box where you filled in the word **SALVATION**, start at the left edge of the page and draw a line straight across the page to the right edge.
- On the right side of the page, on the line you have just drawn, write these words:

The John 10:10 Line

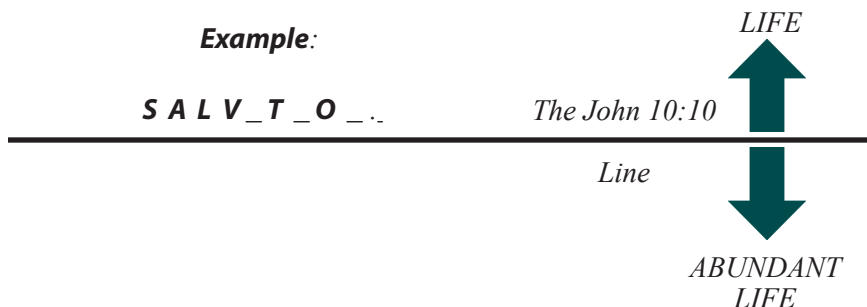
- On the right side of the page draw an arrow pointing up from the line and an arrow pointing down from the line.
- Above the arrow pointing up, write the word

LIFE

- Below the arrow pointing down, write the words

ABUNDANT LIFE

Example:



Explanation:

- Jesus said, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

- Those who trust Jesus Christ for salvation have **life**.
- Those who trust Jesus Christ for everything, each day have **abundant life**. They trust Jesus daily for salvation, deliverance, strength, comfort, needs, direction, and forgiveness.
- The Christian trusts Jesus for **salvation in all three tenses**:
 - **Past**—we **have been saved** from the penalty of sin.
 - **Present**—we **are being saved** from the power of sin as we trust Jesus each day and yield the control of our lives to Him.
 - **Future**—we **shall be saved** from even the presence of sin when we get to heaven.

Page 57:

- After you have read Philippians 4:19, have the disciples circle the word *all* in the verse. Then tell this story.

Story: Gary Smalley struggled with anger for two years before he gained victory over anger. He prayed very seriously about this sin, and finally God showed him the reason for his problem with anger. He was expecting someone or something other than God to meet his needs, and when those needs were not met, he became angry. God put a plan in his mind about how to deal with this sin, and from that moment he began to apply God's plan. Now he has victory over anger. The moment he becomes aware that he is becoming angry, he simply prays this prayer:

Prayer—"Lord, I thank You that I am aware that I am angry. I was expecting someone else to meet my need rather than just trusting you."

- The wonderful thing about this prayer is that it can apply to many things; therefore, if anger is not your problem, all you have to do is substitute another word for *anger*. If you struggle with fear, loneliness, bitterness, rejection, or some other sin or problem, just substitute that word for *anger* in your prayer.

Page 58:

Explanation:

- For many years the coauthor of *One on One with God* read Luke 17:5-9 and wondered why Jesus did not answer this serious question that came from the heart of the disciples. Then one day he understood that Jesus did answer their question in the story He told about the servant coming in from the field.

Picture the scene—The servant comes in from the field, hot, tired, dirty, hungry, and thirsty. He has many needs of his own, but before he takes care of his own needs, he prepares the master's meal and serves him.

The answer is very clear—If we want more faith, we must **always put God first**, and our faith will grow.

Page 60:

- After you have read the first paragraph of section III. D, read this story:

Story: Sin is not only the greatest hindrance to “Allowing Jesus Christ to Be the Center and Lord of My Life,” but **the cost is always more than we expect**. The great preacher Dr. R. G. Lee tells this story in his famous message “Pay Day Some Day.” While Dr. Lee was a pastor in New Orleans, he preached on the radio. After every message he received a telephone call in which the caller verbally attacked Dr. Lee with vulgarity and profanity. Then he ended his call by saying, “This is the king of the kangaroo court.”

One night after Dr. Lee had already gone to bed, he received a call from a hospital. A nurse asked Dr. Lee if he would come to the hospital. She said, “There is a young man here who is dying, and he asked us to call you. All he will tell us is that he is the king of the kangaroo court.” Dr. Lee got up, dressed, and went immediately to the hospital.

When he arrived, the nurse told Dr. Lee, “Do not touch the man, because we don’t know what kind of disease he might have.”

As Dr. Lee approached the bed, the young man motioned for him to come closer because he could only speak in a whisper. He said, “Dr. Lee, you go all over the country talking to young people about Jesus, don’t you?”

Dr. Lee said, “Yes.”

The young man, in a whisper that could hardly be heard said, “Tell them for me that the devil pays in counterfeit money.” With those last words, the young man went out into eternity, without Christ and without hope.

Illustrations: Confessing sin and yielding control

- Unconfessed sin in our lives keeps God from being in control of our lives. Therefore, **the first thing we need to do is to confess our sin.**
- Why confess our sin? Sin breaks our fellowship with God.

Explanation: This is a good place to explain the difference between relationship with God and fellowship with God.

- Once we put our faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, God holds us securely, and no one can snatch us out of His hand (John 10:28). We are forever related to God (John 1:12). No force in the world is strong enough to take us out of His hand because God is the most powerful force in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18). **So in relationship, God is the one who holds on to us** from the moment of our salvation (John 5:24).
- **In fellowship, we hold on to God.** When we sin, we separate ourselves from God, and our fellowship with God is broken (Isaiah 59:2). Remember, God is the one who *“called you [us] into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord...”* (1 Corinthians 1:9 NIV). He does not want that fellowship to be broken; therefore,

when we sin, we must **immediately confess that sin** (1 John 1:9) and yield the control of our lives back to God (Romans 6:13).

Illustration: Picture God with His two arms outstretched. The right arm of God represents our relationship with God, and the left arm of God represents our fellowship with God. In His right hand we see ourselves resting peacefully and securely because we know that nothing can snatch us out of His hand. **Our relationship is secure because He is holding on to us.** In fellowship we see His left hand outstretched, and we see ourselves as a child holding on to the finger of God. When we sin, we let go and fellowship is broken. **Our fellowship with God is not as secure as our relationship with God because we are responsible for our fellowship, and sometimes we fail.**

Examples:

- We have two sons. They could decide that they did not want me to be their father and go to the court house to have their names changed. Or they could say that I am not their father. But I *am* their father, and nothing can change that fact. Even the prodigal son was still the son of his father (Luke 15:11-32). In that same way, **once we become a child of God, we are always His child** (John 5:24). **This is an example of relationship.**
- The **relationship** between me and our two sons could not be broken, but when they rebelled, our fellowship was broken. Forgiveness, however, always followed their confession (1 John 1:9). To me, their father, though their sins may have been like scarlet, when they were confessed and forgiven, they became as white as snow (Isaiah 1:18). Our fellowship was restored. **This is an example of fellowship.**
- **The next thing we need to do is yield the control of our lives to God.** I do it like this. In my quiet time each morning I picture myself sitting on a wagon pulled by a horse. I

started the day sitting on the driver's seat and holding the reins in my hands. Jesus is sitting next to me, and I hand Him the reins and say, "Lord, right now I give you the reins, full control of my life, for the rest of today. Please be boss in my life today." You might picture yourself at the wheel of a car or at the controls of a space ship. All that matters is that by deliberate choice, you decide to let God be boss in your life for that day.

- I also picture yielding the control of my life to God each day by imagining that in my heart are a throne and a cross. These are the only two positions in my heart, and there are two forces that want to rule on the throne: my old sinful nature and the Holy Spirit. I imagine that each morning when I awaken, my old sinful nature is on the throne. Then I picture that I get off the throne and say, "Lord, right now I give you full control of my life for the rest of today. Please be boss in my life today." At that moment the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, takes His position on the throne. When, by an act of my will, I voluntarily choose to yield the throne to the Holy Spirit, there is only one place for my old sinful nature to go, and that is on the cross. When I do this, I have denied myself the right to be boss in my own life, and I am living under the control of the Holy Spirit. This is what is meant in Luke 9:23 where it says, "*And He said to them all, if any man will come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*"
- Now we must deal with another question. I started the day by giving God control of my life, but what happens when I sin during the day? **When I sin, I have grabbed the reins, the control, out of God's hands and taken back the throne, demanding that I be the boss.** Therefore, I must do two things:
 1. **Confess the sin immediately.**
 2. **Yield the control back to God.**
- We must remember that we not only want to be forgiven of our sins, but we also want God to be in control of our lives every moment of every day, and He only does that by our invitation.

Meditating on the truths in this Bible study will help us know God.

7. Read/discuss the **Scripture Memory Challenge** (p. 276).

Explanation: As the disciples memorize and meditate on these verses, they will grow stronger in these areas:

- Trusting God for everything
- Abiding in Christ
- Witnessing
- Valuing God's Word
- Commitment to God
- Being encouraged
- Yielding control to God

As we meditate on the verses we memorize, it helps us know God.

8. Read/discuss the **Scripture Memory Plan** (p. 277).

Explanation: If you work the plan, the plan will work.

- Memorizing the verse gets it into our minds. Meditating on the verse gets it into our hearts, and once it is in our hearts, we can apply it in our lives.

Story: In the past, I wondered why I could memorize a verse and then not remember it a week later. I found that the key for me was section 2 f) on p. 277, which encourages us to review the verse immediately after we have first memorized it by quoting reference, verse, reference 30 times. Another thing that helps is to quote the verse often when sharing with others. With verses we use them or lose them.

9. Discuss **Excuses & Scriptural Responses** (p. 278).

Explanation:

- These are great verses to memorize because they are scriptural responses or verses that can be shared with lost people when they give a specific excuse for not becoming a Christian.
- Blank spaces have been left for the disciples to write down:
 - An excuse, not already listed, that they might hear an unbeliever give for not becoming a Christian.

- The scriptural response, a verse they find in the Bible that gives an answer to a specific excuse.
- There is a scriptural response, a verse, for every excuse that a person can give for not becoming a Christian.
- Dawson Trotman, who founded the Navigators ministry, promised God that he would never be caught on the same excuse twice. Once he heard an excuse, he found the answer to that excuse in the Bible and memorized it so that he had a verse, a scriptural response, to share the next time he heard that excuse.

10. Discuss **Log of Verses Memorized** (p. 279).

Explanation:

- Tell the disciples to write the date memorized in the “Date Memorized” column after they have memorized the verse and quoted it reference, verse, reference 30 times.
- It only takes about five to eight minutes to quote reference, verse, reference 30 times once the verse is memorized.
- It is a wise investment of our time to have these verses memorized so that at any moment, God can bring them to our minds to bless us or others.
- One of these verses could be just the thing you or a friend needs to see you through a difficult time.

11. Show the disciples how to put **John 5:24** on a verse card.

Explanation:

- Turn to the pocket on the inside back cover of the book, and take one blank verse card for the verse you will be memorizing this week.
- Write the reference *John 5:24* in the center of one of the verse cards.
 - The reference is like the address.
- Hold the card between your thumb and index finger, and then roll it over and write the verse on the other side of the card.

- You should have the scripture reference on one side and the verse printed or written out on the other side so that you can look at the verse and see whether you can quote the reference—or look at the reference and see whether you can quote the verse.
- Once you have memorized a verse and quoted its reference, verse, reference 30 times, put the date memorized on the same side of the card as the scripture reference.

Important:

- Take time to write these verses on cards in class so that the disciples can carry them all week and memorize them while they are waiting for someone, stuck in traffic, on a break, etc. If you don't do this in class, Satan will put many obstacles before the disciples and make it hard for them to get the verses memorized before you meet again.
- Remember that memorizing the verse gets it into our minds. Meditation moves it to our hearts. Therefore, we memorize the verses as early in the week as possible so we have more of the week to meditate on them before we meet again. Why meditate on them? We want God to use the verses in our lives to change us into His likeness.

Memorizing and meditating on scripture helps us know God.

12. Encourage the disciples to watch for opportunities to talk about Jesus and share what God is teaching them.

Explanation: We want to help the disciples become comfortable with talking about Jesus in every circumstance and situation.

13. Call the disciples' attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 62-63).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 62 aloud in class and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

Encourage your disciples to meet with God early each morning for their quiet times.

...O God, You are my God; I will seek You diligently early in the morning... (Psalm 63:1). (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, "Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary," p. 114, number 7836)

14. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Leader's Guide With Author's NotesSession 5

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God. During the next few weeks you will ask the disciples to pray with their eyes open while walking, standing, driving, etc., but you want them to understand that it is important to get on their knees and pray when they can.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 64).

3. Review **My Commitment to Discipleship Training** (p. 13).

Encourage: Have the disciples sign and date this commitment if they haven't already done so.

- The disciples are more likely to finish *One on One with God* if they sign the commitment sheet.
- The greatest blessings are for the disciples who take part in all the classes and complete the assignments each day.

4. Read **"For my determined purpose is that I may know Him"** (p. 9). Have someone share his/her **Pic**ture of one part of this verse, and listen as he/she **Prays** it back to God as a personal prayer of **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, or **S**upplication. Remind the disciples to keep their focus on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).

- We review this verse each week **to meditate on the powerful truths** it contains so that we may move them from the page to our heads and then to our hearts through meditation **so that God can use them to transform us into Jesus' likeness.**

Project: Before one of the disciples reads p. 9 aloud, have all the disciples do the following:

- Circle the words **Him** and **His** every time you find them in Philippians 3:10 AMPC.

- Now have one of the disciples read Philippians 3:10 AMPC aloud, substituting the name *Jesus* for *Him* or *His*.
- Then have one of the disciples **Ponder**, **Picture**, and **Pray** back to God some part of this verse.

5. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 63).

Explanation:

- Use question 5 on p. 63 to encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.
- Let someone in the group tell about an experience from the past week when he/she talked with someone about Jesus or shared something God is teaching him/her.

6. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading (DBR) Notes** (pp. 252-253) the disciples made this past week. Have one of them:

- a. **Share** one of his/her notes.
- b. **Ponder** that note.
- c. **Picture** that note.

Remind the disciples that to picture the note does not mean to explain the note. Ask them to start by simply saying, **"This is the picture I see."**

- d. **Pray** that note to God as a personal prayer of **A-C-T-S**. After they finish, be an encourager.

Explain to the disciples that they are not to tell you what they *would* pray. They are to *actually* pray and simply let you and the rest of the group listen as they talk with God.

Meditating on our Daily Bible Reading Notes helps us know God.

7. Read/discuss in detail the study **Saturating My Life with God's Word** (pp. 67-79). As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder**, **Picture**, and **Pray**.

Page 67:

Illustrate the power of God's Word by telling these stories after you have read p. 67:

Story #1: Don Milam, the coauthor's father, was a very rebellious unbeliever in high school. One night he was going out to drink and party. His mother was a wonderful Christian, and she stood in the doorway and begged him not to go. She lay down in front of the door, pleading with him not to go out into a night of sin, but Don simply stepped over her and headed to the party.

As he was walking down the street, he walked by a bookstore, and his eyes fell on an open Bible in the window of the store. He was drawn to the Bible and read Proverbs 1:22-33. *[Note: Have one of the disciples read this passage aloud in class.]* The moment he read this passage, God convicted his heart. He responded and was saved right there on the street, reading God's Word.

Some of the friends with him came along and said, "Come on, Don. Let's go to the party."

But Don said, "No, I am going home."

When he got home and walked in the front door, he could hear his mother upstairs in her closet, praying for him. Very soon after this experience, God called Don into the ministry as a pastor and evangelist.

What a wonderful story of the power of God's Word and prayer! Don J. Milam died in 1995 at the age of eighty-five. Sixty-five of those years he invested in the ministry as a pastor, evangelist, and interim pastor after his retirement.

Story #2: A young lady named Gloria told us this story. In a village on the border of Texas and Mexico, there had been a very bad flood. There was not one Christian in this village, but after the flood a little Mexican boy found a Bible that the flood waters had left behind. There was no one to help him understand what he read in the Bible, but simply by reading the Bible he became convicted of his sin and received Jesus into his heart as his personal Lord and Savior. He wanted to be a missionary to his people, so after he graduated from high school, he went away to college and then to seminary. After graduating

he went back to that village to be a missionary to his own people, and many came to know Christ through his ministry.

Gloria said, “I know this story is true, because that little boy is my father.” This is another wonderful story of the power of God’s Word.

Why saturate my life with God’s Word? (pp. 68-79, section II)

Page 69:

- **Isaiah 40:8**—“*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand forever.*”
- **This verse raises an important question.** What is eternal and will live forever? Three things are mentioned in the Bible:
 1. **God’s Word is eternal and will live forever.**
 - Isaiah 40:8—“*...the Word of our God shall stand forever.*”
 - 1 Peter 1:25—“*BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURETH FOREVER. And this is the Word which by the Gospel is preached unto you.*”
 - Psalm 119:89 NIV—“*Your word, O Lord, is eternal...*”
 2. **God is eternal and will live forever.**
 - Deuteronomy 33:27 NKJV—“*The eternal God is your refuge...*”
 - Psalm 48:14—“*For this God is our God for ever and ever...*”
 - Titus 2:13 NKJV—“*...our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...*”
 - Hebrews 13:8 NKJV—“*...the same yesterday and today and forever.*”
 - Revelation 15:7 NKJV—“*...God, who lives forever and ever.*”

3. **The souls of men, women, boys, and girls are eternal and will live forever.**

- John 3:16 NIV—*“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*
- Matthew 25:46 NIV—*“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”*
- **Isaiah 40:8** also emphasizes the brevity of life on earth.
 - Psalm 90:10 NKJV—*“The days of our lives are...soon cut off, and we fly away.”*
 - Psalm 102:11—*“My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.”*
 - Psalm 103:15-16—*“As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.”*
 - James 4:14 NIV—*“...What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”*
- **So here are the facts:**
 - Our lives here on earth are over very quickly.
 - We will live forever either in eternal punishment, forever dying but never dead, or in eternal life, forever with the Lord and true believers in heaven, where there is no more suffering and sorrow.
 - While we are here on earth, we must make two important decisions that will affect us and many others for eternity.
 1. We must choose between everlasting punishment and everlasting life. The consequences of this decision continue forever.
 2. We must choose between spending our lives on that which is temporal (our own selfish desires) or investing our lives in that which is eternal. Remember what the Bible tells us is eternal:

- **God's Word is eternal**—We should saturate our lives with His Word.
- **God is eternal**—We should know God deeply, intimately, and personally. This is to be our determined purpose.
- **The souls of men, women, boys, and girls are eternal**—We are to reach them for Christ and train them to become true disciples.

Illustration: Your life here on earth is like a dot on a line that never ends. The dot represents the time we live here on earth. The line represents eternity. We have such a short time here on earth, but we can make a difference for eternity if we stay focused and committed to that which is eternal.

Under the letter G and at the bottom of p. 69, draw a slightly upward line from the left edge of the page to the right edge of the page, and on that line place one small dot. Then imagine that the line goes off the page on the right side and never ends. This dot is like the blink of an eye compared to eternity. Obviously life on earth is just preparation for eternity. Time on earth is very short; therefore, it is important for us to stay focused and committed to that which is eternal, or we will not fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

Drawing: On paper it will look like this:



Note: You must extend the line to the right edge of the page and then imagine that it goes on forever, never ending.

Page 72:

- 1 Peter 2:2—*“As newborn babies, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.”*

Story: A missionary to the Native Americans in the United States led an old chief to the Lord. About one year later the missionary came back to see the chief. The missionary asked the chief to tell him about his life since he became a Christian.

The chief replied, “It’s like a black dog and a white dog fight in me continually.”

The missionary said, “Well Chief, which one is winning?”

The chief replied, “The one I feed the most.”

- Within each of us there is a continuing spiritual battle between the old sinful nature and our new nature. We must feed our new nature by continually saturating our lives with God’s Word, or we will be defeated in the spiritual battles we face each day.

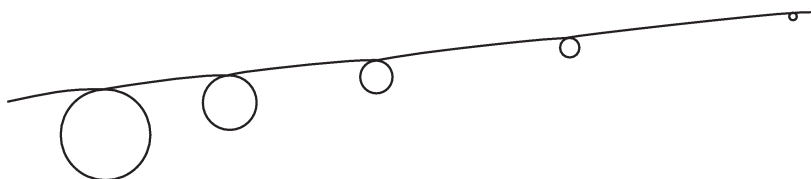
Page 73:

Illustration: The diagram on p. 73 shows how God uses His Word in our lives. It shows that even when we get off God’s path, if we stay in His Word, He will speak to us with words of reproof and correction to get us back on His path.

Note: It is our responsibility to see that we do not get off God’s path. We stay in God’s Word every day so that He can meet us at our point of need with doctrine, reproof, correction, or instruction in how to stay on the path.

- When we get off God’s path, the key to a quick recovery is to get back into His Word and apply the principles that we have learned in Session 4. These principles are:
 - Confess your sin immediately.
 - Yield the control of your life back to God immediately following the confession of your sin.
- If we will apply these simple truths, our times off God’s path because of sin will be shorter in duration and will happen less often.

Drawing: On paper it will look like this:



- Have the disciples draw the above figure in their workbooks on p. 73 at the bottom of the page below the word **I _ S _ R _ C _ I _ N**. Then have them write down these three things under or to the left of what they have drawn:

- 1. Stay in God's Word every day.**
- 2. Confess your sin immediately.**
- 3. Yield the control of your life back to God immediately following the confession of your sin.**

Page 76:

Explanation: Joshua 1:8 is a great place to emphasize that meditation is essential to application. If we want to apply scripture, we must first meditate on it. *Meditate* means to **P**onder what God is saying to us, then **P**icture what He is saying to us, and then **P**ray what He has said to us back to Him as a personal prayer. As long as we have just head knowledge, there will be no true application that brings glory to God. Only when these truths get to our hearts through meditation will we see them work their way out of our hearts in application.

Pages 77-78: Proverbs 2:1-10 LIV and the formula should be of tremendous help to the disciples. It is a favorite passage of many. Here we see a list of the blessings promised to those who search the Word of God diligently, listen to God, and obey what He teaches us. This is a conditional promise. If we do what God says, we shall have what He promises.

Explanation: We should be in the Word of God each day, searching and expecting God to speak to us. We should search the Word diligently as if we were looking for lost money or hidden treasure.

Illustration: If we had a map showing where a great treasure was hidden, and all we had to do was take the map and dig up the treasure in order for it to be ours, I know that:

- We would quickly go dig up the treasure, and nothing would stop us.
- We would go with great excitement and expectation.

- We would make every sacrifice to find the treasure immediately because this would become our top priority.
- If we would do this for earthly treasure that is temporal, shouldn't we be even more excited about spiritual treasure, which is eternal? Think about it!

Definitions:

- *Godly wisdom* (#1 on p. 78) is defined in Proverbs 4:11 AMPC as “*comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God.*”
- *Understanding* (#8 on p. 78), as defined in Proverbs 4:7, means “to deal wisely,” which is knowing how to apply Godly wisdom. (“Hebrew Dictionary of the Old Testament” in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, p. 20, number 995).

Exciting News:

- Proverbs 2:9 LIV—“*He (the Lord) shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time.*”
- This seems too good to be true. How is this possible? The answer is in Proverbs 2:10 LIV—“*For wisdom and truth will enter the very center of your being, filling your life with joy.*” Think about it:
 - Jesus is truth in the flesh. John 14:6 NIV—“*Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’*”
 - Jesus is wisdom in the flesh. 1 Corinthians 1:30 NIV—“*...Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God...*”
 - Jesus is joy in the flesh. The Holy Spirit speaks to us through the psalmist to teach us that God Himself is joy—“*Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight...*” (Psalm 43:4 NIV).
 - So what is the key to being able to distinguish right from wrong, making the right decision ev-

ery time, and experiencing a life filled with joy? The answer is very simple. Wisdom and truth must enter the very center of your being. Jesus is wisdom, truth, and joy in the flesh. Therefore, when you apply the truth from God's Word and yield the control of your life to Jesus, He becomes the center of your life around Whom everything in your life revolves. When He is the center of your life, in control of your life, you will be able to distinguish right from wrong, make the right decision every time, and experience a life filled with joy.

- **Think about it:**

- When Jesus lived here on earth, He was always able to distinguish right from wrong and made the right decision every time. When He is in control of our lives, He will do the same for us.

Conclusion: The only thing that makes sense is to search the Word of God diligently, listen to God, obey, and receive the blessings He has for us. The result is not a life without problems but a life filled with joy, even in the midst of problems.

Example: We search the Word of God and discover a principle that teaches us that we should allow Jesus Christ to be the center and Lord of our lives and that we should yield the control of our lives to Him. We obey God, and by an act of our will we begin to yield the control of our lives to Him each day. Then we find that when God is in control of our lives, we can distinguish right from wrong and make the right decisions. When He is not in control, we sin, fail, fall short, and miss the mark and the blessings He has for us.

- Our lives are filled with joy when our hearts are filled with the Holy Spirit, when we have yielded the control of our lives to God.

- To be controlled by the Holy Spirit and filled with joy does not mean that we will never have problems. We have joy because we have Jesus, and Jesus is joy personified. Not only will we be filled with joy, but we will be able to distinguish right from wrong and make the right decision every time.

We know God better when we meditate on the truths we find in Bible study.

8. Read/discuss and meditate on (**PPP**) the truths in **Encourage Yourself in the Lord** (pp. 80-83). Remind them to review and meditate on (**PPP**) these truths often.

Explanation: After you have read the quote by Charles Swindoll on p. 83, tell the following story:

Story: Many years ago a shoe company sent a salesman to Africa. The salesman got off the boat and saw that no one there wore shoes. He immediately wired his company and said, “Send me the money to come home; no one here wears shoes.” This salesman saw an impossible situation.

A short time later the same company sent another shoe salesman to Africa. The second salesman got off the boat and saw that no one there wore shoes. He immediately wired his company and said, “Send me a boat full of shoes; no one here wears shoes.” The second salesman saw a great opportunity.

Both salesmen saw the same thing, but one saw an impossible situation and the other saw a great opportunity.

- Do we see our lives as full of impossible situations or full of great opportunities?
- All of us need encouragement in our lives at certain times; therefore, “Encourage Yourself in the Lord” is provided so that:
 - We will be encouraged by reviewing and meditating on these truths when we need encouragement.

- We can share these scriptures and give encouragement to our friends and others who are depressed or discouraged.

Challenge: Be encouraged! All around us there are great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.

If we return often to meditate on these encouraging truths, it will help us know God.

9. Have the disciples quote their memorized verse and put their next memory verse on a new verse card (p. 276).

- Ask each disciple to quote **John 5:24**, and then ask one person to **PPP** John 5:24.
- Ask each disciple to put **John 10:28** on a new verse card.

How to put verses on cards:

- Turn to the pocket on the inside back cover of the workbook and take a blank verse card for the verse you will be memorizing this week.
- Write the reference *John 10:28* in the center of the card.
 - The reference is like the address.
- Hold the card between your thumb and index finger, and then roll it over and write the verse on the other side of the card.
- You should have the scripture reference on one side and the verse printed or written out on the other side so that you can look at the verse and see if you can quote the reference—or look at the reference and see if you can quote the verse.
- Once you have memorized a verse and quoted it reference, verse, reference 30 times, put the date memorized on the same side of the card as the scripture reference.

Important:

- Take time to write each week's memory verse on cards in class so that the disciples can carry it all week and memorize it while they are waiting for someone, stuck in traffic, on a break, etc. If you don't do this in class, Satan

will put many obstacles before the disciples and make it hard for them to get the verse memorized before you meet again.

- Remember that memorizing the verse gets it into our minds. Meditation moves it to our hearts. Therefore, we memorize the verse as early in the week as possible so we have more of the week in which to meditate on it before we meet again. Why meditate on it? We want God to use the verse in our lives to change us into His likeness.

Memorizing and meditating on scripture helps us know God.

10. Review the **Scripture Memory Plan** (p. 277).

Repeat: If we work the plan, the plan will work.

- Memorizing the verse gets it into our minds. Meditating on the verse gets it into our hearts, and once it is in our hearts, we can apply it in our lives.

Story: In the past, I wondered why I could memorize a verse and then not remember it a week later. I found that the key for me was section 2 f) on p. 277, which encourages us to review the verse immediately after we have first memorized it by quoting reference, verse, reference, 30 times. Another thing that helps is to quote the verse often when sharing with others. With verses, we use them or lose them.

Scripture memory helps us know God's Word, and meditation helps us know God.

11. Review **Log of Verses Memorized** (p. 279).

Repeat:

- Tell the disciples that we write the date memorized in the "Date Memorized" column when we have reviewed the verse immediately after we have first memorized it by quoting reference, verse, reference 30 times.
- It only takes about five to eight minutes to quote reference, verse, reference 30 times once the verse is memorized.
- It is a wise investment of your time to have these verses memorized so that God can, at any moment, bring them to your mind to benefit you or others.

- One of these verses could be just the thing you or a friend needs to see you through a difficult time.

12. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading Challenge: Sessions 6-8** (p. 255). Encourage the disciples to start on this challenge after they have completed all 30 days of the **Daily Bible Reading Challenge: Psalm 119, Sessions 1-5** (p. 250).

Explanation: This is where we actually start the disciples on the lifetime project of reading through the Bible once a year for the rest of their lives.

Committing ourselves to read God's Word through once a year and meditating on what we read helps us know God.

13. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading Calendar** and how to use it (pp. 256-267). The disciples will start using this after they have completed all thirty days of the **Daily Bible Reading Challenge: Psalm 119, Sessions 1-5** (p. 250).

Explanation:

- This is the tool we will encourage the disciples to use to read through the Bible once a year for the rest of their lives.
 - By reading a part of God's Word each day, we make ourselves available for God to speak to us.
 - The next morning in our quiet times, after reading through all the verses of Psalm 119, we will start our Bible reading in the **Daily Bible Reading Calendar**. If we finish Psalm 119 on the 10th, we start our Bible reading in the Daily Bible Reading Calendar on the 11th.

14. Discuss the value of reading one chapter in Proverbs each day.

Explanation:

- The book of Proverbs is filled with godly wisdom.
- "Proverbs provides God's detailed instructions for His people to deal successfully with the practical affairs of everyday life: how to relate to God, parents, children, neighbors, and government." (Quoted from *The Open Bible* notes)

Reading a chapter a day in Proverbs and meditating on what we read helps us know God.

15. Encourage the disciples to watch for opportunities to talk about Jesus and share what God is teaching them.

Explanation: We want to help the disciples become comfortable talking about Jesus in every area of their lives.

16. Call the disciples' attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 84-85).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 84 aloud in class and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

- **Encourage the disciples to be faithful to God and to meet with Him every day for their quiet times.**

17. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Notes

Leader's Guide With

Author's NotesSession 6

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 86).

Accountability: Checking and initialing the Follow Up sheets each week is training the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12. It also helps you as the leader see if your disciples:

- Are doing the homework and developing the lifestyle or
- Need your encouragement.

3. Read **“For my determined purpose is that I may know Him”** (p. 9). Have someone share his/her Picture of one part of this verse and listen as he/she Prays it back to God as a personal prayer. **Remind the disciples to keep their focus on Jesus** (Hebrews 12:2).

Have the disciples write down the following two bullets on p. 9:

- Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJV—“...*But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me...*”
- 2 Timothy 1:12—“...*for I know whom I have believed...*”

Reminder: We review Philippians 3:10 AMPC each week:

- **To keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him.**

4. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 85).

Explanation:

- Use question 5 on p. 85 to encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.

- Let someone in the group tell about an experience from the past week when he/she talked with someone about Jesus or shared something God is teaching him/her.

5. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading (DBR) Notes** (pp. 252-253) the disciples made this past week. Ask one person to:

- Share one of his/her notes.
- Ponder** that note.
- Picture** that note.
 - Remind the disciples that to picture the note does not mean to explain the note. Ask them to start by simply saying, **“This is the picture I see.”**
- Pray** that note to God as a personal prayer of **A-C-T-S**. After they finish, be an encourager.
 - Tell the disciples that they are not to tell you what they *would* pray, but are to pray and simply let you and the rest of the group listen as they talk with God.

When we listen to what God is saying to us as we read His Word, make notes, and then meditate on those notes, it helps us know God.

6. Read/discuss in detail the study **How can I saturate my life with God’s Word?** (pp. 89-97) As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder**, **Picture**, and **Pray**.

Page 89:

- **Explain the Hand Illustration**—This shows how to get a grasp of God’s Word. It shows how to “...*hold fast to His teachings and live in accordance with them*” (John 8:31 AMPC).
- It shows how we use four ways of getting God’s Word into our minds: hearing, reading, studying, and memorizing.
- Then it shows how the thumb, meditation, is essential to getting a grasp of God’s Word as it works with hearing, reading,

studying, and memorizing. Without the thumb, meditation, there is little or no grasp of God's Word.

- Once the truth enters our minds, it is then moved to our hearts through meditation so that we might “*live in accordance with,*” which means “to apply,” the truth.
- **How to demonstrate the Hand Illustration:**
 1. Hold your Bible in your right hand. Open your left hand with the palm up. Place the weight of the Bible on the little finger of the left hand, which represents hearing, then pull the Bible away and show that the little finger had no grasp of the Bible.
 2. Next place your Bible on the fingers representing hearing and reading, and pull it away without resistance, showing that there is still no grasp of God's Word.
 3. Then place your Bible on the fingers representing hearing, reading, and studying, and pull it away without resistance, showing that there is still no grasp of God's Word.
 4. Next place your Bible on the fingers representing hearing, reading, studying, and memorizing, and pull it away, showing that there is still no grasp of God's Word.
 5. Go back through these steps starting with the little finger, but show what happens when you add the thumb, representing meditation, working with each of the separate fingers.
 6. Then show what happens when all the fingers and thumb work together to grasp God's Word.

When we are saturating our lives with God's Word by hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating consistently, we begin to have a grasp of God's Word.

Pages 89-96:

- As you lead the disciples through these pages, pause to let them meditate as often as time allows. On each page try to allow at least one disciple to choose a verse and then **P**onder, **P**icture, and **P**ray that verse back to God as his/her personal prayer while you and the others listen.

Remind the disciples that to picture the note does not mean to explain the note. Ask them to start by simply saying, **“This is the picture I see.”**

Page 94, section B:

- Emphasize to the disciples how important it is to commit yourself to a lifetime goal of mastering the Bible.

Story: As a young man, a dear friend of ours, E. F. “Preacher” Hallock, set as his goal to master the Bible, but he said he soon found that it was mastering him.

- As God’s Word begins to master us, it will transform us by renewing our minds and hearts.
- God uses His Word to remold our minds from within.

Pages 94-95, section C:

- **Without discipline, there is no hope that we will ever become the true disciples God wants us to be.**
- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 LIV speaks of the disciplined Christian life and gives guidelines for true disciples:
 - Verse 24—“*...So run your race to win.*” We must strain every part of our beings to be the best disciples possible, holding nothing back.
 - Verse 25—“*...you must deny yourself many things that would keep you from doing your best.*” Often we must remind ourselves that others may, but we may not—if we want to be the best disciples we can be through Christ.
 - “*...we do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears.*”
 - So what will we do with these heavenly rewards? We will lay them at the feet of Jesus. *“The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and **cast their crowns before the throne**, saying: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power;*

For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created” (Revelation 4:10-11 NKJV).

- This is investing for eternity.
- Verse 26—*“So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I’m not just shadowboxing or playing around.”* This speaks to us about living the life of a disciplined disciple, filled with purpose and passion for knowing, loving, and serving God.
- Verse 27—*“...I punish my body, treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to...”*
- This simply means that Paul would not allow his body to control his life. Paul reserved that job for the Holy Spirit.

Illustration: If our bodies controlled our lives, we would never get up early in the morning to invest quality time with God in our quiet times. Why? Our bodies would tell us, “Turn off the alarm, roll over, and go back to sleep. I need more rest.”

Write down in the note column how the J. B. Phillips translation summarizes 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 as follows:

1. **Set your goal to win.**
2. **Train seriously.**
3. **Be determined.**
4. **Practice discipline and self-denial.**

Page 96, section D:

- This is one of the important principles taught in God’s Word: Live one day at a time. Make sure you get some of God’s Word into your heart today.
- Satan’s trick is to get us to procrastinate. He is too smart to tell us that getting God’s Word into our lives today is foolish. He knows we would react to that approach. He simply whispers in our ears, “This is a great idea, but

you have so much to do today, and it is already so late. Why don't you wait until tomorrow?" Think about it!

Meditating on the truths we learn in Bible study helps us know God.

7. Read/discuss and meditate on (**PPP**) the truths in the **Daily Commitment Reminder** (pp. 282-283).

Explanation: On p. 59 you were challenged to make a **Total Life Commitment** to allow Jesus Christ to be the center and Lord of your life. Then you were challenged to renew that total life commitment every day. You can make this recommitment an important part of your everyday life if you will do two things:

1. After reviewing the **Daily Commitment Reminder** in class, find a few minutes at home where you can meditate: **P**onder, **P**icture, and **P**ray these truths back to God as your personal prayer.
2. Each morning in your quiet time as you read p. 282, you will be reminded of God's goodness and daily provision. As you read p. 283, pray it back to God as your daily personal prayer of recommitment.

Model: In class read aloud p. 282 and comment on God's goodness and provision for us. Then let the class listen as you, the leader, read and pray back to God p. 283 as your personal prayer of recommitment to God.

Meditating on these truths will help us know God.

8. Discuss the use of the **Sermon or Lesson Notes forms** (pp. 280-281).

Why is it important to make notes when we hear biblical teaching and preaching?

Explanation:

- Many of us have heard enough truth (God's Word) preached and taught to be the best Christians who ever lived, but because we did not make notes and then meditate (**P**onder and **P**icture these notes and then **P**ray them back to God as a personal prayer), Satan robbed us of the spiritual growth we should have experienced.

- **Story:** A motivational speaker for corporations shared how sometimes we do not come prepared to take advantage of the opportunities we have. He told about visiting a church to hear a sermon. He said that he sat down and prepared to hear the message with a pen and paper in hand, ready to take notes on the message. He suddenly became aware that no one around him had a pen and paper. This thought crossed his mind: *They must not be expecting much.*
- **We should attend a service expecting God to speak to us.** When He speaks, we should be prepared to write down what He says. Once we write it down, then we can keep the notes until we have an opportunity to meditate on the truths. When we meditate (**P**onder, **P**icture, and **P**ray the truths back to God as a personal prayer), we move these truths from our heads to our hearts, where they work their way out in application.
- **Point out that FREE additional Sermon or Lesson Notes pages are available on the website (see p. 288 for details).**

When we hear the Word of God preached, make notes, and meditate on what God says to us, it helps us know God.

9. Review **General Lifetime Goals** (pp. 14-15).

Explanation: The leader should review the author's notes on this subject in Session 1 of this leader's guide. Then share with the disciples what you think needs to be reviewed. You will not have much time; therefore, you may choose to ask a few questions that will bring their attention back to the **General Lifetime Goals**, which are very important.

10. Review **Three Important Characteristics of True Disciples** (p. 27).

Explanation: The leader should review the author's notes on this subject in Session 2 of this leader's guide. Then review with the disciples what you think needs to be emphasized. You will not have much time. You might want to ask questions like this: *What did God emphasize to you when we talked about these characteristics in class?*

11. Review the **Scripture Memory Plan** (p. 277).

Repeat: If we work the plan, the plan will work.

- Memorizing the verse gets it into our minds. Meditating on the verse gets it into our hearts, and once it is in our hearts, we can apply it to our lives.

12. Review **Log of Verses Memorized** (p. 279).

- After the disciples have memorized the verse and quoted it reference, verse, reference 30 times, have them write down the date on p. 279 in the “Date Memorized” column.

13. **Have the disciples quote their memorized verse and put their next memory verse on a new verse card** (p. 276):

- Ask each disciple to quote **John 10:28**, and then ask someone to **PPP** John 10:28.
- Ask each disciple to put **1 Corinthians 10:13** on a verse card.

Repeat:

- Turn to the pocket on the inside back cover of the workbook, and take a blank verse card for the verse you will be memorizing this week.
- Once you have memorized a verse and quoted it reference, verse, reference 30 times, put the date memorized on the same side of the card as the scripture reference.

Memorizing and meditating on scripture helps us know God.

14. Review anything you’ve discussed up to this point where you think the disciples need help or encouragement.

Explanation: You may just ask whether they have questions about the material covered up to this point.

15. Encourage the disciples to **watch for opportunities to talk about Jesus** and share what God is teaching them.

Explanation: We want to help the disciples become comfortable with talking about Jesus in every area of their lives.

16. Call the disciples' attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 98-99).

Read: Allow time to read p. 98 aloud in class and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

Read in class: Two reasons for having your quiet time early each morning:

1. **Jesus modeled it.**

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed (Mark 1:35 NIV).

2. **The scripture emphasizes it.**

The words **seek** and **early** in Isaiah 26:9 and **early** in Psalm 63:1 come from the Hebrew word **shachar**, which means “**to seek diligently early in the morning.**” (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, “Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary,” p. 114, number 7836)

Therefore, these verses could be translated:

...I will seek You diligently early in the morning... (Isaiah 26:9).

...O God, You are my God; I will seek You diligently early in the morning... (Psalm 63:1).

17. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Notes

Leader's Guide With

Author's NotesSession 7

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 100).

Accountability: Checking and initialing the Follow Up sheets each week is training the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12. It also helps you as the leader see if your disciples:

- Are doing the homework and developing the lifestyle or
- Need your encouragement.

3. Read **“For my determined purpose is that I may know Him”** (p. 9). Have someone share his/her **Pic**ture of one part of this verse and listen as he/she **Prays** it back to God as a personal prayer. **Remind the disciples to keep their focus on Jesus** (Hebrews 12:2).

Reminder: We review Philippians 3:10 AMPC each week for three main reasons:

1. **To keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him**.
2. To remind us that the **disciplines are not an end in themselves. They are simply a means God has given us to know Jesus** deeply, intimately, and personally. Therefore, we practice the disciplines so that we may know Him.
3. **To meditate on the powerful truths** in this verse so that they will move from the page to our heads and then to our hearts **so that we will be transformed into Jesus' likeness**.

4. Ask one person to share then **Ponder, Picture, and Pray** back to God his/her **Sermon or Lesson Notes** (pp. 280-281).

Repeat:

- Many of us have heard enough truth (God's Word) preached and taught to be the best Christians who ever lived, but because we did not make notes and then meditate (**Ponder** and **Picture** these notes and then **Pray** them back to God as a personal prayer), Satan robbed us of the spiritual growth we should have experienced.
- We should attend a worship service expecting God to speak to us. When He speaks, we should be prepared to write down what He says. Once we write it down, then we can keep the notes until we have an opportunity to meditate on the truth. When we meditate (**Ponder, Picture, and Pray** the truth back to God as a personal prayer), we move the truth from our heads to our hearts where it can work its way out in application.

When we pause to meditate on the notes we make while listening as God speaks to us in a sermon, it helps us know Him.

5. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 99).

Explanation:

- Use question 5 on p. 99 to encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.
 - Let someone in the group tell about an experience from the past week when he/she talked with someone about Jesus or shared something God is teaching him/her.
6. Read/discuss in detail the study **Saturating My Life with Prayer** (pp. 103-109). As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder, Picture, and Pray**.

Why saturate my life with prayer? (pp. 104-109, section II)

Page 104:

- Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV says, *“Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”*

Story: I was discipling a pastor and a small group of men from his church in Romania. One day the pastor asked me if I would like to hear how God had started a new church because it involved one of the men in our group, whom we will call Joe. I was anxious to hear, so he told me the story.

One day Joe was called by a desperate friend, an atheist whom we will call Mike. In the past, Mike had had nothing to do with God and scoffed at Joe’s faith, but today he was desperate. Mike had lost his briefcase, and it contained information about individuals that could cause serious problems if the information became public. He had looked most of the day for the briefcase but without success. Finally he called Joe, and together they walked over the same steps Mike had taken that day. It got dark, so they stopped, and Mike was very distraught. Mike asked Joe if he would pray before they parted that God would help him find his briefcase. Joe said he would pray for Mike if Mike would promise to go to church with him if God gave him back his briefcase. Mike agreed and went home, which was about an hour from Bucharest where he had lost his briefcase.

Joe prayed that night that God would allow Mike to find his briefcase. Late the next morning a woman knocked on Mike’s door with his briefcase in hand. She said that she had been in Bucharest earlier that morning and had found this briefcase sitting on the sidewalk of a busy intersection. Bucharest is a city of about three million people, the streets are crowded with thousands of people. Joe and Mike had been over this same area where the briefcase was found, and it had not been there the night before. God had performed a miracle and returned the briefcase to Mike.

Mike kept his word and went to church with Joe. Mike was saved and began bringing people to church with him from the town where he lived. He continued to invite

and bring people with him until one day he said, “Pastor, I don’t know what to do. There are two carloads of us coming to church from my town, and we’re going to need another car.” The pastor told Mike that their church was ready to start another church and that they already had a place picked out but that they would postpone starting that church and start one in his town. They changed their plans and started a church where God was already at work. When we left Romania, the new church had been in existence for about one year. They had baptized fourteen people and had about fifty attending church.

Why saturate our lives with prayer? God does powerful things when we pray.

Pages 104-105:

Explanation: John 14:14 NKJV says, “*If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*”

- What does the phrase *in My name* mean?
- Praying in the name of Jesus does not simply mean ending our prayers using the words “in Jesus’ name”—although there is nothing wrong with saying that if it is from our hearts. I believe we pray in Jesus’ name when we recognize that we do not deserve to have direct access to the Father, but we do have that privilege because Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Therefore, we can come into the Father’s presence with boldness and yet humility. We do not come in our own names but in the name of His son, remembering what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Illustration: Which of the following two examples illustrates a situation in which you would likely be more concerned about helping?

Example #1—Someone on the street comes to you and asks for a large sum of money.

Example #2—Another person comes to you and says, “I am a friend of your son. I have a serious problem, and I told your son about it. He told me that if I came to you and shared my problem, you would help me.”

Which of these two do you think you would be more interested in helping? The one who came to you in the name of your son.

Page 105:

Explanation: Philippians 4:6 JBP says, ***“Don’t worry over anything whatever; tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayer.”***

- Here we find a very important principle—**Don’t worry about anything; pray about everything.**
 - To worry is sin because it reflects a lack of faith and confidence in Jesus.
 - Many times the things we worry about are based on a false perception in our minds.

Story: Often in the spring, a pair of redbirds comes to build a nest in our backyard. Sometimes the male, who is very territorial, will see his reflection in our large glass windows and constantly attack the window, trying to drive out of his territory the reflection he sees of himself. One year the male bird was so worried and consumed with fear that he killed himself by flying into the window. This year the male redbird attacks the window at the first sign of daylight. He comes back to resume his attack on the window throughout the day and then comes back for one final attack just before dark. This worry, caused by his false perception, is actually consuming his life. It is springtime, and he should and could be enjoying God’s beautiful world. Most worry is based on false perception. **Don’t let worry ruin your life. Don’t worry about anything; pray about everything.** God loves you, and He is in control.

Explanation: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, ***“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”***

Page 106:

- Ephesians 5:20 RSV says, *“Always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.”*

Emphasis: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 on p. 105 says, **“in everything,”** and Ephesians 5:20 RSV on p. 106 says, **“for everything”** give thanks.

- We can all imagine situations in life where this would be very difficult. So why would God require this of us?
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, *“...for this is the will of God.”*
- 1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV says, *“...though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”*
- The true believer is never without HOPE because Jesus is our hope (Psalm 71:5), and He has promised that He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Through our Lord Jesus Christ we even have victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14,17-18 JBP says, *“Now we don’t want you, my brothers, to be in any doubt about those who ‘fall asleep’ in death, or to grieve over them like men who have no hope. After all, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again from death, then we can believe that God will just as surely bring with Jesus all who are ‘asleep’ in Him ... And after that we shall be with Him forever. So by all means use this message to encourage one another.”*

Page 107:

- James 5:16 NKJV on this page says, *“...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”* What is a fervent prayer?

Two very different fervent prayers:

Story #1—When our son, Steve, was about five years old, our pastor was having a temporary problem with his back. For about three weeks he had not been able to stand up straight and was having to use a cane to walk. One Saturday night while we were kneeling by Steve's bed praying, Steve asked God to heal his pastor. It was just a quiet, simple prayer without emotion. The next morning as we walked into the hallway of our church, we saw our pastor standing up straight and walking without a cane. Steve simply said one word: "See?" Steve had prayed a serious and sincere prayer from his heart and believed that God would answer, so he wasn't surprised when He saw that God had answered his prayer. We believe Steve's prayer was a fervent prayer.

Story #2—A few years later when our younger son, Don, was about five or six years old, he had a pet fish. The fish bowl needed to be cleaned out, but Marilyn was in a hurry and decided to just give it a quick cleaning, so she put the fish bowl under the faucet in the bathroom sink and let the water run directly into the bowl. The old water was being forced out over the top of the bowl and going down the drain. Everything was okay until the fish came out over the top and started down the drain. Marilyn quickly responded by pulling the stopper to close the drain, but the fish was caught by the stopper. The fish was bent into an *L* shape, lifeless.

About that time Don walked into the bathroom. When he saw what had happened, he began to cry very loudly, "You've killed my little fish! You've killed my little fish!" And he was right. Don continued to cry and to plead with God not to let his fish die. Over and over he pleaded with God in prayer, "God, please don't let my fish die."

Finally, it was time for bed and Marilyn put the fish back in the bowl just to appease Don. Don was very distraught and continued to cry and plead with God, "Please don't let my little fish die." But the fish was bent in an *L* shape, lifeless and floating on top of the water with his belly up (a sign that the fish was dead). We all went to bed, although Don was still crying and pleading with God.

The next morning when we got up, Don's little fish was no longer *L*-shaped and no longer lifeless. He was swimming

around the bowl as if nothing had ever happened! These prayers from Don's heart had been very loud and very emotional. We believe Don's prayer was also a fervent prayer.

Comparison: One prayer was very emotional and one was not, but both were serious and sincere prayers from the hearts of boys who believed that God would hear and answer their prayers. Therefore, both were fervent prayers.

Meditating on the truths we have learned in Bible study helps us know God.

7. Read/discuss and meditate on (PPP) the truths in **"Caution...Caution...Caution"** (pp. 110-112).

Page 110:

- One of the things we want to learn from "Caution... Caution... Caution" is the importance of learning to view life from God's perspective with the right heart attitude.

Illustration: Surf is a problem for the swimmer—but a joy for the surfer. It depends on your perspective.

- Write this verse in your workbook, by the title "Caution... Caution... Caution": *"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you."* (1 Peter 4:12 NIV).

Example: If we are not viewing life from God's perspective, with the right heart attitude, we may be caught off guard when we suffer through painful trials and find ourselves asking the same questions Gideon asked in Judges 6:13 (NKJV): *"O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles...?"*

- Notice the sequence in Romans 5:3-4 LIV:
 - Problems and trials
 - Learn patience
 - Strength of character

- Trust God
- Hope and faith strong and steady; maturing

Page 111:

- Notice the sequence in James 1:2-4 NLT:
 - Trouble occurs.
 - Faith is tested.
 - Endurance grows.
 - Strong in character
 - Ready for anything; maturing

Page 111:

- Notice in James 1:13-14 NLT that God never tempts anyone.

Summary of “Caution...Caution...Caution” (pp. 110-112):

Suffering is to be expected in the Christian life. It is normal (1 Peter 4:12 NIV).

From these passages we see how God views trials, difficulties, trouble, and hard times in our lives. **He sees them as opportunities for spiritual growth and maturing.** If we want to be successful in the Christian life, we must cultivate the right attitude and view these things from God’s perspective and not our own.

Illustration: I am driving up a mountain behind a truck, and it is only going about five miles per hour, so I decide to pass it. As I am passing, I come over the peak of a mountain and have a head-on crash with another truck coming from the other direction. What was my problem? The answer is that I had a lack of patience and perspective. From my perspective it looked safe to pass; from God’s perspective He could see that it was not safe. If I had asked Him what to do and waited for Him to tell me, I would have been safe. Always try to see things like hard times, trials, and severe testing from God’s perspective. From His perspective, God says that they are good for us. So accept by faith what God says because God cannot lie.

Visual: Turn a book upside down on a table or hold it in your hand so that it stands up and looks like a triangle or a mountain. Now picture the book as a mountain and imagine that you are driving up one side of the mountain, unable to see what is on the other side. Picture God above the mountain looking down and seeing both sides of the mountain. Who has the better perspective—us or God?

- One good thing that has happened because of some devastating experiences in our lives is that those experiences have driven us deeper into the arms of Jesus, our loving Lord and Savior.
- The passages we have just read in this section show us that there is a sequence involved in becoming spiritually mature. **There is no hope of reaching the goal of spiritual maturity apart from going through trials, difficulties, hard times, and severe testing—and learning how to view life from God’s perspective.**
- We must learn to “*endure hardship...like a good soldier of Christ Jesus*” (2 Timothy 2:3 NIV).
- If we keep our focus on Jesus and trust in Him, our weaknesses can become our strengths—“*...My grace is sufficient for you: for My strength is made perfect in weakness...*” (2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV). Often in a Christian’s life, when the person has walked with God for many years, we see strengths and do not realize that in the past those strengths might have been weaknesses in that person’s life. However, as he/she yielded control of his/her life to God each day and lived under God’s control, God substituted His strength for his/her weaknesses.
- Sometimes we may wonder why patience seems to be such a big thing to God. Is it possible that it is important because as we patiently wait for God, He and others see our confidence in Him and our faith in action?
- It is hard for us to understand how Jesus learned anything because as God He knew everything, but as man, “*He learned obedience from what He suffered*” (Hebrews 5:8 NIV). Therefore, we know that suffering can help us learn to be obedient to God.
- God never tempts anyone.

- Temptation is not sin, but yielding to temptation is sin.

We must learn to see things as God sees them (view life from God's perspective), understanding that God knows everything. From God's perspective we see that:

Satan TEMPTS us to destroy us. This is Satan's way of getting back at God. He is not out to hurt us; he is out to destroy us.

God allows TRIALS in our lives to make us stronger.

God wants to build godly character in us so that we can be spiritually mature, ready for anything, strong and steady in hope and faith.

God allows us to be TESTED to show us how we measure up to the standard. What is the standard by which Christians measure their progress in maturing spiritually? The Word of God in written form is the Bible, and in flesh it is Jesus. Both are the Word of God and the only standard by which we measure our lives. Therefore, when I am tested, I can see how I am progressing by seeing whether my thoughts, attitudes, and actions are in obedience to the principles taught in God's Word, the Bible, or whether I follow the example Jesus gave us when He lived here on earth, leaving us a model for living the Christian life.

Three illustrations to show us how God uses the hard times, trials, and severe testing in our lives for our good:

1. ***Crushing experiences***—A certain perfume is made by crushing rose petals. As the petals are crushed, a beautiful fragrance is produced.

Application—When a Christian goes through a crushing experience but keeps his/her eyes on Jesus and continues to trust God, a beautiful fragrance is produced that goes up to bless God and out to bless man (2 Corinthians 2:14-16).

- Often we think that we will not be able to stand another moment of this crushing experience, but remember: "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him [us] out of them all*" (Psalm 34:19 NKJV).

- From God's perspective, He sees these crushing experiences as opportunities for us to mature spiritually and to bring glory to Him.
 - Remember that through crushing experiences:
 - Satan's purpose is to destroy us.
 - God's purpose in allowing them is to bring us to maturity so that we can bring glory to Him.
2. **Pressure experiences**—A diamond starts as a piece of coal, but after being subjected to tremendous pressure for years, it turns into a beautiful diamond.

Application—Often the pressure in our lives is so great that we wonder if we will be able to stand it another moment, but remember: “...*all things work together for good to those that love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose*” (Romans 8:28 NKJV). Therefore, nothing can touch our lives unless God allows it, and when He allows us to be under pressure, He sees from His perspective a way for it to work for our good and His glory.

- We know that Jesus is “...*the light of the world*” (John 9:5) and that diamonds reflect the light in all directions. Therefore, by allowing us to experience pressure situations, God gives us the opportunity to be transformed into His likeness. Then, like a diamond, we can reflect Him to everyone with whom we come in contact.
 - Remember that through pressure experiences:
 - Satan's purpose is to destroy us.
 - God's purpose in allowing them is to bring us to maturity so that we can bring glory to Him.
3. **“Going through the fire” experiences**—Pure silver is the result of silver being subjected to a hot fire and melted, and then the dross, the impurities, are drained off.

Application—Sin in our lives is like the impurities in the silver. Therefore, God allows us to go through experiences we might describe as “going through the fire” to let us see our sin, the impurities, that we need to confess and forsake.

The Refiner’s Fire

—Author Unknown

Some time ago, a few ladies met in a certain city to read the scriptures and make them the subject of conversation. While reading the third chapter of Malachi, they came upon a remarkable expression in the third verse: *“He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.”*

One lady’s opinion was that it was intended to convey the view of the sanctifying influence of the grace of Christ. Then she proposed to visit a silversmith and report to the group what he said on the subject. She went accordingly, and without telling the object of the errand, begged to know the process of refining silver, which he fully described to her.

“But sir,” she said, “do you sit while the work of refining is going on?”

“Oh yes, ma’am,” replied the silversmith. **“I must sit with my eyes steadily fixed on the furnace, for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver will be injured.”**

The lady at once saw the beauty, and comfort too, of the expression, *“He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.”* Christ sees it needful to put His children into a furnace; His eye is steadily intent on the work of purifying, and His wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for them. Their trials do not come at random, for *“the very hairs of your head are all numbered”* (Matthew 10:30).

As the lady was leaving the shop, the silversmith called her back and said he had still further to

mention. **He only knew when the process of purifying was complete by seeing his own image reflected in the silver.** What a beautiful example! When Christ shall see His image in His people, His work of purifying will be accomplished.

- We are “...tested...in the furnace of affliction” for His sake (Isaiah 48:10-11 NIV). If we “*fix our eyes on Jesus*” (Hebrews 12:2 NIV) while going through the fire, we will be “*continually transformed (in spirit) into His likeness...*” (Philippians 3:10 AMPC).
- Remember that when we have “going through the fire” experiences:
 - Satan’s purpose is to destroy us.
 - God’s purpose in allowing them is to bring us to maturity so that we can bring glory to Him.

Remember—God not only wants to give us opportunity to mature through our trials and times of testing, but He loves us and wants to express His love to us. When we are at our **wits’ end** and cry out to Him in faith, He will meet us at **wits’ end corner**, calm the storm, and guide us.

*They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul melts because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are **at their wits’ end**. Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He calms the storm... [and] guides them to their desired haven. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!” (Psalm 107:26-31 NKJV)*

Desired result—Let the temptations, trials, periods of testing, and all the other hard experiences of life simply *drive you deeper into the arms of God*. He loves you, and He is faithful.

8. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading (DBR) Notes** (pp. 252-253) the disciples made this past week. Ask one person to:
 - a. Share one of his/her notes.
 - b. **Ponder** that note.
 - c. **Picture** that note.
 - d. **Pray** that note to God as a personal prayer of **A-C-T-S**. After they finish, be an encourager.

As we read God's Word, we write down a note. As we meditate on that note, it helps us know God.

9. Review the **Scripture Memory Plan** (p. 277).

Repeat: If we work the plan, the plan will work.

- Memorizing the verse gets it into our minds. Meditating on the verse gets it into our hearts, and once it is in our hearts, we can apply it to our lives.

10. Review **Log of Verses Memorized** (p. 279).

- After the disciples have memorized the verse and quoted it reference, verse, reference 30 times, have them write down the date on p. 279 in the "Date Memorized" column.

11. **Have the disciples quote their memorized verse and put their next memory verse on a new verse card** (p. 276):

- Ask each disciple to quote **1 Corinthians 10:13**, and then ask someone to **PPP** 1 Corinthians 10:13.
- Ask each disciple to put **2 Corinthians 12:9** on a verse card.

Repeat:

- Turn to the pocket on the inside back cover of the workbook, and take a blank verse card for the verse you will be memorizing this week.
- Once you have memorized a verse and quoted it reference, verse, reference 30 times, put the date memorized on the same side of the card as the scripture reference.

Memorizing and meditating on scripture helps us know God.

12. Encourage the disciples to **watch for opportunities to talk about Jesus** and share what God is teaching them.

Explanation: We want to help the disciples become comfortable talking about Jesus in every area of their lives.

13. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading Challenge: Sessions 8-10** (p. 255). Encourage the disciples to start on this challenge tomorrow morning.

Explanation:

- This is the tool we encourage the disciples to use to read the Bible through once a year for the rest of their lives.

Committing ourselves to read God's Word through once a year and meditating on what we read helps us know God.

14. Call the disciples' attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 113-114).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 113 aloud in class and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

- **Encourage them to be faithful to God and to meet with Him every day for their quiet times.**

15. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Leader's Guide With

Author's NotesSession 8

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 115).

Accountability: Checking and initialing their Follow Up sheets each week is training the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12.

3. Read **"For my determined purpose is that I may know Him"** (p. 9). Have someone share his/her **Picture** of one part of this verse and listen as he/she **Prays** it back to God as a personal prayer. **Remind the disciples to keep their focus on Jesus** (Hebrews 12:2).

Reminder: One of the main reasons we review Philippians 3:10 (AMPC) each week is:

- **To keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him**.
4. Ask one person to share then **Ponder, Picture, and Pray** back to God his/her **Sermon or Lesson Notes** (pp. 280-281).

Repeat:

- We should attend a worship service expecting God to speak to us. When He speaks, we should be prepared to write down what He says. Once we write it down, then we can keep the notes until we have an opportunity to meditate on the truths. When we meditate (**Ponder, Picture, and Pray** the truth back to God as a personal prayer), we move the truth from our heads to our hearts where it can work its way out in application.

When we pause to meditate on the notes we make while listening as God speaks to us in a sermon, it helps us know Him.

5. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 114).

Explanation:

- Use question 5 on p. 114 to encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.
- Let someone in the group tell about an experience from the past week when he/she talked with someone about Jesus or shared something God is teaching him/her.

6. Ask if the **Caution... Caution... Caution** pages (pp. 110-112) were helpful. Why?

Summary of Caution...Caution...Caution:

- Suffering is to be expected in the Christian life. It is normal (1 Peter 4:12 NIV).
- **Quote**—While in his seventies, Rev. Don J. Milam was asked, “If you had your life to live over again, what would you ask God to give you?” He replied,

I would ask God to **double the trouble** because it was through the difficult experiences of life that I was *driven deeper into the arms of God*. It was during those times that I discovered that

- God alone is sufficient for all my needs.
- Nothing can separate me from the love of God.
- Nothing can snatch me out of His hand.
- First comes the cross and then the crown.
- First comes the garden and then the glory of Pentecost.
- First comes the agony and then the ecstasy.

While some live by their five senses—what they see, touch, hear, taste, and smell—we live by faith. And the trial of faith is more precious than gold tried in the fire because of how God reveals Himself to us through these experiences.

It is by this faith, tried in the fire, that we become so confident in God that when He speaks to us through the Bible, we believe and act on it.

- From these passages we see how God views trials, difficulties, trouble, and hard times in our lives. He sees them as opportunities for spiritual growth and for our maturing. And if we want to be successful in the Christian life, we must cultivate the right attitude and view these things from God's perspective and not our own.
 - The passages we have just read in this section show us that there is a sequence involved in becoming spiritually mature. There is no hope of reaching the goal of spiritual maturity apart from going through trials, difficulties, hard times, and severe testing and learning how to respond properly.
 - We must learn to "*endure hardship...like a good soldier of Christ Jesus*" (2 Timothy 2:3 NIV).
 - If we keep our focus on Jesus and trust in Him, our weaknesses can become our strengths—"*...My grace is sufficient for you: for My strength is made perfect in weakness...*" (2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV). Often in a Christian's life, when he/she has walked with God for many years, we see strengths and do not realize that in the past these strengths might have been weaknesses. However, as he/she yielded control of his/her life to God each day and lived under God's control, God substituted His strength for those weaknesses.
 - Sometimes we may wonder why patience seems to be such a big thing to God. Is it possible that it is important because as we patiently wait for God, He and others see our confidence in Him and our faith in action?
 - It is hard for us to understand how Jesus learned anything because as God He knew everything, but as man "*He learned obedience from what He suffered*" (Hebrews 5:8 NIV). Therefore, we know that suffering can help us learn to be obedient to God.
 - God never tempts anyone.
 - Temptation is not sin, but yielding to temptation is sin.
7. Read/discuss in detail the study **How can I saturate my life with prayer?** (pp. 119-129) As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder, Picture, and Pray.**

Pages 120-123: In this section “How can I saturate my life with prayer?” there are six hidden qualifications for prayer.

- It is true that God can do anything He wants to do; therefore, He can answer any prayer at any time even if we have not met His conditions. He can do this simply because He is God.
- Is there something we can do so that God will hear and answer our prayers exactly as we want them answered?

- In scripture, we find the following **six qualifications for answered prayer**:

1. Mark 11:25 NIV on p. 120—

FORGIVE OTHERS:

- If we want to be forgiven, we must forgive others. *To forgive* means “to forsake, to leave, and to yield up.” If we hold grudges, we cannot be sure that God will hear and answer our prayers.

2. 1 John 1:9 on p. 121—

CONFESS OUR SINS:

- God is faithful to forgive and cleanse us when we confess our sins. The previous verse, Isaiah 59:2, explains that we need forgiveness because sin breaks our fellowship with God; it keeps us from experiencing the fellowship with God we were created to enjoy.

Repeat: This is a good place to explain the difference between relationship with God and fellowship with God.

- Once we put our faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, God holds us securely and no one can snatch us out of His hand (John 10:28). We are forever related to God (John 1:12). No force in the world is strong enough to take us out of His hand because God is the most powerful force in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). So **in relationship**,

God is the one Who holds on to us from the moment of our salvation (John 5:24).

In fellowship, we hold on to God.

When we sin, we separate ourselves from God and our fellowship with God is broken (Isaiah 59:2). Remember that God is the one who “*called you [us] into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord*” (1 Corinthians 1:9 NIV).

He does not want that fellowship to be broken; therefore, when we sin, we must **immediately confess that sin** (1 John 1:9) and yield the control of our lives back to God (Romans 6:13).

Illustration: Picture God with His two arms outstretched. The right arm of God represents our relationship with God, and the left arm of God represents our fellowship with God. **In His right hand** we see ourselves resting peacefully and securely because we know that nothing can snatch us out of His hand.

Our relationship is secure because He is holding on to us. In fellowship you see His left hand outstretched, and you see yourself as a child holding on to the finger of God. When we sin, we let go and fellowship is broken.

Our fellowship with God is not as secure as our relationship with God because we are responsible for our fellowship, and sometimes we sin.

Examples:

- We have two sons. They could decide that they do not want me to be their father and go to the courthouse to get their names changed. Or they could say that I am not their father. But I *am* their father, and nothing can change that

fact. Even the prodigal son was still the son of his father (Luke 15:11-32). In that same way, **once we become a child of God, we are always His child (John 5:24). This is an example of relationship.**

- The **relationship** between me and our two sons could not be broken, but when they rebelled, our fellowship was broken. Forgiveness, however, always followed their confession (1 John 1:9). To me, their father, though their sins may have been like scarlet, when they were confessed and forgiven, they became as white as snow (Isaiah 1:18). Our fellowship was restored. **This is an example of fellowship.**

3. John 14:13 NKJV on p. 121—
PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS:

Repeat—Praying in the name of Jesus does not simply mean ending our prayers using the words, “in Jesus’ name,” although there is nothing wrong with saying that if it is from the heart. I believe we pray “in Jesus’ name” when we recognize that we do not deserve to have direct access to the Father, but because Jesus died on the cross for our sins, we do have that privilege. Therefore, we can come into the Father’s presence with boldness and humility. We do not come in our own names but in the name of His Son, remembering what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Illustration: Which of the following two examples illustrates a situation in which you would likely be more concerned about helping?

Example #1—Someone on the street comes to you and asks for a large sum of money.

Example #2—Another person comes to you and says, “I am a friend of your son. I have a serious problem, and I told your son about it. He told me that if I came to you and shared my problem with you, you would help me.”

Which of these two do you think you would be most interested in helping? The one who came to you in the name of your son.

4. James 1:6-7 on p. 122—**ASK IN FAITH; BELIEVE
YOU WILL RECEIVE:**

- The person who doubts that he or she will receive an answer from God probably won’t. Before Jesus healed the demon-possessed son, Jesus said to the boy’s father, “*Everything is possible for him who believes.*” Immediately the father exclaimed, “*I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief*” (Mark 9:23-24 NIV). “*If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer*” (Matthew 21:22 NIV). “*Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete*” (John 16:24 NIV).

Quote: “To believe the Lord will hear my prayer honors His truthfulness, His power, His love, His generosity, and His wisdom.”

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

5. Matthew 26:39 NKJV on p. 122—**ASK THAT GOD’S WILL BE DONE:**

- This is the most important thing that we can do if we want to be sure God will hear and answer our prayers. Nothing shows our faith more than for us to have so much confidence in God that we want His will even more than we want our own. It acknowledges that we recognize that we are here on this earth to live out the purpose for which He has called us.

Repeat:

Our will—When we come to a point where we have so much confidence in God that we

want His will more than we want our own, then we adopt His will as our own.

- In Matthew 26:39 NKJV, we have a beautiful picture of Jesus in prayer. We see Him asking the Father, “...*if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.*”
- This was possibly the hardest decision Jesus faced because “this cup” represented our sins, and this meant:
 - He would have to take all our sin upon Himself to pay for our sin. Think about it: He had never experienced sin or the guilt or shame that comes with sin.
 - Because Jesus was willing to be obedient and take our sin upon Himself, our sin would separate Him from the Father. Think about it: Jesus had never been separated from the Father.
 - When Jesus said, “...*nevertheless not as I will, but as You will,*” He modeled that we should always want God’s will above our own, regardless of the cost.

6. 1 John 3:22 AMPC on pp. 122-123—

PRACTICE AN ATTITUDE OF OBEDIENCE:

- Obedience brings blessings, and habitual obedience is especially pleasing to God. Habitual obedience comes when we practice an attitude of obedience. **The ATTITUDE OF OBEDIENCE is the attitude that says, “Lord, I will obey; You just speak.”** The decision to obey has been made before we know what God wants us to do.

- **Example:** Peter gives us a great example of this **ATTITUDE OF OBEDIENCE** when he says, “*Master, we have toiled all the night, and caught nothing: nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net*” (Luke 5:5 NKJV). From the moment Peter said, “**at Your word I will,**” we have the proof that he had already decided to obey whatever Jesus told him to do. He was practicing the **ATTITUDE OF OBEDIENCE**.

In summary, here are the six qualifications for answered prayer we have found in scripture:

1. **Forgive others.**
2. **Confess your sins.**
3. **Pray in the name of Jesus.**
4. **Ask in faith; believe you will receive.**
5. **Ask that God’s will be done.**
6. **Practice an attitude of obedience.**

Page 126, section B: Cultivating a close personal fellowship with God in prayer is a lifetime project.

Page 127, section C: The undisciplined life is a wasted and disobedient life. Discipline is a big part of obedience, and obedience is a key to spiritual growth and maturity. Don’t expect to see serious spiritual growth without discipline.

Page 128, section D: Concentrate on just one day at a time.

Repeat:

- This is one of the important principles taught in God’s Word—**Live one day at a time**. Talk to God today in prayer.
- Satan’s trick is to get us to procrastinate. He is too smart to tell us that praying today is foolish. He knows we would react to that approach. He simply whispers in our ears, “Praying today is a great idea, but you have so

much to do today, and it is already so late. Why don't you wait until tomorrow?" Think about it!

- Anytime we fail to talk to God about things we are concerned about, Satan wins a victory.

Meditating on the truths we learn in Bible study helps us know God.

8. You, the leader, share your **DBR Notes** (pp. 252-253) made this past week:
 - a. **Share** one of your notes.
 - b. **Ponder** your note.
 - c. **Picture** your note.

Remember that to picture the note does not mean to explain the note. Therefore, when you share your picture, start by saying, **"This is the picture I see."**

- d. **Pray** your notes to God as personal prayers of **A-C-T-S**.

You pray—Let the disciples listen as you pray back to God your personal prayer of **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, or **S**upplication,

Explanation:

- Bring a page of your **DBR Notes** to class, and read one or two of your notes.
- Showing how you practice this in your own life may help the disciples see or understand something they missed when you first explained how to do it.

Testimony: This is a great place for you, the leader, to share your excitement about how reading God's Word every day, making a note, and meditating on that note has made a difference in your own life.

Making a note is not an end in itself; it is an aid to remembering what God said to us so that we can meditate on that truth and know God.

9. **Have the disciples quote their memorized verse and put their next memory verse on a new verse card** (p. 276):

- Ask each disciple to quote **2 Corinthians 12:9**, and then ask someone to **PPP** John 10:28.
- Ask each disciple to put **1 Peter 5:7** on a verse card.

10. Encourage the disciples to **express their love to God three times every hour they are awake this week:** *“I love you, O Lord, my strength”* (Psalm 18:1 NIV).

Explanation:

- When we say, “Lord, I love You,” we are praying a prayer of adoration to God.
- We want to cultivate expressing our love to God throughout the day every day. This practice is an important part of a life-changing biblical principle we will learn next week.

Reminder: The disciples will probably need something to remind them to say, “Lord, I love You,” throughout the day.

- If possible, give each disciple some small dots or something to stick on his/her watch, mirror, rear view mirror, computer, etc.— anything that might serve as an automatic triggering device to remind the disciple to tell the Lord “I love You” throughout the day.

11. Encourage the disciples to **watch for opportunities to talk about Jesus** and share what God is teaching them.

Explanation: We want to help the disciples become comfortable with talking about Jesus in every area of their lives.

12. Call the disciples’ attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 130-131).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 130 aloud in class, and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

- **Encourage the disciples to be faithful to God and to meet with Him every day for their quiet times.**

13. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Leader's Guide With

Author's NotesSession 9

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 132).

Accountability: Checking and initialing their Follow Up sheets each week is training the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12.

3. Read **“For my determined purpose is that I may know Him”** (p. 9). Have someone share his/her **Picture** of one part of this verse and listen as he/she **Prays** it back to God as a personal prayer. **Remind the disciples to keep their focus on Jesus** (Hebrews 12:2).

Reminder: One of the main reasons we review Philipians 3:10 (AMPC) each week is:

- **To keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him**.

4. Ask one person to share then **Ponder, Picture, and Pray** back to God his/her **Sermon or Lesson Notes** (pp. 280-281).

5. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 131).

Explanation:

- Use question 5 on p. 131 to encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.
- Let someone in the group tell about an experience from the past week when he/she talked with someone about Jesus or shared something God is teaching him/her.

6. Read/discuss in detail the study **Saturating My Life with Love** (pp. 135-141). As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder, Picture, and Pray**.

Page 135:

- Notice that **Jesus Christ is at the center** of this wheel, which represents our individual lives. Jesus is to be the center of our lives around whom everything else in life revolves. When this is true in our lives, our love goes up to God in prayer, out to fellow believers in fellowship, and out to the lost through witnessing.

Page 136:

- Notice the first sentence of the first paragraph on this page: “By deliberate choice I allow the Holy Spirit to produce within me something that cannot be produced in its genuine form except by the Holy Spirit, and that is love.”
 - **“By deliberate choice” in this paragraph means that by an act of your will, you must choose whether or not you will allow the Holy Spirit to produce genuine love in you.** This can only happen while you are living under God’s control. Therefore, by an act of your will you must choose each day to yield the control of your life to God and let Him be boss in your life for that day. Then His genuine love can be produced and reflected through you.

Why saturate my life with love for God? (pp. 136-140, section II)

Page 139: Jesus said unto him, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind”* (Matthew 22:37 NKJV).

- How do you demonstrate loving God with all your heart? There are many ways to show this deep love for God, and many times it becomes apparent in sacrificial giving.

Story #1: We have witnessed sacrificial giving in our own church. When we lost almost all our church building to a fire, God worked in the hearts of our people to sacrificially give to rebuild.

Story #2: In Romania, we saw one of the most touching examples of loving God wholeheartedly. On a very rainy Sunday morning, a pastor and about sixty people gathered to worship and give an offering they had been praying

about for several weeks. They were trying to build a church building in a place and at a time when it was difficult for parents to buy pencils and paper for their children starting school. In a congregation where there are no wealthy people, they gave about \$3,000 in cash, four wedding rings, one pair of binoculars, and one automobile. The two-year-old automobile was given by the pastor and his wife. We witnessed people giving beyond what they could afford in times of severe trial and extreme poverty.

7. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading (DBR) Notes** (pp. 252-253) the disciples made this past week. Ask one person to:
 - a. **Share** one of his/her notes.
 - b. **Ponder** that note.
 - c. **Picture** that note.
 - d. **Pray** that note to God as a personal prayer of **A-C-T-S**. After they finish, be an encourager.

As we read God's Word, we write down a note, and as we meditate on that note, it helps us know God.

8. **Have the disciples quote their memorized verse and put their next memory verse on a new card** (p. 276).
 - Ask each disciple to quote **1 Peter 5:7**, and then ask someone to **PPP** 1 Peter 5:7.
 - After the disciples have quoted the verse, have them turn to the pocket on the inside back cover of the workbook, and take a blank verse card for the verse they will memorize this next week.
 - Ask each disciple to put **Philippians 4:19** on a verse card.

Memorizing and meditating on God's Word help us know God.

9. Review the **Scripture Memory Plan** (p. 277).

Repeat: If we work the plan, the plan will work.

- Memorizing the verse gets it into our minds. Meditating on the verse gets it into our hearts, and once it is in our hearts, we can apply it to our lives.

10. Review **Log of Verses Memorized** (p. 279).

- After the disciples have memorized the verse and quoted it reference, verse, reference 30 times, have them write down the date on p. 279, in the “Date Memorized” column.

11. Read/discuss and meditate on (**PPP**) the truths in **The Principle of Displacement** (pp. 142-143). Encourage the disciples to practice this principle by expressing their love to God three times every hour they are awake this week by simply saying, “Lord, I really do love You” (Psalm 18:1 NIV).

Explanation: For many people the Principle of Displacement has been a dynamic, life-changing principle that helped them gain victory over Satan in the battle over thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

- Emphasize the **definition of a principle** at the top of p. 142—a principle is a God-given truth that becomes a basis or reason prompting faith attitudes and actions.
- **This is important because methods change often, but principles never change. These principles, when found in God’s Word, adopted, and applied to our lives, are used by the Holy Spirit to reshape our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.**
 - One of the benefits of basing our lives on biblical principles is that the same principle can apply to many different situations.
 - We need to understand that this is a principle of offense, not defense. In any sport, an individual or team seldom comes out victorious if the player(s) are always playing defense.
 - **Often we as Christians are defeated because we always play defense and seldom or never play offense.**

Examples: We often wait until Satan attacks to try to figure out how to respond. Satan is on offense, and we are automatically on defense.

- The **Principle of Displacement** can drastically change how we live our lives. It will show us how to live out our lives on offense, not defense.

Story: For many years, I was defeated when faced with temptation because I focused on the temptation and asked God to help me not to yield. One year as I was reading through the Bible, God spoke to me through Philippians 4:8 and showed me I was falling into Satan's trap. I was playing defense and responding in the wrong way. Satan could not have been more pleased.

- Before the temptation ever came, I should have been obedient to the Lord when He said *"Think on these things."*
 - What things should I have been thinking on?
 - *"whatsoever things are **true**,"*
 - *"whatsoever things are **honest**,"*
 - *"whatsoever things are **just**,"*
 - *"whatsoever things are **pure**,"*
 - *"whatsoever things are **lovely**,"*
 - *"whatsoever things are **of good report**,"*
 - Things of **virtue**, and
 - **Praise**.
 - Why should I practice this principle to *"think on these things"*?
 - This principle, like all principles "from God's Word, is personal from God to us."
 - *"For as he thinks in his heart so is he..."* (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV). This verse teaches that **we are the product of our own think-**

ing. Therefore, we need to think about what we want to become.

- As I meditated on this verse, I realized that this is a perfect description of Jesus. There are people and things worthy of praise because they sometimes reflect some of these qualities, but none are praiseworthy like Jesus, the living Word (John 1:1). Jesus is the epitome of truth and honesty. He is the embodiment of that which is just, that which is pure, that which is lovely, and that which is of good report. He epitomizes virtue and is totally worthy of our praise like no other.
- In practice, how did this truth—“*think on these things*” from Philippians 4:8—make a difference in my life?
 - I began to fill my days with expressions of love to God. These are prayers of adoration.
 - Throughout each day, I began to express my love to God by simply saying, “Lord, I really do love You,” or “Lord, I love You because You are *holy* (or *righteous*, or *truth*, or *love*, or *faithful*).”
 - I began to fill my days with thanking God for all He has done and is doing for me and others.
 - I began to fill my days with praising God for His mercy and grace.
 - As I began to practice these things in my life, I began to notice that:
 - I was more aware of my love for God.
 - I was more aware of God’s presence.
 - I was more aware of God’s goodness, mercy, and grace in my life.

Explanation: As God was speaking to me through Philippians 4:8, we were working on a contract on a government base, replacing concrete slabs on their airfield. We were using a large piece of equipment that operated on the principle

of penetration and displacement. The point of this piece of equipment penetrated a thick slab of concrete and, because there was not room for the point and the concrete simultaneously, the concrete was displaced as the point penetrated the slab.

Application: Using this piece of equipment gave me a visual picture of how God wants us to use the principle from Philippians 4:8 in our lives. **We must control what we think about by penetrating and filling our minds with God's Word and expressions of love, thanksgiving, and praise for God, and everything else will be displaced.**

- The moment we are conscious that we are being tempted, we should immediately turn and focus on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). Play offense. Penetrate and fill our minds with thoughts of love, thanksgiving, and praise to God.
- Of course we do not wait until we are tempted to practice this principle. We practice this throughout each day, and then when temptation comes, we are victorious because we are following God's planned response.
 - As we practice this principle, we will find that soon after we have been tempted, we are focused on Jesus and are so involved in expressing our love, thanksgiving, and praise to Him that we forget the temptation.
- Satan cannot put some bad thought or attitude in our minds if our minds are already full of God's Word, love, thanksgiving, and praise for God.
- Is there an area in which you constantly feel defeated? Apply this principle and win the victory.

Promise: This principle comes with a promise for those who apply the principle, and that promise is that *"the God of peace shall be with you"* (Philippians 4:9).

- *"You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You"* (Isaiah 26:3 NKJV).

- The way we keep our minds stayed (leaning and taking hold) on God is to *“think on these things.”*
- If we want victory over Satan in the battle over thoughts, attitudes, and actions, we must practice this principle.
- **The one who practices this principle receives both VICTORY and PEACE.**

12. Encourage the disciples to **express their love to God three times every hour they are awake this week:** *“I love you, O Lord, my strength”* (Psalm 18:1 NIV).

Explanation:

- When we say, “Lord, I love You,” we are praying a prayer of adoration to God.
 - We want to cultivate expressing our love to God throughout the day every day.
13. Encourage the disciples to **watch for opportunities to talk about Jesus** and share what God is teaching them.

Explanation: We want to help the disciples become comfortable with talking about Jesus in every area of their lives.

14. Call the disciples’ attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 144-145).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 144 aloud in class, and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

- ***Encourage the disciples to be faithful to God and to meet with Him every day for their quiet times.***

15. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Leader's Guide With

Author's Notes Session 10

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 146).

Accountability: Checking and initialing their Follow Up sheets each week is training the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12.

3. Read **“For my determined purpose is that I may know Him”** (p. 9). Have someone share his/her **Picture** of one part of this verse and listen as he/she **Prays** it back to God as a personal prayer. **Remind the disciples to keep their focus on Jesus** (Hebrews 12:2).

Reminder: We review Philippians 3:10 AMPC each week for three main reasons:

1. **To keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him**.
2. To remind us that the **disciplines are not an end in themselves. They are simply a means God has given us to know Jesus** deeply, intimately, and personally. Therefore, we practice the disciplines so that we may know Him.
3. **To meditate on the powerful truths** in this verse so that they will move from the page to our heads and then to our hearts **so that we will be transformed into Jesus' likeness**.
4. Ask one person to share then **Ponder, Picture, and Pray** back to God his/her **Sermon or Lesson Notes** (pp. 280-281).

Repeat:

- We attend a worship service expecting God to speak to us. When He speaks, we should be prepared to write down what

He says. Once we write it down, we can keep the notes until we have an opportunity to meditate on the truths. When we meditate (**P**onder, **P**icture, and **P**ray the truth back to God as a personal prayer), we move the truth from our heads to our hearts where it can work its way out in application.

When we pause to meditate on the notes we make while listening as God speaks to us in a sermon, it helps us know Him.

5. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 145).

Explanation:

- Use question 6 on p. 145 to encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.
 - Let someone in the group tell about an experience from the past week when he/she talked with someone about Jesus or shared something God is teaching him/her.

7. Read/discuss in detail the study **Saturating My Life with Love** (pp. 149-158). As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **P**onder, **P**icture, and **P**ray.

Why saturate my life with love for fellow Christians? (pp. 149-153, section B)

Page 149:

- God has given us this instruction: “*Let love for your fellow believers continue and be a fixed practice with you—never let it fail*” (Hebrews 13:1 AMPC).

Story: Love for Christian brothers is something we saw in Romania in many ways, but one story that really challenges us is the story of a young engineer who lost his job for having a Bible in his desk. During this period basically everyone worked for the government, so if you lost your job, you could not get another job. The government then checked on you, and if you were not working, you were put in prison. In this way, the government got away with religious persecution: they took a job away from a Christian, put him in prison for not having a job, and said that he was in prison because he would not work. This young engineer had a family and was active

in his church in Bucharest. Every day for nine years, fellow believers in his church brought food to share with him and his family. It was never much because there was very little for anyone. Every day he kept just enough for his family and gave away the rest to others in need. The engineer became the pastor of this congregation and today is one of the respected pastors in Romania. **The love of these fellow believers continued day after day. It was a fixed practice, and it never failed.**

Why saturate my life with love for the lost? (pp. 154-158, section C)

Page 154:

- God has told us, “*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love*” (1 John 4:8 NIV).
- If we do not love the lost enough to share the good news with them, God says we do not know Him.

Story: We have missionary friends in Eastern Europe. One of their responsibilities is to gain access to all the schools of Eastern Europe and distribute a book full of Scripture to each child. The book tells about the life of Christ and invites the reader to receive Christ into his/her life as Savior and Lord. At one school our friends gave a book to a young boy, and as a result of his reading the book, he became a Christian. He had a friend who had missed several days of school because of a serious illness, and he wanted his friend to read the book and become a Christian. He took a book to his friend’s home but could not see his friend because of the illness. He left the book with the boy’s parents and asked them to read it to his friend. The parents and the sick boy were all unbelievers, but as the parents read the book aloud to the young boy, they all were saved. In a few days the boy died and was buried with the book in his hand. The parents began to share the good news of Jesus with their friends and neighbors, and within a few months they had led about one hundred friends and neighbors to faith in Christ.

- The greatest way to show love to the lost is to tell them about Jesus.

8. **Have the disciples quote their memorized verse and put their next memory verse on a new card** (p. 276).
 - Ask each disciple to quote **Philippians 4:19**, and then ask someone to **PPP** Philippians 4:19.
 - Ask each disciple to put **Proverbs 3:5-6** on a verse card.
9. Read/discuss and meditate on (**PPP**) the truths in ... **Blood on our Hands?** (pp. 159-165) Remind the disciples to review and **PPP** these truths often.

Explanation:

- “...Blood on our Hands?”
 - Challenges us in the areas of:
 - Openly talking about Jesus in our everyday conversations.
 - Inviting others to receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.
- Hopefully, it will be a constant reminder to us of the importance and urgency of witnessing.
- It provides some answers to important questions such as:
 - Why is it so urgent to share His message?
 - What is His message?
 - Who are His messengers?
 - What is His method?
 - What is our responsibility, and what is the Holy Spirit’s responsibility?
 - What is our motivation?
 - How can we become more effective in sharing His message?
- It closes with an evangelism challenge for every day.
- **Story:** I was in Africa with my father-in-law for thirty days on a mission trip. We had many experiences, and one I will

never forget is the story of a young girl we met who was recovering in a hospital out in the bush. Before our visit, she had been wading in the river to get drinking water when a crocodile bit down on her leg and began pulling her out into the deep water. This was not so unusual because many people were lost to the crocodiles, but this story had an unusual ending. An aunt of the girl heard her scream and saw what was happening. She immediately ran out into the river and pulled the girl from the mouth of the crocodile and brought her safely to shore. The people in her village did not know what to do. They tried to help by putting insecticide on the girl's wounds, only making it worse. Someone from the village took the girl to the hospital on a bicycle, which took several hours. The doctor was able to save the leg, and when the young girl was in the hospital, missionaries led the girl to Christ and taught her to sew while she was recovering. I do not know the rest of the story, but I do know that she was going back to a village where she would be the only Christian with a skill that she could teach others while she was telling them about Jesus.

- It would have been very easy for the aunt to stand on the shore with others and just see another friend or relative lost to the crocodiles, but she decided to not let this happen. She had to overcome her fear, but her love, compassion, and concern for this girl were greater than her fear. My guess is that today in a village somewhere in Zimbabwe, there are several people who know Jesus and know how to sew—all because an aunt cared enough to do something when others wouldn't.

Page 160, section III:

- Acts 1:8 NKJV in the second paragraph says, “...*you shall be witnesses to Me...*”
- In United States law the word *shall* means “without discretion.”

Pages 160-161:

- The reference to “our responsibility” on p. 161, section V. B refers to every Christian.
- Concern becomes one of our primary motives (see section

VI. B). Jesus says in John 10:10, “*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly [in fullest measure].*”

Story: I was probably in my twenties when a dear lady, probably in her seventies, came up to me at church and asked me if I would go visit a man for her. She warned me that he was from the town where she had grown up and that he was the meanest, most vulgar unbeliever she had ever known. Now he was in bad health and God had given her a great concern about his spiritual condition. She was fearful that he might die without Christ and spend eternity forever separated from God. I told her I would go talk with him.

Shortly after that, I went to visit him in an old house that had been turned into a rest home for the elderly. In those days rest homes were unclean, and the odor was terrible. I entered the home and asked where I could find the man. The workers took me to the back of the home, to a porch that had been enclosed to make another room.

The people providing the man’s care did not like to be around him because he was still mean and vulgar, but I sat down and began to talk to him. Soon our conversation turned to Jesus. After we had talked for a while, I shared John 10:10 with him and told him that Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins so that we might have life. Then I said, “Therefore, until a man puts his trust in Jesus, he is not even living; he is just a walking dead man.”

The man looked down, with tears flooding his cheeks. Then he looked me in the eye and said, “And I am not even walking.” That’s when I found out that the man could no longer walk. I told him how he could receive God’s forgiveness, be saved, and have Jesus as his personal Savior and Lord. He responded by asking God for forgiveness and inviting Jesus into his heart.

I went back to visit him on several occasions and found a new man. God had given him a new nature, and his caregivers told me about the change in him.

- Everyone deserves the opportunity to know Jesus—even the meanest and most vulgar people we know. If that is

true, what about our friends, relatives, and neighbors?

Page 165:

- Before you share the “Evangelism Challenge for Every Day,” you might want to tell the following:

Story: Years ago we heard an evangelist share something that he had experienced while attending New Orleans Seminary. He was driving a long distance to get back home after preaching in a revival service. It was in the middle of the night, and he was very tired. As he was crossing the long Pontchartrain Bridge near New Orleans, he suddenly noticed a man in the distance, standing in the middle of his lane, shouting and waving both arms. The student was very tired and thought he would just get in the other lane and drive on by the man. But every time he changed lanes, the man moved to that lane, shouting and waving both arms. Finally, the student got close enough to see that the man was waving his shirt in the air trying to stop him. So he stopped, got out of his car, and went up to the man to see what was wrong. The man was hysterical. When he could speak, the man said a section was torn out of the bridge by a large boat, and the bus he was in had driven off into the water below. Many in the bus were dead, but he had been able to get out of the bus and climb to the highway to stop people from driving off the bridge and being killed. The evangelist told us, “I hugged him and thanked him—and thanked him again.” For the rest of the night he stood with the man in the middle of the highway, shouting, “STOP, STOP, STOP or you perish.”

- If we had been in the place of the man from the bus, what would we have done?
- Does it seem strange that sometimes we seem to have so much concern for men’s physical lives and so little concern for their souls?
- “God, give us a passion for souls.”

10. Encourage the disciples to **express their love to God three times every hour they are awake this week:**
“I love You, O Lord my strength” (Psalms 18:1 NIV).

Explanation:

- When we say, “Lord, I love You,” we are praying a prayer of adoration to God.
- We want to cultivate expressing our love to God throughout the day, every day. This is one way we practice the Principle of Displacement.
- We want to continue practicing this until it becomes a normal, natural part of us.

11. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading (DBR) Notes** (pp. 252-253) the disciples made this past week. Ask one person to:

- a. **Share** one of their notes.
- b. **Ponder** that note.
- c. **Picture** that note.
- d. **Pray** that note to God as a personal prayer of **A-C-T-S**. After they finish, be an encourager.

As we read God’s Word, we write down a note, and as we meditate on that note, it helps us know God.

12. Discuss the **Daily Bible Reading Challenge: Sessions 11-12 and Thereafter** (p. 255). Encourage the disciples to start on this challenge tomorrow morning.

Explanation:

- This is the tool we encourage the disciples to use to read the Bible through once a year for the rest of their lives.

Committing ourselves to read God’s Word through once a year and meditating on what we read helps us know God.

13. Encourage the disciples to **watch for opportunities to talk about Jesus** and share what God is teaching them.

Explanation: We want to help the disciples become comfortable talking about Jesus in every area of their lives.

14. Call the disciples' attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 166-167).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 166 aloud in class, and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

- **Encourage the disciples to be faithful to God and to meet with Him every day for their quiet times.**

15. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Notes

Leader's Guide With

Author's Notes Session 11

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today. Then you **check and initial** them (p. 168).

Accountability: Checking and initialing their Follow Up sheets each week is training the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12.

3. Read **"For my determined purpose is that I may know Him"** (p. 9). Have someone share his/her **Picture** of one part of this verse and listen as he/she **Prays** it back to God as a personal prayer. **Remind the disciples to keep their focus on Jesus** (Hebrews 12:2).

Reminder: We review Philippians 3:10 AMPC each week for three main reasons:

1. **To keep our eyes focused on Jesus** and Jesus alone and to remind us that **our determined purpose is to know Him**.
2. To remind us that the **disciplines are not an end in themselves. They are simply a means God has given us to know Jesus** deeply, intimately, and personally. Therefore, we practice the disciplines so that we may know Him.
3. **To meditate on the powerful truths** in this verse so that they will move from the page to our heads and then to our hearts **so that we will be transformed into Jesus' likeness**.
4. Ask one person to share then **Ponder, Picture, and Pray** back to God his/her **Sermon or Lesson Notes** (pp. 280-281).

When we pause to meditate on the notes we make while listening as God speaks to us in a sermon, it helps us know Him.

5. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (p. 167).

Explanation:

- Use question 7 on p. 167 to encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.
 - Let someone in the group tell about an experience from the past week when he/she talked with someone about Jesus or shared something God is teaching him/her.
- 6. Read/discuss in detail the study **Saturating My life with Love** (pp. 171-183). As you discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder, Picture, and Pray**.

How can I saturate my life with love for God? (pp. 171-175, section III. A)

Pages 172 c)-173 c) (4): These may be the most important pages in the workbook. Why are these pages so important?

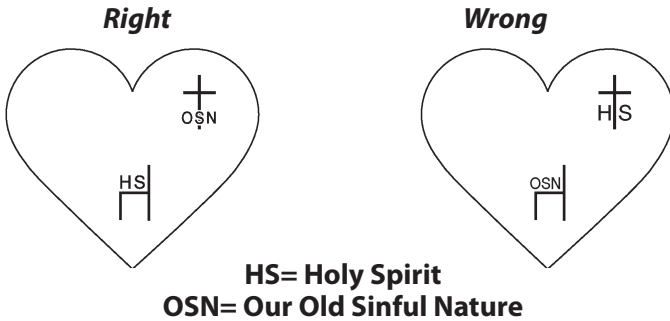
- **They are important because the verses here teach us the importance of yielding to the control of the Holy Spirit and inviting Him to be boss in our lives each day—the keys to living a victorious Christian life.** When He lived here on earth:
 - Jesus didn't sin, and when He is in full control of our lives, we won't either.
 - Jesus made the right decision every time, and when He is in full control of our lives, so will we.
 - Jesus finished the job and fulfilled the purpose for which the Father sent Him. When He is in full control of our lives, so will we.
 - Jesus responded to every crisis and situation in His life just as the Father wanted Him to. When He is in full control of our lives, so will we.
 - Jesus reflected the fruit of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When He is in full control of our lives, so will we.

- **If we learn all the spiritual disciplines and fail to learn to live under God's control, we will be nothing more than legalists.**
- Let's take a closer look at pp. 172-173, section c:
 - The word *yielding* in the first paragraph on line 2 of p. 172, section c (in the middle of the page), is from Romans 6:13, which says, "...yield yourselves unto God..." Another translation says, "...put yourselves in God's hands..." Another translation says, "...put yourselves at the disposal of God..." It is evident God is saying to us that we should let Him be boss of our lives by yielding the control of our lives to Him.
 - John 15:4 NKJV emphasizes several things to us:
 - The phrase "*Abide in Me, and I in you...*" is really talking about making our home in Jesus just as He has made His home in us. It carries with it the idea of sharing life and being at rest and in comfortable fellowship with Jesus.
 - The rest of the verse, "*...As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me,*" is a warning to us that we need to stay in fellowship with Him. We must be diligent about confessing sin immediately and yielding the control of our lives back to Jesus if we want to bear fruit for God.
 - The proof that we are **abiding in Jesus** is our obedience to Him and the Spirit He gave us.

Those who obey His commands live in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us (1 John 3:24 NIV).
- Philippians 2:13 AMPC emphasizes:
 - We do not try to do the work of God in our own strength. If we do, we will fail.
 - When living under God's control:
 - God is at work in us:

- He energizes us.
- He creates in us the power and desire:
 - To want to work for Him.
 - To work for His good pleasure, satisfaction, and delight.
- If we do not have a desire to work for God or bring pleasure, satisfaction, and delight to Him, we have proven that we are not living under His control.
- Galatians 5:22-25 LIV emphasizes:
 - Verses 22-23—There is no question that “...**when the Holy Spirit *controls* our lives He will produce this kind of fruit in us**”:
 - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
 - This is Holy Spirit fruit, and **only the Holy Spirit can produce it in its genuine form.**
 - We are guaranteed that when the Holy Spirit is in control, He will produce this fruit in us.
 - When others see this fruit in us, obviously the Holy Spirit is in control, and we are allowing Him to be boss.
 - When He is not in control of our lives, there will be no genuine Holy Spirit fruit.
- Verse 24—“*Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to His cross and crucified them there.*”
- How do we nail our natural evil desires to His cross and crucify them there?
 - When we yield the control and the throne in our hearts to God, we automatically crucify our old sinful nature because in our heart there are only two positions—the throne and the cross. When our old sinful nature is not on the throne, it must be on the cross.

Illustration:



HS= Holy Spirit
OSN= Our Old Sinful Nature

- Verse 25—"If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."
 - It is our responsibility to:
 - Yield to the Holy Spirit's control.
 - Stay under the control of the Holy Spirit.
 - Make sure that we yield every area of our lives to the Holy Spirit and that nothing has been withheld from His control:
 - No secret rooms or closets in our hearts labeled "Private" or "Do not enter."
 - Allowing us the privilege to live under the control of the Holy Spirit is a great expression of God's love, mercy, and grace toward us.
 - **Our prayer should be** "Lord, I will go anywhere You want me to go and do anything You want me to do; all I want to do is walk in the center of Your will and bring delight, honor, and glory to You with You in control."
 - One thing that proves that we love God is that "... *His commandments are not burdensome*" (1 John 5:3 NKJV).
7. Read/discuss in detail the study **How can I saturate my life with love for others (fellow Christians and the lost)?** (pp. 176 B.-183) As you read and discuss,

occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **P**onder, **P**icture, and **P**ray.

Page 176, section B. 1. a: We can cultivate a love for the lost by seeing them as God sees them in their lost condition.

- How does God see a lost person?
 - “...*living apart from Christ...excluded from God’s people...without God and without hope*” (Ephesians 2:12 NLT).
 - How can we withhold our hearts and our love from someone in that condition?

Pages 177-178, section c, 1-4:

- Emphasize some of the main points from the study.
- Why? The truths discussed there are essential to living a victorious Christian life.

Page 183:

Write down on this page these two things about true love:

1. It is more a reflection than a performance.
 2. It is a choice. I must choose to yield to the control of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to produce love through me.
8. **Ask one person to share and then Ponder, Picture, and Pray back to God one note from his/her Daily Bible Reading Notes** (pp. 252-253).
 9. **Have the disciples quote their memorized verse and put their next memory verse on a new card** (p. 276):
 - Ask each disciple to quote **Proverbs 3:5-6**, and then ask someone to **PPP** Proverbs 3:5-6.
 - Ask each disciple to put **1 John 1:9** on a verse card.
 10. Give the disciples the test on **How to Determine the Quality of My Love** (p. 284). Have them add their points and divide that number by 1.40 to determine the percentage of total possible points. Ask them to

meditate on **(PPP)** how to improve their weak areas by yielding to the control of the Holy Spirit each day.

Explanation: This is a test that will challenge you and reveal to you the quality of your love.

- Hopefully this test will:
 - Make us aware of areas where we are lacking in reflecting God’s love.
 - Remind us that the only standard by which we are to measure our love is the Word of God—Jesus, the living Word, and the Bible, the written Word.
 - Help us understand how incapable we are in our own strength of loving like God loves, while learning how willing God is to reflect His love through us when we yield to His control and allow Him to be boss in our lives.
- Have each one of the disciples use p. 284 in the workbook or take a sheet of paper and set it up as demonstrated below:

	A	B
1.		
2.		
3.		
4-12 {		
13.		
14.		
Total	<div></div> <div></div>	<div></div> <div></div>
	÷	÷
	1.40	1.40
	=	=
	<div> </div> %	<div> </div> %

- Don't put names on your paper, but let *A* represent someone you really think you love and let *B* represent someone it is really hard for you to love.
- Down the left side of the page, number 1 through 14.
- With your *A* and *B* people in mind, go through the test on p. 284, and evaluate yourself using a scale of 1 through 10, with 10 being the highest quality of love in both columns *A* and *B*.
- Total each column and divide the total of each column by 1.40 to get a percentage of the total possible points.
 - You might want to take a small calculator to class to pass around.
- Now draw the group into a discussion. You might ask the disciples some questions like the following:
 - What surprised you most about the results of your test? Explain.
 - Did God show you some weak areas where you need to improve? Tell us about it.
 - Since a biblical principle is *a God-given truth that becomes a basis or reason prompting faith attitudes and actions*, how would we in our own words express the first question as a principle (1 Corinthians 13:4 LIV)?
 - Answer: Love is patient.
 - Now, **how** do we, by faith, allow this God-given truth to change our wrong attitudes and actions?
 1. **Accept responsibility** for our wrong attitudes and actions, and obey God.
 2. **Realize** that it is “(Not in your own strength) for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you—energizing and creating in you the power and desire—both to will and

to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight”
(Philippians 2:13 AMPC).

- Whether it is bearing Holy Spirit fruit or doing the work of ministry, **we cannot** do it without God.
- **God will not** produce Holy Spirit fruit in us unless He is in control of our lives (Galatians 5:22 LIV).
- It is also true that most of the time **God will not** do the work of ministry without us because He has chosen to use us.
- We were created in Christ Jesus to do good works (Ephesians 2:10 NIV), and we have been gifted “*for the perfecting [equipping] of the saints [God’s people], for the work of the ministry [works of service], for the edifying [building up] of the body of Christ*” (Ephesians 4:12).
- Therefore, **God has primarily chosen to do the work of ministry through us.**
- Isaiah said, “*...I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I,*

*Here am I; send me.
And He said, Go...”*
(Isaiah 6:8-9).

- It is both interesting and challenging that **all God had to do with Isaiah was mention a need, and Isaiah volunteered to allow God to meet that need through him.**
3. **Trust God** to complete His work in us of molding and shaping us into His likeness.
 4. **Cooperate with God** through obedience by practicing the spiritual disciplines that make it possible for us to saturate our lives with God’s Word and prayer. As we do this, He will prepare us and use us to bring glory to Himself.
 - Our job is *“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says”* (James 1:22 NIV).
 5. **Meditate (Ponder, Picture, and Pray)** these truths into our hearts because meditating on truth leads to application of truth.
 6. **Yield** the control of our lives to Jesus because when He is in control, He will reflect Himself through us, and He is both truth and love.

- If Jesus were always in control of our lives, our score on this test would always be 100%.
 - How could meditation on the fourteen implied or stated biblical principles in this test help us? Explain.
 - How do you think living under God's control could help us be more loving in our relationships? Explain.
 - **Encourage the disciples to give themselves this test often to check the quality of their love in their relationships.**
 - **Point out that FREE additional "How to Determine the Quality of My Love" pages are available on the website (see p. 288 for details).**
11. Encourage the disciples to **express their love to God three times every hour they are awake this week:** *"I love you, O Lord, my strength"* (Psalms 18:1 NIV).

Explanation:

- When we say, "Lord, I love You," we are praying a prayer of adoration to God.
 - We want to cultivate expressing our love to God throughout the day, every day. This is one way we practice the Principle of Displacement.
 - We want to continue practicing this until it becomes a normal, natural part of us.
12. Encourage the disciples to **watch for opportunities to talk about Jesus** and share what God is teaching them.
- Explanation:** We want to help the disciples become comfortable with talking about Jesus in every area of their lives.
13. Call the disciples' attention to their **Assignment** (pp. 185-187).

Read in class: Allow time to read p. 185 aloud in class, and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

- **Encourage the disciples to be faithful to God and to meet with Him every day for their quiet times.**

14. Close with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and thank God for meeting with you and personally speaking to each one of you.

Leader's Guide With

Author's Notes Session 12

1. Start with prayer.

Model: Invite the disciples to get on their knees with you as you pray together and commit the time to God.

2. Have everyone turn to the **Follow Up** sheet that is due today (p. 188).

Accountability: Checking and initialing their Follow Up sheets each week is training the disciples in the principle of accountability taught in Romans 14:12.

3. Discuss the following question: **Why should we invest our lives in discipleship training?**

Encourage: Help the disciples see the value of investing their lives in allowing God to produce disciple-makers through them because:

1. **It is Jesus' command** that we "*Go and make disciples*" (Matthew 28:19 NIV).
2. **It is what Jesus modeled for us**, and we are to become like Him.
3. **We see it demonstrated in the life of Paul** as he followed the example of Jesus in making disciples. Paul disciplined Timothy, then challenged Timothy to do the same in the lives of others, who are to do the same in the lives of others, etc. "*And the things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*" (2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV).
4. **Making disciples is how we can multiply our ministry** because it pays dividends for eternity. When we make disciples, we are being obedient and accomplishing the purpose for which God gave us life. The ministry He has given us will live on in the lives of those faithful men and women whom we've disciplined as they continue to make disciples. The spiritual multiplication continues through many generations even after we have

been forgotten. **If we are faithful to make disciples and Jesus delays His coming, each one of us could be responsible, through the principle of spiritual multiplication, for millions of people being saved and disciplined before His coming.**

Explanation: The following visual shows what would happen if we invested our lives in making disciples as Jesus taught us. It is God’s plan and the fastest way to reach the world for Christ.

Assumption:

1. The plan for making disciples that Jesus introduced to us assumes that true believers, disciples, will be obedient to Jesus and make disciples.
2. For this visual we will assume that every person disciplined goes on to disciple two people per year until everyone in the world has had the opportunity to be disciplined.

Question: How long would it take for every person in the world (approximately 7.53 billion people in 2017) **to have the opportunity** to become true disciples, learners, and obedient followers of Jesus, if we started with you?

Answer: Between 16 and 16.5 years—see the following visual:

Visual:

Now	1	(You)
.5	Year	2 Disciples
1	Year	4 Disciples
1.5	Years	8 Disciples
2	Years	16 Disciples
2.5	Years	32 Disciples
3	Years	64 Disciples
3.5	Years	128 Disciples

4	Years	256	Disciples
4.5	Years	512	Disciples
5	Years	1,024	Disciples
5.5	Years	2,048	Disciples
6	Years	4,096	Disciples
6.5	Years	8,192	Disciples
7	Years	16,384	Disciples
7.5	Years	32,768	Disciples
8	Years	65,536	Disciples
8.5	Years	131,072	Disciples
9	Years	262,144	Disciples
9.5	Years	524,288	Disciples
10	Years	1,048,576	Disciples
10.5	Years	2,097,152	Disciples
11	Years	4,194,304	Disciples
11.5	Years	8,388,608	Disciples
12	Years	16,777,216	Disciples
12.5	Years	33,554,432	Disciples
13	Years	67,108,864	Disciples
13.5	Years	134,217,728	Disciples
14	Years	268,435,456	Disciples
14.5	Years	536,870,912	Disciples
15	Years	1,073,741,824	Disciples
15.5	Years	2,147,483,648	Disciples
16	Years	4,294,967,296	Disciples
16.5	Years	8,589,934,592	Disciples
17	Years	17,179,869,184	Disciples

Possible responses to Jesus' instruction for us to go make disciples:

1. Everyone is not going to do his/her job, so why should I?
2. I don't have time; let someone else do it.
3. It costs too much.
4. To paraphrase Isaiah's response to the Lord, "Here, I am, Lord. Send me; use me; just let me be involved in something bigger than myself. Lord, I want my life to count for you" (Isaiah 6:8).

4. Ask one person to share then **Ponder, Picture, and Pray** back to God his/her **Sermon or Lesson Notes** (pp. 280-281).

Encourage: After one of the disciples shares a sermon note and then meditates on it for the class, encourage all the disciples to continue with this practice of making notes during sermons. To stop this practice shows that we do not understand the importance of meditation.

5. Discuss the **Assignment Review Questions** (pp. 186-187).

Explanation:

- Use questions 9, 10, and 11 on p. 187 to encourage the disciples to talk to others about Jesus and the things He is teaching them.
 - Let someone in the group tell about an experience from the past week when he/she talked with someone about Jesus or shared something God is teaching him/her.
6. Read/discuss in detail the study **How can I saturate my life with love?** (pp. 191-202) As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder, Picture, and Pray**.

Page 191:

- On this page there are fourteen principles listed that come from 1 Corinthians 13 and show us how to demonstrate our love for others (fellow Christians and the lost).
- Encourage the disciples to meditate on these principles so that the principles will work their way out in their lives in application.

Pages 192-194:

- Each of us is responsible for our fellowship with other Christians and the Christians in our church. **Here are four things that we must work on to maintain a loving fellowship:**

1. **Harmony**
2. **Partnership**
3. **Sharing**
4. **Togetherness**

Page 194, section c) (1):

- “*So everywhere we go we talk about Christ to all who will listen...*” Colossians 1:28 LIV. This is one of the greatest challenges to the true believer in all God’s Word.
- This verse teaches us that we should be prepared to talk about Christ to all who will listen.

Story #1: This is a story about the tragedy of being an unprepared or unwilling witness. When World War II began, Newman was a student in college. Many years later he became our pastor. While he was in college, he had a very close friend. They did everything together. They walked to class together; they spent their free time together; they were the best of friends. When the war started, all the young men in his class went to the recruiting office the next day and joined the army. Newman and his best friend went together, but they were separated and sent to different training camps; therefore, Newman didn’t see his friend again for a long time.

Newman fought in Europe under General Patton. He always seemed to be in the hottest part of the battle. He was promoted to the rank of captain as a front line commander. In his company of 100 men, every man but Newman and three other men had been killed and replaced five times, meaning that almost 500 men had been killed under his command.

One day Newman’s company and other companies from America were involved in taking a city. Newman was standing at the corner of a building when an American soldier ran across an opening and was hit several times by an enemy machine gun. Newman saw what had happened and ran to the man to see whether he could help him. The man was lying with his face down, so Newman rolled him over. To his surprise, it was his best friend from college.

While he was holding his friend in his arms, the friend said, “Help me! Help me!”

“Hold on! The medics are on the way! Help is coming!” Newman replied.

“No,” said Newman’s friend. “Tell me about Jesus.”

Newman later said, “I was such a nominal Christian, that I had never talked to him about Jesus, and I didn’t know what to say.” Tragically, in just a few moments his best friend died in his arms and went out into an eternity without Christ, simply because Newman was unprepared to share the Good News about Jesus.

Story #2: In contrast, here is a challenging story about a prepared and willing witness who served in Newman’s company. Sergeant Beck talked about Jesus to everyone who would listen and was a true witness for Christ. One day orders came down from headquarters for Newman to send a patrol out behind enemy lines, so he went down through his company’s roll and called off the names of the men who were to go out on the patrol.

After the roll was called, Sgt. Beck came to Newman and said, “Sir, may I speak to you as one Christian to another, rather than as a sergeant to a captain?”

“Yes,” Newman answered.

Sgt. Beck said, “Sir, you called the name of a man who is not a Christian to lead this patrol, and you know that these men will be killed and will not come back from this patrol. Therefore, this man will spend an eternity in hell. I have been witnessing to this man, and he is very close to receiving Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. Please don’t send this man on this patrol.”

Newman said, “I am sorry, but I cannot send another mother’s son in his place. Sergeant, you know that we use a rotation system in sending out patrols, and when your name comes up, you must go.”

Sgt. Beck said, “But sir, he will spend eternity in hell.”

“I am sorry, but I have no choice,” Newman flatly stated.

“Yes, you do,” Sgt. Beck replied. “Sir, I volunteer to take his place to lead the patrol.”

Newman told Sgt. Beck that he would have to think about his proposition. He had never encountered a Christian like Sgt. Beck, so he went out behind his tent, got on his knees, and asked God what to do. Then Newman returned and told Sgt. Beck that he would let him take the other man's place.

That night the patrol went out. Enemy flares lit up the sky as the men reached the middle of the river. They were about chest deep in water when enemy machine guns began firing.

Shortly after that, an order came down from headquarters that Newman was to lead his company to attack the enemy. Newman called back to headquarters and said that he could not attack because some of his men were on patrol between his company and the enemy. Headquarters only answered, "It is not your decision. Attack immediately."

Newman obeyed the command, and his men fought for three days and three nights. Once the firing had stopped, Newman called roll. When he called the name of Sgt. Beck, there was no response. He called his name several times, but his words were met only with silence.

Finally, an American soldier with frozen feet stood to attention and said, "Sir, Sgt. Beck was killed by a sniper at the base of hill 317."

After finishing the roll call, Newman went out and found the body of Sgt. Beck. He took his rifle, drove the bayonet into the ground, and placed his helmet on it so that Sgt. Beck's body would be found and given a decent burial.

Newman later said, "Sgt. Beck was my first encounter with a deeply committed Christian, a man who was not only a prepared and willing witness, but a man who was willing to give his life so that a lost man might have another opportunity to receive Christ as his personal Lord and Savior."

- Also on p. 195, section c (2), we find Matthew 28:19 (NIV) where we are instructed to "*...go and make disciples...*" **Making disciples has five parts:**

1. **Go (stated)**—We are not to sit back and passively wait for people to come to us. We are to go to them, and we are to go with a purpose.
2. **Evangelize (implied)—Tell the lost the good news** that “...*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NIV).
 - And then explain how they can have God’s forgiveness, eternal life, heaven, and Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.
 - There are many plans and programs available to help people become more effective witnesses for Christ, and we encourage everyone to get all the training he/she can in witnessing, but witnessing is not that hard. It is simply telling someone else what you know about Whom you know, Jesus. Review **“How can we become more effective in sharing His message?”** (pp. 162-165, section VII)
 - Witnessing takes on a new sense of importance and urgency when we realize that those without Christ are without hope, “...*living apart from Christ... excluded from God’s people...without God and without hope*” (Ephesians 2:12 NLT).
 - *One on One with God* is designed to challenge and encourage the disciples to be involved in being active witnesses for Christ.
3. **Baptize (stated)**—It is our responsibility to emphasize to these new believers the importance of being baptized, as soon as possible, as an act of obedience to our Lord. Immersion in water is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism gives testimony to the fact that this person has been saved and is being an obedient follower of Jesus.

4. **Train (stated)**—Teach and train believers how to know God, how to have a deep and intimate relationship and fellowship with Him, and how to experience the abundant life Jesus spoke of in John 10:10.
5. **Multiply (implied)**—Spiritually reproduce disciples who will make disciples.
 - *One on One with God* is designed to be a “pass-on-able” tool that is so simple to use and yet full of such profound truths that any true believer can use it to make disciples. It is as equally effective in discipling new Christians as it is with people who have been Christians for a long time.

Page 196 (5):

- “...*Be always ready with your defense whenever you are called to account for the hope that is in you...*” (1 Peter 3:15 NEB).
- When we understand that the Bible is the best commentary on itself, we know that this verse is not emphasizing that we should passively sit in our homes and wait for people to come to us so that we can tell them about Jesus. This may occasionally happen, but the instruction we have from God is to **GO TELL** (Matthew 22:9 and 28:19; Mark 5:19; Luke 15:4-7; John 15:16; and many others).
- What 1 Peter 3:15 is really teaching us is that we should always be prepared to share why we have hope. We make ourselves accessible by going to others, and we try to create an atmosphere through our questions that will encourage our listeners to ask about our hope—or, at least, to be open to our sharing.

Story: Years ago we were having nightly revival meetings in our church for one week. I was visiting some of the homes in our area and inviting the people to our services. I knocked on one door, and although the screen was locked, no one came to the door, so I knocked again. I heard some commotion inside and then heard someone say in a gruff voice, “What do you want?” I identified myself and told him the name of our church and that I had just come by to visit with him.

When he opened the door, it was apparent that he had been drinking. I talked to him a few moments and then asked him whether he would like to go to the revival with me the next evening. He paused for a moment then said, "I can't go; my pants are dirty."

"Go get them," I said, "and I will take them to the cleaners and bring them back to you in time for you to go with me tomorrow night."

This surprised the man, and he seemed to be more sober. He said, "Would you do that?"

"Yes," I told him.

So he opened the door and invited me in. He and I went back to a room where he pulled out an old cardboard box, and he began looking for his slacks. Finally, he found them, and I took them.

That evening after we got home from the revival service, our Minister of Education called and asked whether I knew a man whom he called "John." It was the same man I had visited earlier that evening. He proceeded to tell me how John had walked into our church after the service and said, "I've got to get saved." The evangelist, Eddie Martin, had taken John into the pastor's study and explained how to become a Christian. John had prayed to receive Christ. I was very excited.

With John's clean slacks in hand, I went to pick him up for the next evening's services. There was a note on his screen door that said, "Leave my pants. I can't go." The front screen was locked, so I kept knocking until John finally came to the door. He was so ashamed. One of his friends had come by during the day and offered him a drink, and John had taken it.

I took him to get some coffee, and either that night or the next night John went with me to the revival services with the intention of making his decision public. Just as the invitation started, I prayed, "Lord, I don't know whether or not John's decision was real, so if it was real and you want him to go forward during the invitation, have him ask me when to go forward."

I had no sooner prayed than John standing beside me said, "Do we go now?"

“John,” I said, “do you want everyone in this church to know that you have trusted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?”

John looked at me very sternly and said, “That’s why I came, isn’t it?”

“Yes, John,” I told him. “That’s why you came.”

We responded to the invitation so that John could make his decision public. John was baptized to show that he was a follower of Jesus, and shortly after that he became a custodian in our church. Those were the happiest days of John’s life. He died a few years after his conversion, probably a result of his many years of drinking, although he was just in his early forties. It is exciting for me to know that someday I will see John in heaven.

- **Why tell you this long story?**

- **There are many people like John who will not come until we go to invite them.**
- **Sometimes we might have to take an old pair of pants to be cleaned to show that we care.**
- **If we don’t demonstrate our love for John and others like him through witnessing, who will?**
- **Doesn’t everyone deserve the opportunity to know Jesus personally as Lord and Savior?**

Story: One day when I was visiting the lost and people who were not involved in a church in our area, a man said to me, after he had prayed to receive Christ, “Thank you! I was hoping that someday someone would come to tell me more about Jesus.”

Page 196, 4:

- When are we to saturate our lives with love for fellow Christians and the lost and then demonstrate that love for them?
- Answer = TODAY!

- How can we saturate our lives with love for fellow Christians and the lost and then faithfully demonstrate that love for them?
- **Answer = YIELD TO THE CONTROL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! When He is in control, He can reflect His love through us.**

7. Read/discuss in detail the study **How can I saturate my life with love for God and others?** (pp. 198-202) As you read and discuss, occasionally stop and give the disciples an opportunity to **Ponder, Picture, and Pray.**

Pages 198-202:

Explanation: “Having a Christ-centered love for myself and accepting myself just as I am” is very important because Satan is constantly attacking us. His plan is to destroy us by either making us feel proud or too self-conscious about our failures and feelings.

- We can counter Satan’s attacks when we remember God’s promises and His goodness. We can switch from defense to offense by practicing the Principle of Displacement (pp. 142-143)—continually expressing our love to God and thanking Him for His many promises to us in this study. As we do this:
 - We displace Satan’s negative thoughts from our minds with our thoughts of adoration and thanksgiving to God.
 - We begin to see ourselves from God’s perspective.
 - We see how God values us.
 - Someone said, “I used to have an inferiority complex, but now I recognize that it is not just a complex. I *am* inferior, so I simply yield to His control and cooperate with Him as He changes me into the person He wants me to be.”

Encourage:

- The person you are discipling or someone in the group you are discipling may be mad at God because of how He made them. He/she may see himself/herself as unattractive, or placed in an abusive home, or not shown love or respect, or given poor health. Maybe he/she doesn't even know why he/she is angry at God.
 - As you go through this study, ask *everyone* to meditate silently on each verse. Pause to let different disciples meditate aloud on each verse. You may see a miracle as he/she **Ponders, Pictures, and Prays** each of these verses back to God as a personal prayer while you and the others listen.
 - It is hard to meditate on these verses and without seeing that:
 - **God loves us deeply.**
 - **God has a great plan for our lives** regardless of circumstances or the past.
 - **It is not too late.** We can get in on God's plan for the rest of our lives, starting today.
 - **Life for the Christian is from this point forward.** Life with Jesus is a journey. Take the next step.
 - **God cares** and is concerned about every detail of our lives.
 - **God gave us life for a purpose.** We are on a mission for God while here on earth.
8. **Ask one person to share and then Ponder, Picture, and Pray back to God one note from his/her Daily Bible Reading Notes** (pp. 252-253).
9. **Have the disciples quote their memorized verse and put their next memory verse on a new card** (p. 276).
- Ask each disciple to quote **1 John 1:9**, and then ask someone to **PPP 1 John 1:9**.

- Ask each disciple to put **Romans 3:23** on a verse card.

Encourage:

- Ask them to share with you how they have benefited from memorizing scripture.
- Ask the disciples to continue to memorize scripture for the rest of their lives.

10. Discuss the **Daily Bible Study Challenge After Session 12** (p. 255).

Encourage the disciples to continue Bible study on their own. Encourage them to set some goals and move at their own pace.

11. Discuss **Helps in Personal Bible Study** (p. 204).

Encourage: There is nothing quite like digging into God's Word (Bible study) and discovering priceless nuggets of truth on your own.

12. Discuss **Methods of Bible Study** (pp. 205-238):

- By chapters
- By books
- Through biography
- By paragraphs
- By words
- By verses
- By topics

Encourage:

- As you discuss the above methods of Bible study in class, encourage the disciples to start these studies on their own and to continue studying God's Word for the rest of their lives. Tell them:
 - Don't expect to fill every line on the outline provided.
 - Ask God to help you, and do what you can.
 - At first, do the studies that are easiest for you.
 - Set some goals and move at your own pace.
 - Remember: our purpose in doing Bible study is that we may know Jesus more deeply, intimately, and personally.

13. Discuss **Helpful Bible Study Tools** (pp. 239-244).

Explanation:

- In these pages you will find information on:
 - Recommended study Bibles
 - Recommended resources
 - Bible translation summaries
 - Free internet access to Bible study resources
- 14. Encourage the disciples to **express their love to God three times every hour they are awake this week:** *“I love you, O Lord, my strength”* (Psalms 18:1 NIV).
 - Encourage the disciples to continue practicing this for the rest of their lives.
- 15. Encourage the disciples to **watch for opportunities to talk about Jesus** and share what God is teaching them.

Explanation:

- We want to help the disciples become comfortable with talking about Jesus in every area of their lives.
 - Encourage them to practice this for the rest of their lives.
16. Review the disciples’ **Assignment** (pp. 245-247).

Read in class: Allow time to read pp. 245-247 aloud in class and confirm that everyone understands the assignment.

- Encourage the disciples to continue practicing the things they have learned over the past twelve weeks for the rest of their lives.
 - Encourage them to be faithful to God and to meet with Him every day for their quiet times for the rest of their lives.
 - Discuss item 9 on p. 246. See if your group is willing to meet once a month for the next seven months for accountability and to encourage each other.
17. Close with prayer.

Final Story: Preacher Hallock used to tell the story of eagles that built their nests and raised their young on small ledges, high in the mountains. When the young were old enough to fly, the parents simply destroyed the nests. The message was simple but direct. It is time to fly.

- We hope your group will continue to meet once a month for the next seven months. Encourage each other and hold each other accountable for the spiritual disciplines you have been practicing for the last twelve weeks. At the same time, we hope you will “...go and make disciples...” It is time to fly.

18. Give each person a blank sheet of paper and have him/her write out and give you his/her response to the following question: **How did God find you twelve weeks ago, and how does He find you today?**

Explanation:

- This gives the disciples an opportunity to think back over the last twelve weeks about what God has done in their lives.
- It will be a blessing to them and an encouragement to you.
- Remember that God is the one who must transform the lives, and we are only the messengers. Never become discouraged if someone rejects the message.
- Give the disciples paper to write down their thoughts. Once they have finished, take up the papers.
- It will encourage the person who discipled you if you share these testimonies with him/her.

Notes



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