

Walking with God

An Essential 13-lesson Practical Series
to establish a living relationship with God
for Old and New Christians

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Walking With God

Introduction

This series is the result of a burden I felt on my 45th year of full-time ministry with PP. I was consumed with thoughts of my legacy and grappled with this question: What if after four decades of ministry at PP, the members were not equipped with the basic, foundational, vital blocks of faith?

This spurred me to sit down and work out a series of 13 lessons which is now an essential practical Bible class series to establish a living relationship with God (for old and new Christians.)

About this series

I have prepared 4 types of guides for this series:

1. The *teacher's guide* with helpful tips.
2. A *student's workbook* containing the 13 lessons.
3. 13 *Powerpoints* with additional points, for teaching
4. *MP4 videos* of the narration powerpoints with audio commentary for self learning.

How to use these materials

1. For self-study - use the mp4 videos of the narrated powerpoints. These videos can be uploaded to your PC, notebook, iPad or handphone. This is a good tool for Christians who want to grow in faith or are struggling with health and other problems.
2. For 1-on-1 teaching - use the powerpoints to teach (translate or modify according to the need), When a powerpoint capable device is not available, use the student notes.
3. For classes and small groups - I have used these lessons effectively with small groups as well as classes of over a hundred students.
4. For mission trips - this material is currently being translated into Mandarin, Bahasa Indonesia and Telugu. Additional materials on 'Have you heard the good news of Christianity?', 'Have you discovered the joy of Christianity?' are included on the appendix.

To God be the Glory

These materials are not copyrighted. Please feel free to copy or translate them for your own use. If you have any questions or comments, I would be happy to hear from you. Just send me an email at henry@ppcoc.org.

- Henry Kong
23rd March 2011

What is Walking with God?



Preparation:

As this is the first lesson, browse through the entire 13 lessons to get a feel of the material that will be shared during this series.

-----For Your Notes -----

Reflection:

What does 'Walking with God' mean to you? Which Bible character comes to mind? Do you feel that walking with God is for every Christian or just a select few?

Introduction:

Many Christians mistake their faith as a membership in a social club instead of a living relationship, and a daily walk with God.

Main Points:

1. We are called to be disciples (learners) - *"Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"* - Matthew 28:19.
2. We are to love God more than any other - *"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple"* - Luke 14:26.
3. We are to bear our cross - *"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple"* - Luke 14:27.
4. To bear our cross, we need to understand Matthew 11:29-30 - *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;*

for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

5. To be yoked with Christ, we must walk in the light - *"If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin"* - 1 John 1:6-7.

6. Our walk is not so much a route, but a relationship with a person - *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me"* - John 14:6.

7. As a result, we can say like David - *"Yea, tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me"* - Psalm 23:4.

Points to Ponder:

1. Is your Christian life recharged daily?
2. In what ways have you grown each week?
3. Can you describe your Christian walk to a newer Christian?

Application:

This week, make a special effort to "walk the talk". Do not allow your faith to drift - *"walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God"* - Colossians 1:10.

Sharing:

Take note of actions or decisions you made. Is there a story or lesson that reflects your Christian walk that you can share with your family or another? Jot it down (before you forget) and consciously seek out 1 or 2 persons to share it with.



-----For Your Notes -----

Who is God?

Preparation:

If you were to introduce your God to a friend, could you describe Him in a few sentences? Try it. Then compare it with what you have learned after this lesson.

Reflection:

Too often we each have our own idea or image of who God really is. Over the years, we have created a god in our own image who will dance to our every whim and bidding. We need to go back to the Bible to rediscover who God really is.

Introduction:

If our concept of God is an old man in the sky, international policeman or some genie in a lamp then we worship a god who is too small and cannot help us with our real problems and needs.

Main Points:

1. God is a Spirit - *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"* - John 4:24.
2. God is holy - *"Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy"* - 1 Peter 1:16.
3. God is way higher than us - *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* - Isaiah 55:9.
4. God is Love - *"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him"* - 1 John 4:16.

5. God is Gracious - *"And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil" - Jonah 4:2.*

6. God is interested in us - *"The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron" - Psalms 115:12.*

7. God wants us to walk with Him - *"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" - Micah 6:8.*

Points to Ponder:

1. What kind of God do you worship? Describe it in a few words.
2. Is your God real? Or is He someone that you make up through fantasy and wishful thinking?
3. Which of the 7 characteristics of God is missing from your previous depiction of God?

Application:

Take time each day this week to focus on one characteristic of God. Search other passages from the Bible that describe Him and deeply impress them in your heart.

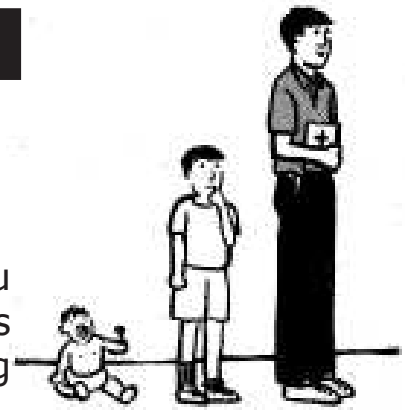
Sharing:

Compare the God of the Bible with the gods of our multi-religious country. Take time to share our God with those who are religious, yet uncertain of who the real God who created them truly is.

Who is Man?

Preparation:

Take a look at yourself in the mirror. What do you see? Do you like what you see? Of all of God's creation, He has chosen to make you His crowning glory. Think about that!



-----For Your Notes -----

Reflection:

There is not just one person, but 3 persons in every man. First, the person he sees himself as. Then the person others see him as. Thirdly, his true person and how God sees him - 1 Samuel 16:7 - *"For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."*

Introduction:

One of the most difficult concepts of the Bible for mere man to accept is that an almighty and all-powerful God would spare a thought for a sinful, fallen race of mankind - *"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"* - Psalms 8:4.

Main Points:

1. All man is created in God's image - *"God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them* - Genesis 1:27.
2. All men are equal - *"My brothers, don't hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory with partiality"* - James 2:1.
3. Man is given free moral agency - *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. for in the day that you eat of it you will*

surely die" - Genesis 2:16-17.

4. Man has a tendency to sin - *"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"* - Genesis 6:5.

5. Man is void without God - *"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God"* - Psalms 42:1.

6. Man has a limited lifespan - *"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away"* - Psalms 90:10.

7. Man will face eternal judgment - *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad"* - 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Points to Ponder:

1. God has given us a choice - every day by what we decide, to choose to honour or dishonour Him.
2. If we know that our days are numbered, how are we preparing for our final destiny?
3. Are we too concerned about the length of our lives that we do little about the breadth and height?

Application:

Our fallen world judges at a person by his wealth, influence and even skin colour. Yet we know that we are all equal. If we don't know this now, we will find out in heaven.

Sharing:

Take time to reach out and befriend someone whom you did not previously deem to be of worth or importance.



How to Study the Bible?

Preparation:

When was the last time you read through the entire Bible? Every Christian should read through the Old Testament once every year, and the New Testament at least twice. Prepare yourself for a great exploration by diligently studying the Bible.

-----For Your Notes -----

Reflection:

Every time you read a passage from the Bible, insert that verse under one of 3 categories - is it a:

- commandment that I should obey?
- example I should learn lessons from?
- teaching that I should understand?

Introduction:

Many Christians do not give priority to the study of the Bible. As a result, their faith is weak and they speak without certainty or conviction.

Main Points:

1. Daily Devotion: Psalms 1:2 - *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night".*
2. Learn what you can: Isaiah 28:10 - *"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little".*
3. Understand the Bible in its context: 2 Timothy 2:15 - *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*
4. Study the Word: Acts 17:11 - *"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received*

the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

5. Meditate on the Word: Joshua 1:8 - *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*

6. Memorize the Word: Psalms 119:11 - *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

7. Share the Word: 2 Timothy 2:2 - *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."*

Points to Ponder:

1. The 7 main points are presented in order of maturity - where are you in the list?
2. Which of the 7 methods do you practise least? Explain the reason for these gaps.
3. Have you ever shared the Word with another?

Application:

Jesus was able to ward off the devil during His temptation because He committed the scriptures to memory. Will you start to do so - even if it is a verse a week?

Sharing:

Practise the simple 3 column Bible study method:

1. Copy the verse in the first column.
2. Write what you think it means in the second column.
3. Think of its application on the third.

Try it, it is simple yet effective especially if you are sharing a passage with a small group.

Tools to Sharpen Your Sword

Preparation:

Visit a book store or Christian college and check out the Bible study section. If you do not have time, just browse the church library.

Reflection:

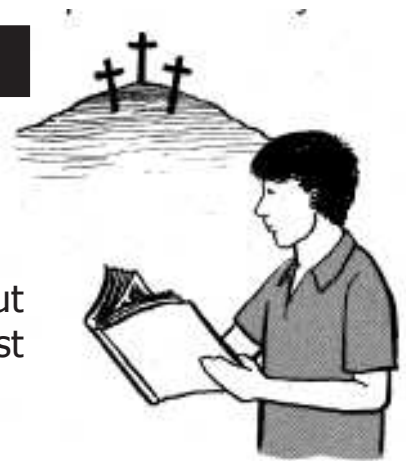
While the Bible is not a difficult book to understand, some of the gems of the Bible can only be uncovered through searching, studying and sharpening the sword of God's word.

Introduction:

Many Christians sail through their Christian lives with little more than just the Bible. While it is possible to get to heaven, the journey can be more meaningful with a better understanding and appreciation of the Bible.

Main Points:

1. Versions of the Bible: English readers are fortunate to have a vast variety. Recommended: comparative 4-version Bible.
2. Study Bibles: Many editions available - choose one that suits you best. Recommended: *Thomson Chian Reference Study Bible*.
3. Bible Handbooks: An easy way to get an outline and background of the Bible. Recommended: *Halley's Bible Handbook*.
4. Word Study: Gives you the original context without the need to study Hebrew or Greek. Recommended: *Word Pictures in the New Testament* by A.T. Robertson.
5. Bible Dictionary or encyclopedia: Helps you to understand the meaning of Bible words. Recommended: *Vines Complete Expository Dictionary*.



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6. Commentary: Go for the classics and volumes by a group of writers eg IVP (Inter Varsity Press), although single commentators like William Barclay and Burton Coffman are fine.

7. The internet is a powerful tool for Bible study. Use Google to search for questions and research materials. However, do your personal study first before using the internet. Check out PP's resource centre for materials and links in English and Chinese.

Points to Ponder:

1. There are many more Bible tools that I have not mentioned. Which are the ones that you think should be added to this list?
2. If you find your Bible study becoming stale, why not use another version? It will bring new life and insight in your study and devotion.
3. Which one of these 7 Bible tools do you currently use? Share your experiences.

Application:

Get an iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch: there are many free Bible tools that you can carry to the classroom or church.

Sharing:

To illustrate how important it is to dig deeper, consider this passage - John 21:15-17 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, agape thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I philo thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, agape thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I philo thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, philo thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, philo thou me?

This insight is not evident in the English Bible.



Types of Prayers

Preparation:

Just as there are different kinds of praise and worship, there are different types of prayers. Is your prayer life mono-prayer or multi-prayer? Think about this for a moment.

Reflection:

Do a concordance search on prayers in the Bible. What kind of prayers are they? Classify and relate them to your own prayer life.

Introduction:

Many Christians think that there is only one type of prayer. In this lesson we take a look at 7 of the most common prayer occasions found in the Bible.

Main Points:

1. Prayer before Sleeping: Psalms 55:17 - *"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."*
2. Prayer before Food: Luke 9:16 - *"Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude."*
3. Morning Prayer: Psalms 118:24 - *"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."*
4. All-night Prayer: Luke 6:12 - *"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."*
5. Prayer Walk: Joshua 6:3-4 - *"And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the*

-----For Your Notes -----

city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets."

6. Seasons of Prayer: Matthew 4:2 - *"And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred."*

7. Unceasing Prayer: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - *"Pray without ceasing."*

Points to Ponder:

1. Which one of these 7 prayers have you participated in? Share your experiences.
2. Which one would you like to do more of? Explain.
3. Fasting has often been linked with intense prayer. Search the Bible for such references.

Application:

Nothing in this world is as powerful as prayer. If you have not done so, start today to keep a journal of your prayer requests. Review it often to see how God is working in your walk with Him.

Sharing:

Sometimes we hear people making this statement: *"the least I could do is to pray"*. Actually, the most you can do in any situation is to pray. Prayer moves the hand that moves the world. Make a list of people you can pray for or use a ready list like a church directory and pray for each by name - *"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you"* - 1 Samuel 12:23.

Levels of Prayers



-----For Your Notes -----

Preparation:

What is prayer to you? Do you pray only when you have a need or do you pray like Daniel, on a regular basis? Daniel 6:10 *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

Reflection:

Which of these do you dwell upon most in your prayers: petition, intercession, confession, adoration or thanksgiving? Why?

Introduction:

Many Christians take prayer for granted and do not grow in this devotion. Here are 7 levels of prayers for your consideration.

Main Points:

1. Confession: Luke 18:13 - *"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."*
2. Supplication: Matthew 6:11 - *"Give us this day our daily bread."*
3. Petition: 1 Samuel 12:23 - *"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you."*
4. Thanksgiving: 1 Timothy 2:1 - *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."*

5. Adoration: Luke 11:2 - *"And Jesus said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."*

6. Watch: Mark 13:33 - *"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."*

7. Wait: Psalms 130:5 - *"I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope."*

Points to Ponder:

1. How would you rate your personal prayer life?
2. Describe the ways that your prayer level has grown.
3. Do you agree with the 7 levels of prayer? Would you reorder them or add/subtract from the above list?

Application:

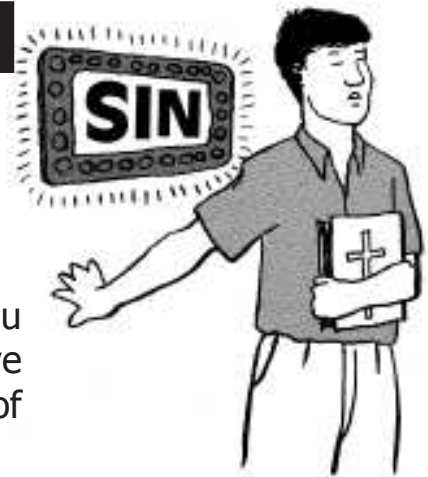
It has been said that prayer is something we talk about more than we actually practice. Do you agree? In what ways can you *"pray without ceasing"* (I Thess. 5:17) this week?

Sharing:

Jesus says in Matthew 17:20 - *"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."*

Since prayer is so powerful, do not stop praying for family members and friends who are out of Christ. With man it may be impossible, but not with God - *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."* - Ephesians 3:20.

Kinds of Devotion



-----For Your Notes -----

Preparation:

Take a quick peep at today's lesson. Since you became a Christian, which types of devotion have you been involved in? Go through the benefits of each.

Reflection:

What comes to mind when you think of devotion? How do these words connect with devotion in your mind: passion, commitment, love, relationship?

Introduction:

There are many kinds of devotion. As we grow in faith and understanding, may we grow in our devotion as well.

Main Points:

1. We start our devotional life with a realisation that our day begins with God. *"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"* - Psalms 118:24.
2. We live in accordance to this devotion by choosing to live the day for God. *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"* - 1 John 1:7.
3. This devotion is kept active when we are conscious of God's presence throughout the day. *"Pray without ceasing"* -1 Thessalonians 5:17.
4. To help us start the day right, a daily personal quiet time is essential. Use a guide like Daily Care. Ideally done in the morning, if not, at lunch. But don't let too much of the day slide by without His word. *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"* - Psalms 119:11.

5. Giving thanks before meals is a very natural way to express our faith and give glory to God. This is one of the best ways for our friends to know that we are Christians. *"And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would"* - John 6:11.

6. Regular family devotions keep everyone focused on the Lord. A good time to do it is at dinner - after eating but before clearing the table.

7. Preparing and participating in the Sunday worship services is essential in building up our faith - Hebrews 10:25, John 4:24, 1 Corinthians 11:30, 14:15 and Acts 20:9.

Points to Ponder:

1. What are the obstacles that prevent you from having a daily devotion or a family devotion?
2. What ways can you prepare for the Sunday worship? How do you prepare the children?
3. What do you think is the problem of the devotion of people who cannot be punctual, who leave before the close of the worship and cannot be regular at worships?

Application:

Use the Daily Care to jot down sermon outlines and then file it for future reference.

Sharing:

When couples are courting and devoted to each other, they cannot help but keep in touch on a daily basis. Do you think our lack of devotional lifestyle is a reflection of the state of our relationship with God? Consider David's passion in Psalms 122:1 when he expressed - *"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

Personal Devotion



Preparation:

Look back at your Christian life. Besides church worships and family devotions, have you participated in any other personal devotion? List them.

Reflection:

Devotion is who you really are when no one is watching except God: Matthew 6:6 *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

-----For Your Notes -----

Introduction:

The core of our faith is devotion. Here are 7 levels that we can aspire to grow and excel in.

Main Points:

1. We start at the gospel call: Luke 9:23 - *"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."*
2. The only way we can succeed in living up to this call is a dependence on God with a fervent prayer lifestyle, like Daniel - *"he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime"* - Daniel 6:10.
3. Is there a special need? Something troubling us or our friends? Take time to fast and pray. You can skip one or more meals but drink plenty of water. *"And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting"* - Mark 9:29.

4. The Bible abounds with examples of people of God making vows to God. If you are moved to do so, it can be a great time of devotion and partnership with God. Vows can be conditional, partnership or time-based.

5. God has blessed us with so much. Take inventory and see how much of these blessings you are using for God. Is He satisfied? *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings"* - Malachi 3:8.

6. The result of a heart that is truly devoted to God is a burden for souls. Are you reaching out daily? *"Also 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"* - Isaiah 6:8.

7. Hannah offered her son, Samuel in service to God. You can offer your time, talents and service to God as a teacher, elder or full-time worker.

Points to Ponder:

1. Vow of dedication: *"And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow"* - 1 Samuel 1:21.
2. Conditional vow: *"And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands..."* - Judges 11:30.
3. Vow based on God's blessing: *"And she vowed a vow, and said..."* - 1 Samuel 1:11.

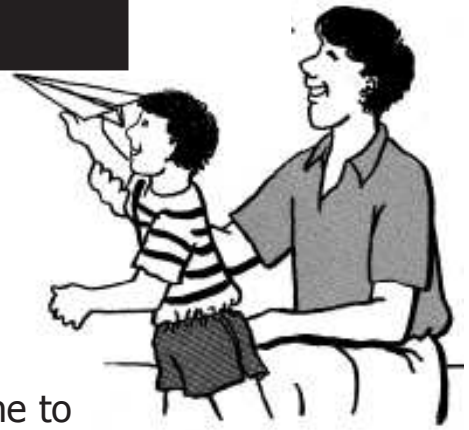
Application:

Revive your devotion to God. Start at level 1 and move up from there. Don't be stagnant.

Sharing:

Is there someone you know who is irregular or absent from worship services? Start to pray for them today. Then reach out to help them.

ABC's of Discipling



Preparation:

Have you ever played a part in winning someone to Christ? There is no greater gift we can offer anyone than the gift of salvation.

-----For Your Notes -----

Reflection:

So many times we spend so much effort in winning someone to Christ. Then as soon as they obey the Lord in baptism, we halt all efforts. Baptism is just the beginning. We need to disciple this new baby until he/she is able to win another.

Introduction:

Many Christians do not reach out to others because they think it is too difficult. Today, we offer you the ABC's of discipling.

Main Points:

1. A for Acceptance. It is so important that as we reach out for Christ, we do not have any expectations of the person that we are reaching out to, other than the fact that he is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).
2. Meet his needs where he is - *"And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool"* - James 2:3.
3. B for Belief. We must believe that this person is created as a free moral agent and has the right to accept or reject the gospel. *"And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!"* - Luke 18:24.

4. Use every event and opportunity to help him/her learn more of the gospel - Care teams, camps, Open Bible Study etc. If he is willing, invite him/her to Bible class and worship.

5. C for Care. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Touch them with the love of Jesus. Remember their birthdays and keep in touch.

6. Why some of our soul-winning efforts fail:

- We do not build a relationship
- We give up too soon
- We expect immediate results.

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" - 1 Corinthians 3:6.

7. D for Discipling. We are not commissioned to just baptise, but to make disciples - *"Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* - Matthew 28:19.

Points to Ponder:

1. What are some obstacles that have prevented you from sharing the gospel?
2. Would you be more effective if you left the results to God?
3. Is it difficult for you to accept another person as he/she is without attempting to change them?

Application:

This week, make a special effort to start on the ABC's of discipling. *"And God is able to make all grace abound unto you; that ye, having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work"* - 2 Corinthians 9:8.

Sharing:

Reach out to one soul this week - before this material is tucked away somewhere.



Circle of Influence

Preparation:

Everyone has influence: either for good or bad. Take a piece of paper and in 10 minutes, compile the names of people that you can influence.

Reflection:

Have you ever wondered why some Christians' faith never seem to take off? After being Christians for many years, they do not have any close Christian buddies? It is so sad to see them slip in for worship and then slip out alone after that!

-----For Your Notes -----

Introduction:

The church is the called-out body of Christ. Jesus has placed us in the church so that we may find encouragement and give encouragement to others. 1 Corinthians 12:25 *But that the members should have the same care one for another.*

Main Points:

1. Select a person to influence this year. This is your first circle of influence. This person could be:

- A new friend
- A member or visitor
- Relative, neighbour, colleague
- Someone you can invite to church.

2. What you should do every month:

- Pray for this person
- Keep in touch socially
- Service this person like a client/prospect
- Goal is not conversion but friendship

"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly"

- Proverbs 18:24.

3. Next, select a Christian to be your prayer partner for the year, preferably of the same sex.

- Start by sms-ing requests and sharing concerns.

- Get together for breakfast fellowships and prayer walks etc. *"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven"* - Matthew 18:19.

4. Finally, find a person to mentor. This person can be anyone from the church or outside.

- Again, choose someone of the same gender if possible.
- Key is to encourage his/her faith
- Get him/her to be more involved.

5. Find opportunity to do 1-on-1 studies with this person. Do not break this tie until this person becomes a soul-winner. Hebrews 5:12 , 2 Timothy 2:2.

6. Result: 3 persons a year; 30 persons in 10 years - you will never walk alone.

7. God wants us to use our influence. *"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men"* - Matthew 5:13.

Points to Ponder:

1. Can a Christian be a loner?
2. Is there someone we can be accountable to?
3. Who do we go to when we need spiritual help?

Application:

What kind of legacy will we be leaving behind? Start now by building on the only thing we can bring with us to heaven - souls!

Sharing:

Start today to prepare a list from which to choose the first 3 persons in your circle of influence.

The Church is the Bride of Christ



Preparation:

Some Christians think that as long as they have a personal relationship with God, they do not need to bother about the church. How surprised they will be when Christ returns, He will not be looking for individuals but for His bride, the church! (Ephesians 5:27, Revelations 21:2).

-----For Your Notes -----

Reflection:

Scan through a concordance for the 'one another' passages in the New Testament. Study it from the perspective of the responsibility amongst members of the church.

Introduction:

Understand that the church is the 'called out body'.
"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" - 1 Peter 2:9.

Main Points:

1. Jesus is the founder of the church - *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* - Matthew 16:18.
2. When we render obedience to the gospel, we are added to Christ's church - *"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"* - Acts 2:47.
3. We are to worship, grow and serve together in the church (1 Corinthians 12) - *"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord"* - Ephesians 2:21.

4. God works through no other institutions today except the church - *"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God"* - Ephesians 3:10. (Read also Ephesians 3:21).

5. We are to build scripturally organized congregations in every location - *"And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed"* - Acts 14:23.

6. Members are to be subjected to the church - *"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican"* - Matthew 18:17.

7. When we despise, divide and hurt the church, we are doing it to our Lord Jesus - *"And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"* - Acts 9:4
(cf Acts 8:3; 1 Corinthians 15:9).

Points to Ponder:

1. What does the church mean to Christ?
2. What does the church mean to you?
3. Are you willing to devote your life to the church, and even die for it like Christ did?

Application:

1. Do you put your own interests above that of the church?
2. Are you willing to bear and forbear, patiently working and serving to build the church?
3. Do I insist on my own way and take my ball home when others do not go along with my thinking?

Sharing:

Use a concordance and revisit 'church' passages.

People who walked with God

Preparation:

Compare the characteristics that we discussed in the past 9 lessons with these people who walked with God. Which ones stand out in your mind?

Reflection:

Think of it - mere mortal men walking with God. What a privilege, what a blessing!

Introduction:

Hebrews 11:16 *But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*

Main Points:

1. Enoch - *"And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him"* - Genesis 5:22-24.
2. Abraham - *"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God"* - James 2:23.
3. Moses - *"And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by"* - Exodus 33:22.
4. Elijah - *"And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven"* - 2 Kings 2:11.



-----For Your Notes -----

5. Isaiah - *"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple"* - Isaiah 6:1.

6. Paul - *"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter"* - 2 Corinthians 12:2-4.

7. John - *"And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last"* - Revelation 1:17.

Points to Ponder:

1. Does walking with God appeal to you?
2. What is it like for a mortal being to touch eternity?
3. Not all of us may have a 'third heaven' vision, but we may have been through a 'Damascus' experience. Describe yours.

Application:

Since this is the last class in the series, browse through these lessons and make a list of the growth activities that you want to apply yourself to.

Sharing:

Has any of the lessons in this series touched a responsive cord in your heart? If so, take time to share it with another or your Care team.

Appendix 1 - Good News of Christianity

The Good News of Christianity

"In the beginning, God..." Gen. 1:1 - The first four words of the Bible reveals that God existed right at the beginning.

"God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:18 - God was not aloof nor inactive. He created both heaven and earth.

"So God created man in His own image." Genesis 1:27 - Of all the things God has created, only mankind was created to be like Him.

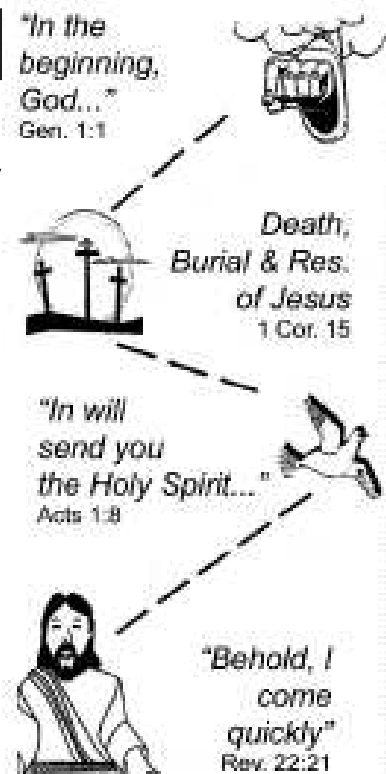
"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth." Genesis 6:5 - Although mankind received every good thing from God, he strayed from Him and became full of wickedness.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son..." John 3:16 - To help us return to God, God became flesh in the person of Jesus and showed us the right way to live.

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." John 1:11 - Instead of accepting Jesus, the world spurned Him and eventually got rid of Him by nailing Him on a cross.

"Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures." I Corinthians 15:3 - In dying on the cross Jesus took the penalty for our wickedness and redeemed us from our sin.

"And that He was buried, and arose again the third day." I Corinthians 15:4 - The grave could not hold Jesus. He proved all He had said and promised by rising from the dead.



-----For Your Notes -----

Appendix 1 - Good News of Christianity *For Your own Notes*

"Ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you..." Acts 1:8 - After Jesus died, was buried and resurrected from the dead, He promised to send His followers the Holy Spirit.

"Repent ye, and be baptized...and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

- Mankind can receive the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit when he turns from his wickedness and is baptized.

"For if we live after the flesh, ye shall die." Romans 8:13 - To continue to live without God, we bring pain and sorrow to our lives while we live, and then die without any hope.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14 - However, we can change our lives by following what the Holy Spirit would have us do to become children of God.

"And the Spirit and the bride say, come." Revelation 22:17 - The Holy Spirit together with Jesus and the bride invites you to turn from your present lifestyle and come to God.

"And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17 -The choice is yours to make. The rewards are great, but no one can force you to make this change.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him." Revelation 3:20 - Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart even as you read this. Will you open your door to Him while there is still time?

"Surely I come quickly." Revelation 22:20 - On the day that Jesus returns, it will be too late. The good news is that it is not too late now. Will you accept the good news of Christianity today?

The Joy of Christianity



Have you discovered the joy of Christianity?

If not, allow me to share it with you for the next few minutes...-----For Your Notes -----

I was not always a Christian.

I used to wonder what makes Christians tick. Why they attend church and for what purpose they do good.

Then I began to make a study of their religion through tracts, books, courses and even worship services. I longed to have their radiance, smile and fellowship.

After regular attendance I was surprised that no one pressured me into subjection. They simply taught the bible in love and invited me to respond to these acts of obedience:-

Faith in Jesus Christ - believing that He loved me and died for me as the promised Son of God.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". John 3:16.

Repentance of past sins - changing my life from serving sin to God.

"Repent ye, therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord". Acts 3:19.

Confession of my faith - declaring my conviction in this new direction.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved". Romans 10:9.

Baptism into the death of Christ - the washing away of my sins and walking in a new life.

"We were buried therefore with Him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life". Romans 6:3-4.

This is a complete response...



which I made upon acceptance of the claims of Christianity.

Thus, I

- put on Christ; Galatians 3:27
- am forgiven of past sins; Acts 2:38
- am added to Christ's church; Actc 2:47
- am redeemed; 1 Peter 1:18-19
- have a home in heaven; John 14:3
- am a new creature! 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Realising these,

- peace of mind flows in my life; Romans 5:1
- gratitude fills my heart; 2 Corinthians 9:15
- hope enters in; Colossians 1:5.

Daily, I will continue to

- study His Word; 2 Timothy 2:15
- tell the Good News; Acts 8:4
- follow His life; I John 1:7
- worship with the church; Hebrews 10:25
- do good to others; James 1:27
- look towards heaven; Hebrews 11:16.

Problems do come but I am not alone

- God helps me and gives me a way of escape-
1 Corinthians 10:13
- and I have learned to rely upon Him for all
good - Romans 8:28
- should I ever forget His love and fall way, I
will return to Him - 1 John 1:9.

Each day is then a

- grateful day; Psalm 9:2
- confident day; Proverbs 14:26
- happy day; Psalm 118:24.

As a result I begin to bear fruit, grow in faith and experience the joy of Christianity.