



Walking With God

Teacher's Guide

Introduction

I have prepared 4 types of guides for this series:

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

Although the lessons may seem simple and short, teachers will need at least 45 minutes to cover them. I recommend all teachers to view the MP4 videos before teaching, to get the feel of the flow and examples that you can use to emphasize key points.

How to use these materials

Each lesson has 7 parts; the main lesson has 7 points with a Bible passage each - this is where the power lies; read them in their context. The effectiveness of these lessons is the way these verses have been pieced together.

Teachers who want to use these lessons with class discussions can allocate 3 minutes each for the introduction, conclusion, application and each of the 7 points and still have 30 minutes for discussion (assuming a 60-minute study hour).

This series can also be used for 1-on-1 study using the student's workbook, with or without the powerpoints.

The Mp4 videos make this series especially suitable for self study. It is recommended for Christians who want to grow in faith, and those needing the presence of God in coping with health or other problems.

In the DVD are all the 13 powerpoints and mp4 videos, and also the soft copy of the guide and lessons in case you need to reproduce it for other teachers and students.

The entire Kit in a DVD

A DVD kit has been designed for use by our tentmakers in the mission field. Included are all the files as well as the powerpoints, mp4 videos of the illustrated teaching tracts, 'The gospel of Christ' and 'The Joy of Christianity' (the pdf softcopy are presented in several languages) and other useful resources.



What is Walking With God?

Lesson 1

Introduction

This lesson sets the tone for the series. Do make sure you have already browsed through the entire set of notes and powerpoint slides before attempting to teach this lesson.

What to Emphasize

Many Christians become nominal in their faith because they look at it more like membership to a club rather than a living relationship with God. Take time to ask these questions and get the class to respond:

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 selected few?

Main Points

1. Drum home the point that Christians are disciples; ie learners.
2. 'Hate' in Luke 14:26 is used in the same sense as Romans 9:13; i.e. to love less
3. While it costs much to be a disciple, like a father with a child, God is gentle and will walk with us. Use the 'Footprints in the Sand' poem on the last page of this Teacher's Guide to underscore your point.

Application

A lesson is only as good as its application. Many a good lesson is lost with an ambiguous conclusion. Take time to think through every conclusion and application. Use examples when reviewing the past week's lesson.

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.

Take note of actions or decisions you have made. Is there a story that you have learned through your Christian walk that you can share with your family or another? Jot it down (before you forget) and select one or 2 persons to share it with.



Who Is God?

Lesson 2

Introduction

It is so important for us to understand that man is created by God for God's good pleasure. When we see what God expects of us, we will learn to relate in the appropriate manner with each other and especially on our relationship with God.

What to Emphasize

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 respond to our every whim. We need to go back to the Bible to rediscover who He really is.

If our concept of God is an old man in the sky, international policeman or some genie in a lamp, we worship a god who is too small and cannot help us with our real problems and needs. This is akin to the woodcutter who fashions the timber he cut into a god and then bows down to worship what he has created! (Isaiah 44:13-18).

Main Points

1. God is superior to us in every way.
2. God is gracious. Max Lucado puts it this way - God cannot love you any more than He does now, no matter how good you become; and God cannot love you any less than He does now, no matter how bad you become.
3. God is interested in us and wants to walk with us - wonder of wonders!

Application

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

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.

Food for thought: Only in Christianity do we find:

1. A God who comes to mankind instead of man seeking God (eg. climbing a thousand steps on bare knees).
2. A God who dwells in each believer through the Holy Spirit.
3. A religion that requires a transformation of a person's character.



Who is Man?

Lesson 3

Introduction

The 3 Faces of Adam: There is not just one person, but 3 persons in every man. First, the person he sees himself as - this is usually positive and self-flattering. Then the person others see him as - here, he appears naked and full of flaws. Finally, his true self - how God sees him - 1 Samuel 16:7. Let us be mindful of Romans 12:3 - *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."*

What to Emphasize

I feel that we undervalue the fact that God has created all of us as free moral agents. If we understand what this means, we will have to acknowledge that while we passionately want to save the lost, they have the right to refuse our message and suffer the consequences.

Main Points

1. All of us are equal in God's sight. Only fallen man would think that he is better than another who is also created in the image of God because of his education, wealth or colour.
2. We all need God. Nothing man can accomplish in this world is comparable to being with God - where the temporal touches eternity.
3. The most important thing in life is not our success or failure; God is not as interested in these achievements as He is in whether we walk with Him - in preparation to being with Him forever in heaven.

Application

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?



How to Study the Bible?

Lesson 4

Introduction

Many Christians find it difficult to approach the Bible. It is hard for them to get started. This lesson introduces several options for the Christian to get a handle on this important Christian discipline.

What to Emphasize

This is a matter of giving a poor man a fish a day or teaching him to fish. As long as we do not teach a Christian how to read the Bible for himself, he will be forever requiring milk (Hebrews 5:12).

Main Points

1. Every Christian needs to start off his day with the word of God in his daily devotion.
2. You should supplement the above with a plan to read the Bible through at least once each year.
3. Besides learning the Bible on your own, attending Bible classes is essential because:
 - a. You can learn from others in a systematic study
 - b. You can ask questions.

Application

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

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

Another way to go deeper into the Bible is to take a verse or passage and do this 3-column exercise. Take a piece of paper and divide it into 3 columns:

1. In the first column write the passage in your own handwriting
eg. John 3:16

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.

2. In the second column, write out what you think the passage means to you

eg. God loves me so much that He is willing to give me heaven's best

3. In the third column, write out what you will do about it with sentences beginning with "I will..."

eg. I will be appreciative of God's love for me

I will trust and believe in Him



Tools to Sharpen Your Sword

Lesson 5

Introduction

While all Christians read the Bible, many do not feel competent enough to teach or even come to a decisive conclusion on any given subject. The purpose of this lesson is to introduce tools to the Christian that he may learn and become more confident in his understanding of the Bible.

What to Emphasize

Take time off to browse through the church library or any Christian book room. Which reference materials do you find most helpful? Which are the ones you find easiest to use? You cannot teach this lesson if you have not personally become acquainted with the materials you are talking about.

Main Points

1. What every Christian should own: a Study Bible (eg Thomson Chain Reference) and a Bible Dictionary (eg Naves or Smith).
2. Add to the above a Bible Handbook (eg Halley's) and Word Study (eg Robertson).
3. For the serious Bible student, get an affordable Bible encyclopedia (eg Vines) and Commentary (eg IVP, Barclay and Coffman).

Application

The internet is a powerful tool for Bible study. Use Google to search for questions and research materials. Check out PP's resource centre for materials and links. However, do not use this as your only source. Use this as the final step to complete your lesson after taking time to diligently study the Bible. Do not use the internet as a short cut or replacement for actual Bible study on your own - build a first-hand faith; not second-hand information from others.

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 of the sword of God's word.



Types of Prayers

Lesson 6

Introduction

While everyone recognises that there are a variety of prayers, few ever venture beyond. As a result, each Christian sticks to his own way of praying without regard to improving or growing in his prayer life. I have taken upon myself to touch upon what I deem to be the most common types of prayers.

What to Emphasize

I want to encourage all teachers in preparation for this lesson to take out a concordance and read through all the prayers in the Bible. It will surprise you to see how and what has been uttered before the throne of Grace by men of God.

Main Points

1. In my humble opinion, the keys to each day are the morning and evening prayers. You really cannot fault a Christian who does well in both these areas.
2. Encourage your students to factor in seasons of prayers in their daily walk with God. I believe that these are the seasons of refreshing that the hymn writers rave about!
3. Can we go through the day with a prayer on our lips at all times? (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Application

Sometimes we hear people say, "*the least I could do is to pray*". Actually, the most you can do in any situation is to pray. There will be many moments in our lives that we do not have the ability to bless another eg. a friend stricken with cancer or a loved one facing divorce. Still, we can quietly and powerfully summon the powers of heaven to aid these situations.

Prayer moves the hand that moves the world. Make a list of people you can pray for (eg. cancer list, new converts, visitors) or use a ready list like a church directory and pray for each by name. Be warned what the Bible says in 1 Samuel 12:23 - "*Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.*"



Levels of Prayers

Lesson 7

Introduction

We often teach about how we should pray - ie. with faith, according to God's will etc. However, we seldom, if ever teach about the levels of prayer. I have taken upon myself to categorize the various levels of prayers.

What to Emphasize

Prayer, like any Christian service is something that we all can grow in. The Bible teaches in Romans 8:26 - *Like-wise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

Main Points

These are 3 undeveloped areas in our prayer life:

1. Adoration - we are too quick to rush into our petitions that we often neglect the area of adoration altogether.
2. Watch - imitate the weeping prophets of God who sensed the deficiency of the times and were touched deeply by the lost state of the world, and constantly on their knees before God.
3. Wait - only those who are intimate with God can keep waiting, and not grow weary. *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."* - Isaiah 40:31.

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?

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

Lesson 8

Introduction

Just as there are various kinds of prayer, there are also various kinds of devotion. I have attempted to list 7 of the most common.

What to Emphasize

Some of the things mentioned in this lesson may seem or sound similar to our lesson on prayer. Take these opportunities to point out the differences and try to draw examples from your personal life experiences.

Main Points

1. We live in accordance to our devotion for God. When we choose to live each day for God, we will be better poised to live victoriously for God each and every day.
2. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:17, when we go about our activities each day, responding to every situation by turning it over to God for His safekeeping, we are praying without ceasing.
3. Think of ways that preparing and participating in the Sunday worship services that can help in building up our faith and devotion in God.

Application

When couples are courting and devoted to each other, they cannot help but keep in touch on a daily basis. How devoted are you to God?

In what ways is our devotional lifestyle linked to our relationship to God? Consider David's passion in Psalm 122:1 when he said, *"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

When a Christian no longer keeps up a daily devotion with God, he has cut off the life-sustaining line. He is practically alienated from God although he may continue showing up at church services and may profess to be a Christian.



Personal Devotion

Lesson 9

Introduction

Devotion is not for show. The Pharisees in Jesus' time tried to parade their piety before the public (Matthew 6:5). This was condemned by Jesus as hypocrisy. Devotion is a matter between the individual and God. It is truly who you are when no one is looking.

What to Emphasize

Just as there are levels of prayer, there are also levels of devotion. I have attempted to give a sampling to get you going in this direction.

Main Points

1. The first level is key. If the foundation is not strong, all the rest will be shaky.
2. Have you ever made a vow to God? Be careful and be mindful of what the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 5:5 - *"Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."*
3. The highest devotion is giving ourselves in service to God. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* - Romans 12:1-2.

Application

Here are some types of vows for your consideration:

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, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head." - 1 Samuel 1:11.*



ABC of Discipleship

Lesson 10

Introduction

We started this series on the premise that Christians are disciples. Now that this series is coming to an end, it is beneficial to revisit this subject. This lesson is presented with 2 purposes in mind:

1. To help you secure your own salvation and
2. To provide you with the encouragement to make disciples of others.

What to Emphasize

It is so heartrending to note that the many whom we toil and work to save, dropped by the wayside. More often than not, it is due to the fact that we merely share the gospel plan of salvation and do precious little by way of discipleship or follow-up. We should be mindful of what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 - *"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."*

Main Points

1. A for Acceptance. Every soul is precious and created in God's image. So important for us to accord full value by our priority and care.
2. B is for Belief. God created us as free moral agents. We must not ever force our beliefs on anyone. Respect for his opinion and allowing him to choose is key to building a good and lasting relationship.
3. C is for Care. Put yourself in his position. Meet his needs. Continue to keep in touch until he becomes a Christian. Then mentor him to maturity.

Application

D is for discipling. Are you merely winning a person to Christ or are you mentoring a person for heaven? The road is long and the journey is hazardous. Each one needs someone to hold their hand and be there to advise, care and even comfort.

Keep records of each one you reach out to. Pray for them and their families. Keep in touch. Remember their birthdays. Then on the final day, you will be filled with great joy because you have brought many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10).



Circle of Influence

Lesson 11

Introduction

Everyone has influence: either for good or bad. 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 buddies? It is so sad to see them slip in for worship and then slip out after worship, alone.

What to Emphasize

This is the key verse of the entire lesson - Matthew 5:13
"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." Let the student go away with the God-given mission to touch another life with the love of Jesus.

Main Points

1. Select a person to influence this year. This is your first circle of influence. This person could be a new friend, member or visitor, relative, neighbour or colleague. Keep in mind of someone you can invite to church.
2. Select a Christian to be your prayer partner for the year, preferably of the same sex. *"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
3. Finally, find a person to mentor. This person can be anyone from the church or outside. Choose someone of the same gender if possible.

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!

Result: If you reach out to just 3 persons a year; 30 in 10 years - you will never walk alone.



The Church is the Bride of Christ

Lesson 12

Introduction

Some Christians think that they do not need to bother about the church. However, the Bible teaches that Christ not only built the church, but is coming back for His bride (Ephesians 5:27, Revelations 21:2).

What to Emphasize

God is using the church today to accomplish His will. When we dissociate our faith from the church, we rob the church of its glory. *"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."* - Ephesians 3:21.

Main Points

1. Jesus is the founder of the church. He purchased the church with His blood.
2. We are to worship, grow and serve together in the church. It is wrong to think that as long as we have a personal relationship with God, we do not need to bother about the church.
3. When we despise, divide and hurt the church, we are doing it to our Lord Jesus.

Application

Some Christians are turned off by some bad experiences with the church. As a result, they shrink into their shells and deprive the church of their time, talents and service

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

Think about what the church meant to Christ and compare it with what it means to us. We need to grow to the point that we are willing to devote our life to the church, and even die for it, like Christ did.



People who walked with God

Lesson 13

Introduction

I have purposely saved this lesson for the last so that we can look at these people with greater appreciation and understanding.

What to Emphasize

By this time, you would have understood that walking with God is not a stroll in the park. It starts with following Jesus by carrying our cross and denying ourselves. Then there is the Bible immersion, deeper devotion and continuing discipleship.

Main Points

1. Enoch - although the Bible does not give much detail on Enoch's walk with God, share with your class what you think he must have undergone in order to get a one-way direct ticket to heaven bypassing the decay of the flesh.
2. Moses is a great example of a man who truly walked with God. Divide his 120-year life into 3 equal parts - in Egypt, Midian and Wilderness wandering and tell of how he walked with God.
3. Elijah was a prophet like no other. Search the Bible to get an idea of his colourful personality. Like Enoch, he had a non-stop ticket to heaven.

Application

As this series comes to a close, here are some tough questions for your class to consider:

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 like Paul did, but may have been through a 'Damascus' experience. Describe yours.



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Check the link below to download latest updates of all these materials

www.ppcoc.org/walkwGod/

Walking with God Lessons (pdf)
Teacher's Guide (pdf)

Ready-to-Use Powerpoint Slides (ppt):

- Lesson 1: What is walking with God?
- Lesson 2: Who is God?
- Lesson 3: Who is Man?
- Lesson 4: How to Study the Bible?
- Lesson 5: Tools to Sharpen Your Sword
- Lesson 6: Types of Prayer
- Lesson 7: Levels of Prayer
- Lesson 8: Kinds of Devotion
- Lesson 9: Personal Devotion
- Lesson 10: ABC's of Discipleship
- Lesson 11: Circle of Influence
- Lesson 12: The Church is the Bride of Christ
- Lesson 13: People who walked with God

Narrated Powerpoint Videos (mp4):

- Lesson 1: What is walking with God?
- Lesson 2: Who is God?
- Lesson 3: Who is Man?
- Lesson 4: How to Study the Bible?
- Lesson 5: Tools to Sharpen Your Sword
- Lesson 6: Types of Prayer
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- Lesson 9: Personal Devotion
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- Lesson 11: Circle of Influence
- Lesson 12: The Church is the Bride of Christ
- Lesson 13: People who walked with God



Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed
that during the low periods of my life,
when I was suffering from
anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,
"You promised me Lord,
that if I followed you,
you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during
the most trying periods of my life
there have only been one
set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most,
you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,
"The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints,
is when I carried you."

- **Mary Stevenson**