

Foundations of Faith

Discipleship Lessons

Trainer's guide

Vision for the lessons

These seven discipleship lessons are a tool or “wineskin” for disciple-makers in order to lay a biblical and reproducible foundation of faith in a new or ungrounded disciple.

Purpose of the Lessons

Lesson One: To review the gospel message, to find assurance of salvation, and to equip the disciple in knowing and sharing the Steps to Peace with God including 6 memorized scriptures, the bridge illustration, and their testimony.

Lesson Two: To equip the disciple to pray, to read & to obey the Bible, and to begin a devotional life.

Lesson Three: To explain God's purpose for the church and to encourage active participation.

Lesson Four: To encounter and embrace the perfect, Father heart of God

Lesson Five: To introduce the disciple to the person, work and baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Six: To lay a foundation for ongoing Christ-like growth through victory over sin, obedience and love.

Lesson Seven: To motivate the disciple to life-long participation in the Great Commission.

The Process

Life on Life: These lessons are designed to be used in one on one or small group conversation. Don't look at it as a workbook. Rather look at it as a discussion guide.

Self-discovery: The lessons are designed to let the scriptures teach the disciple. Let them seek on their own to understand and communicate what the scripture says. The trainer's role is to clarify and teach as needed to ensure accurate understanding

Reproducing: Cast vision from the very beginning that you expect them to be able to train someone else in the lesson when they are finished. They will need to take notes in a way that will help them to remember and reproduce the lesson.

Practice: As time allows, let them repeat a story or explain a section to ensure that they have caught it.

Obedience: At the end of each lesson is a box entitled, “Your Response This Week”. Review these with the disciple at the end of the lesson and encourage them to follow them. Our goal here is not just to retain information but to obey all we hear.

Accountability: At the beginning of each lesson, ask them if they followed through with the assignments for the week. If they did not, encourage them with the importance of obedience and follow through. Set realistic but challenging goals with one another and agree to be accountable.

Keep in mind

- Some lessons have several sentences of written text. A trainer can either have the disciple read it to themselves or they can read out loud together. Have them explain it in their own words. Instruct as needed and give them an opportunity to ask questions. Note: This will be particularly important on the baptism of the Holy Spirit on lesson five because this topic is very difficult to capture in just 2-3 verses.
- The trainer should be familiar with the stories in a lesson before beginning. Recommended stories are provided, but a trainer may substitute their own story as long as it is reproducible.
- Scriptures in *italics* are optional during the lesson. The disciple can look them up on their own or if they have a question.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are these lessons for?

These lessons are intended to lay a firm foundation in the life of a new believer as well as provide a simple reproducible tool for disciple-makers. The first lesson is a review of the gospel. Some may discover that they are not a believer. Our hope is that everyone in our church would be equipped to use the simple Steps to Peace with God and their testimony to lead someone to the Lord as our primary evangelism tool. These lessons are the initial follow up, discipleship tool. There will be a challenge each week to share the gospel with at least 2 people and teach the lesson with someone else that may be ready to go through it.

Taking someone through a lesson is not really my style. Do I have to use these?

We are encouraging everyone to use these lessons, even if it's not your normal style. We believe there will be tremendous benefits in having something that is simple and reproducible for everyone. We are realizing that the mark of true discipleship is not only personal growth but also helping generations of others to grow. These lessons can allow generations to pass down spiritual truths in a simple way easy enough for anyone to do. We do encourage you to incorporate your own style into these lessons while still using the content of the lessons as your template.

Do I have to use the stories you give us?

These are simply suggestions if you don't have any stories of your own to use. We tried to pick stories that are easy for people to relate to and easy to share, but if you have a better story, feel free to use it! (Recommended stories are at the end of this trainer guide)

What do I do if someone I meet with does not want to do them?

If you meet someone who doesn't want to do the lessons, then simply move on to someone who is interested and open. We're aware that not everyone will be responsive to the Lord (Luke 8, story of the seed and the sower).

Am I supposed to teach these lessons or let the person just work through it on their own?

The interpersonal relationship you develop with people as you take them through the lessons is absolutely necessary in order for this to work. This is why we're asking everyone to go through it with a trainer; we don't want anybody to do it alone. It's even more helpful if you're able to go through it with a small group of 3-4 people. Our goal is to obey the great commission by teaching others to "observe all that [Jesus] commanded." This will include instruction that leads to more self-discovery from the scriptures.

What if I don't have someone to take through the lessons?

Talk with your Lifegroup or section leader and let them know. There may be a need there. We also encourage you to actively share the gospel. As you sow widely, you will invariably come across new or young believers to take through these lessons.

Can these lessons be used with people of different cultures?

Yes, that's our hope. We designed the lessons so that they can be easily used cross-culturally. Stories and illustrations can be different but the principles will translate to any language. We recommend that you learn them now so that you will be prepared wherever you make disciples.

The lessons seem pretty basic. Does everyone have to go through it? Do I have to do it with someone else?

We are asking everyone to go through these lessons. Successful discipleship is not only knowing the material yourself, but being able to pass it along to someone else. 2 Timothy 2:2 says, "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." This is the heart behind our desire to have everyone do these lessons. The way for these spiritual truths to take root in your life is to not only hear them but to transfer them to others. Some say that on average, we remember 20% of what we just hear but 80% of what we both hear and teach.

I notice that there is lots of accountability in these lessons. Why?

As children of God, the way we change is by having other people in our lives who are helping us move forward in our relationship with God. Accountability is important because we want you to pass the lessons on to others, and being accountable helps this happen. We all know that we often struggle in reaching our goals, and walking with others helps us keep pressing forward.

I feel uncomfortable with the idea that "I know more than someone else" I am supposed to "disciple". How do I take a friend or peer through these lessons?

Discipling someone who has been a believer for a while may seem awkward. Yet our conviction is that everyone needs someone else to take initiative in their life. Many "mature" believers have no idea how to disciple someone in a simple, reproducible way. We believe these lessons will be a helpful review for many but a critical tool for everyone who desires to obey the great commission. If you are meeting with someone you consider a peer in the Lord, then treat them like a friend. Invite them into a relationship where you can sharpen each other. Ask them if they are okay with you taking the initial lead. This can often be an indicator of whether or not someone is teachable, wanting to grow and willing to be accountable. Lastly, focus your energy on the hungry. Someone hungry for God will want to learn from anyone.

Foundations of Faith

Lesson One: Salvation

Steps to Peace with God

1. God's Purpose in Creation - *Tell the Creation story*

According to this story what is God's purpose for your life? _____

2. The Problem: Separation from God

What do the following verses say about sin?

Romans 3:23 _____

Romans 6:23 _____

(See also Isaiah 59:2 and 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)

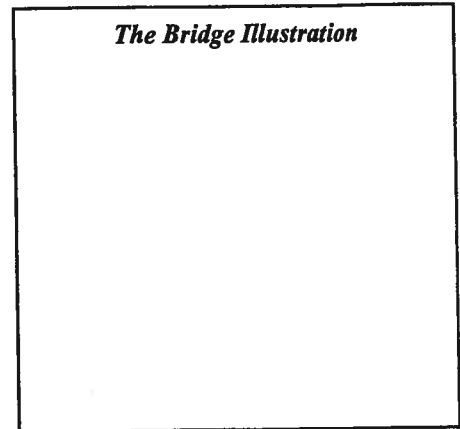
All Have Sinned: Like the first man and the woman, all people like us since then have sinned by not listening to God's commands and are separated from God. The result of sin is eternal punishment in hell. *We cannot live forever with God as we were designed.*

Have you ever sinned? Yes No I don't know (Unsure? read Exodus 20:1-17)

Which statement best describes what you believe? What is wrong with the others?

- a. I have made a few mistakes, but mostly I am still a good person.
- b. A loving God wouldn't send anyone to hell – just really evil people.
- c. I have sinned against God, so I deserve death and eternal separation from God.

What are some ways people try to get to God and fail? _____



3. God's Bridge: the Cross!

People try many ways to bridge the gap between them and God, but Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me." (John 14:6) *What do the following verses say about what God has done for us?*

Romans 5:8 _____

I Peter 3:18 _____

Tell the Story of Two Brothers

4. Our Response: Receive Jesus

1 John 5:12 says, "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life." *What do following verses say we must do to receive Jesus and God's offer of salvation?*

Romans 10:9 _____

Acts 2:37-38 _____

Have you received Jesus into your life? Yes No (if "no" see the Decision to Accept Jesus section on the back)

Have you been baptized? Yes No (if "no" see the Baptism section on the back)

Do you know anyone who else who needs to hear this Good News about Jesus this week? _____

Lesson 1 Supplement

The Decision to Accept Jesus

Do you believe that Jesus died to forgive your sins and rose from the dead? Yes No
Do you want to turn from you sin and follow Him for the rest of your life? Yes No
Would you like to receive salvation and forgiveness by giving your life to Jesus? Yes No

Prayer of Salvation – “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

Dear Lord Jesus, I admit I am a sinner and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead. I choose to turn from my sin and follow you all the days of my life. I invite you, Jesus, to come into my heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Baptism

Read Matthew 28:19-20. What does God ask us to do? _____

Read Romans 6:4. According to these scriptures what does baptism symbolize?

Baptism is a symbolic act of obedience through immersion in water. When we go down under the water, it reminds us that our old self (our sin) has been buried with Jesus. When we come up out of the water, it reminds us that we have been raised with Jesus to a new life. Water baptism is also the public confession that you are a follower of Jesus. It does not have the power to forgive sin. However, baptism is not optional but the first command Jesus has given new believers (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4).

Do you want to be baptized? Yes No When and where will you be baptized? _____

Creation story

Creator: There is only one God, and He is the Most High God. He existed in the beginning before there was anything else. The Most High God is the Creator. He created everything on earth and in heaven and is all powerful over everything. He spoke and everything came to being. He created angels to worship and serve Him. They were very beautiful. He also created everything we can see -- the sky, land, water, mountains, oceans, sun, moon, stars, all plant and animals. Finally, He created man according to His image. God created man to enjoy all that He has created. God created everything and saw that it was good.

God and Man in Relationship: God placed the man and woman in a beautiful garden to live. They had a very good relationship with Him and with each other. He told them to take care of the garden and enjoy everything. He gave them a special command: they could eat from every tree in the garden except one. If they ate from that one tree, they would be punished and die. The man and woman listened to God and had a wonderful relationship with Him in the garden. *God created us to have a wonderful relationship with Him forever!*

Fall of the Devil: However, do you remember the angels God created? One of the angels was very smart and beautiful. This angel became very proud. He wanted to be like God and to have the other angels to worship him instead of God. Only God deserves all the worship and service. Therefore God cast the disobedient angel, the devil, and the other angels who listened to him out of heaven. These bad angels are known as demons.

Disobeying: One day, the devil tempted woman to eat the food from the tree that was forbidden. The woman listened to the devil and ate the fruit. Then she gave it to her husband to eat. Both of them disobeyed God's command. Disobeying God's command is sin. God is righteous and holy. He must punish sin. God cast the man and the woman out of the garden, and their relationship with God was broken. Human beings and God were now separated forever.

Story of Two Brothers

There were two brothers who were identical twins. On the outside they were identical, but on the inside they were very different. The first brother was very good and honest, and when he grew up he became a judge. The second brother was evil and sinful, and when he grew up he became a criminal. One day, the evil brother committed a crime that was punishable by the death penalty. He was arrested and put in jail until the day he was to appear in court. On that day, he walked into the courtroom he saw that his brother was the judge sitting at the bench. He thought, “Yes! I’m going to be okay! I’ll probably still be prosecuted but at least I won’t get the death penalty, even though that’s what I deserve.” At the end of his trial, however, the jury found him guilty and his brother sentenced him to death in three days time. As they were taking him out of the courtroom he was thinking, “I can’t believe my brother did that to me! Why did he do that?” He sat alone in jail for two days, desperate because he knew his life was going to end. The good brother came to the jail to visit him on the second day and proposed a plan. He said, “Let’s exchange clothes with each other, and then you can walk out of here free. I’ll take your place...it’ll all work out in the end.” The evil brother thought it was a great idea, so they traded clothes and the evil brother left while the good brother stayed in his place. The next morning at six o’clock, the evil brother came back to the jail, curious to see what would happen to his brother. He climbed on top of a wall so he could see when they brought his brother out. As he peeked over the wall to see what was going on, he heard a volley of shots, and his good brother fell to the ground dead. The evil brother fled in shock, and eventually found his way to his brother’s house. He went inside and he found a letter on the desk, addressed to him. It read:

Brother,

You committed a crime, so someone must die. I love you, so I took your place.

From now on, please live a different life.

This is a picture of what Jesus did for us when he took our sin onto himself. This is a picture of grace.

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Lesson Two: Devotional Life

God wants to spend time with you! One of God's deepest desires is for you to know Him and have fellowship with Him. We can pray at any time of the day and at any place. God is everywhere and wants to be involved in every part of your life. Developing a relationship with a person requires consistent contact with that person. In the same way, if you want to have a close relationship with God, you need to set aside daily time just for God. This "set apart" time for seeking God is our devotion life.

Read Psalm 27:4, 7-8. Describe the attitude this person has toward seeking God. _____

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. What does God promise us in these verses? _____

Read Mark 1:35. What can we learn from Jesus? _____

Personal testimony on when and how you started spending time with God

God hears us when we pray! Prayer is "talking" with God. We can communicate with God in the same way we can with any other person. Prayer should be natural conversation with God. When you pray you should be honest and sincere. We don't have to pray perfectly. Be encouraged - Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, and He will teach you too.

**Read the following verses and write in your own words the type of prayer described*

Psalm 135:3 _____

1 John 1:9 _____

1 Timothy 2:1 _____

Philippians 4:6-7 _____

Effective prayer includes...

- Having faith
- Confessing our sins
- Asking according to His will
- Asking in Jesus' name
- Praying with perseverance

Verse

"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt..." (James 1:6)

"If we confess our sins... (1 John 1:9)

"...if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." (1 John 5:14)

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name..." (John 14:13)

"That...they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18:1)

Story on the power of answered prayer

God wants to speak to us through His Word – the Bible.

God speaks to us by the Holy Spirit in a variety of ways. Yet every potential truth about God and the world is subject to the authority of the Bible. The Bible was written over a 1500 year span by over forty authors in three languages. It records over 1000 references to fulfilled prophecies and an eyewitness account of a supernatural miracle of God in most of its 66 books. The Bible is regarded as the most reliable text of any piece of literature ever. It has been translated into other languages more than any other book. And for 2000 years countless lives have been transformed by its message. The Bible is God's Word to us. He said perfectly what He wanted to say through imperfect people. He speaks to us through His Word today.

*Match the verse and the correct truth about the Bible.

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ 1. Psalm 119:89-91 | a. The point of the Bible is to lead us to a relationship with Jesus. |
| _____ 2. Psalm 119:160; (Hebrews 4:12-13) | b. God's Word is eternal and, therefore, relevant to us today. |
| _____ 3. 2 Timothy 3:15-17 (see Psalm 19:1-7) | c. The Bible is our moral standard of truth - right and wrong. |
| _____ 4. John 5:39-40 (see Luke 24:27, 44-45) | d. All Scripture is from God, powerful and useful to transform lives. |

What do you believe about the Bible? _____

Below are three simple questions to ask yourself when you are reading the Bible.

Read this story from Luke 10:38-42 and answer the following questions.

What does this passage say?

How does this apply to me?

What should I do to obey God's Word?

How to get started with your devotional life

1. **Prepare for God** – Find a time where you can consistently meet with God. Choose a place where you can meet with God without being disturbed. Collect items you may need for your time with God: a Bible, journal, pen, music and a calendar.
2. **Worship God** – Sing songs of praise to God. Thank God for something good in your life. (Psalm 100; Romans 12:1-2)
3. **Bible reading** – Choose a book in the Bible to study using the three simple questions above. If you have never read the Bible before, begin with the gospel of Matthew. Consider how what you read applies to your life and obey everything Jesus says to do.
4. **Prayer** - Share your concerns for yourself and others with God through prayer.
5. **Wait on God** – Listen for His encouragement, correction and direction. Write down what you sense God saying to you in a journal. (Psalm 143:8)

Make it a part of your daily routine. It is your decision to meet with God. Spending time with God will not make God love you more, but if you seek God everyday, you will grow in your love for Him and obedience to Him. (Matthew 6:33)

*Will you commit to a daily devotional life with God?

Signature

YOUR RESPONSE THIS WEEK:

- Decide when and where you will set aside time alone to spend time with God every day and begin!
- Get a journal and make a list of things you want to pray about.
- Spend time with God together with the one taking you through this lesson.
- Agree with the one taking you through this lesson on a realistic but challenging goal to share the gospel this week.
- Share this lesson with someone who is ready to be trained.

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Lesson Three: The Church

Created for Community

Read Genesis 2:18. In God's perfect creation before any sin, what did God say was "not good"? Why?

Story on our need for community and acceptance

One of the greatest needs of the human heart is relationship. When you became a child of God, you became a member of God's family, the church. The church is not a place of worship or a meeting. The church is a gathered group of believers. We were created for this kind of community. We all need God, and we all need the church to find acceptance and fulfill His plans for our lives. Jesus and the church are inseparable.

Read Ephesians 1:22-23. What do these verses teach us about the church? _____

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What do these verses tell us is God's will for us regarding being with other believers regularly?

Describe your past view of and experience with the church. _____

Personal testimony on what the church has meant in your life

Church life

The best description of church life in the New Testament is more of a series of snapshots than a definition. Numerous passages help us see what Jesus intended for His body, the church.

Read Acts 2:42-47 and circle the activities and experiences that characterized the early church.

v. 42 - *They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

v. 43 - *And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.*

v. 44 - *And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;*

v. 45 - *and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.*

v. 46 - *And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,*

v. 47 - *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."*

What would attract you to this type of community? _____

Purpose of the Church

Read Ephesians 3:10-11, 20-21. What is God's purpose for the church? _____

Read Matthew 28:19-20. Describe the four things Jesus commands His followers to do in these verses in your own words.

Acts of Obedience

Jesus has instructed us to obey all that He has commanded. Baptism, the observance of the Lord's Supper, and giving, are three specific commands Jesus gave us that demonstrate our relationship and commitment to other believers.

Baptism

Water baptism is a public declaration that you believe in Jesus. Baptism is not optional but the first command Jesus has given new believers (Acts 2:38). Water baptism is a symbolic act through emersion in water. It does not have the power to forgive sin. But baptism does signify to the world, "I am not ashamed to identify with Jesus Christ or His family."

Read Romans 6:3-4. What does water baptism symbolize according to these verses? _____

The Lord's Supper

Read I Corinthians 11:23-26. According to these verses, what has Jesus instructed his disciples to do? Why? _____

We call this ordinance from Jesus the Lord's Supper. It ought to be regularly observed wherever and whenever the people of God are gathered. When we receive the Lord's Supper, it is a time to examine our actions and faith (1 Corinthians 11:23-29), to remember what He has done for us on the cross and renew our covenant of love together with Him.

Giving

God also asks the church to be a giving community. Monetary giving is often a test of the disciple's faith, love and obedience. Everything we have is from God, and He is our provider. We can trust Him with our money and our lives.

What do the following verses teach us about giving?

Malachi 3:8-10 _____

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 _____

Acts 20:35 _____

Personal testimony of being blessed by giving

YOUR RESPONSE THIS WEEK:

- Commit to a lifegroup and Sunday morning attendance.
- Begin this month giving 10% of your income to a local church or group of believers.
- Agree with the one taking you through this lesson on a realistic but challenging goal to share the gospel this week.
- Share this lesson with someone who is ready to be trained.

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Lesson Four: Father Heart of God

God our Father

God can be described in a lot of ways. He is our creator and savior. He is holy, loving and all-powerful. In the New Testament, we come to know Him as Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. When Jesus came he showed us what the Father is like and how to have a relationship with Him. He also taught His disciples to address God in prayer saying, "Our Father who art in heaven." When you come to faith in Jesus, you are adopted into God's family (Romans 8:15). God becomes your father.

Story on the need for a father

We all have an earthly father. Like it or not our relationship (or lack of relationship) with our earthly father has significantly shaped the way we each view God as our heavenly Father for good or for bad.

Circle the words below that best describe your earthly father. Then check the areas that describe God as a perfect father.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distant and disinterested | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow to anger | <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to help me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kind and compassionate | <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient and harsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Condemning and unforgiving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passive and cold | <input type="checkbox"/> Too busy for me | <input type="checkbox"/> Full of grace when I fail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nitpicking or perfectionistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful to protect and provide | <input type="checkbox"/> Let's me do whatever I want |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm and accepting | <input type="checkbox"/> Disciplines because he loves me | <input type="checkbox"/> Unconditionally loves me |

In what ways do you believe God is like your earthly father? _____

Our Father's Goodness

Read Matthew 7:7-11. What does this verse teach us about God? _____

Read Daniel 3:13-28 What do these verses teach us about God's protection of us? _____

Read Matthew 6:31-32. Why are God's children not to worry? _____

Story on God's provision

Our Father's Love

Read Luke 15:11-24. What are the similarities between this father and God the Father? _____

Read Hebrews 12:5-11.

Why does God discipline us? _____

What are the results of God's discipline? _____

Read Romans 8:31-39. Describe the love of God in your own words. _____

How has God revealed His love to you? Please write an example below.

Story on the love of God

YOUR RESPONSE THIS WEEK:

- Share with the one taking you through this lesson any painful memories of your relationship with your earthly father.
- Pray the following prayer: *"God, I believe you are my perfect Father. I choose to believe what the Bible says about you rather than my experiences. Open the eyes of my heart to see you more clearly as you really are."*
- Agree with the one taking you through this lesson on a realistic but challenging goal to share the gospel this week.
- Share this lesson with someone who is ready to be trained.

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Lesson Five: the Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit?

You are not alone. Jesus promised us before He left that He would always be with us (Matthew 28:20). So if Jesus has ascended into heaven and has not returned yet how can God always be with us? The Holy Spirit is God (2 Corinthians 3:17). Jesus is God in the form of a man. He can only be one place at a time. Right now He is in heaven. But God is always with us by His Spirit. When we feel God's presence or hear God's voice – that is the Holy Spirit!

Have you ever experienced the presence of God? When? _____

Personal testimony on experiencing the presence of God

Sealing of the Holy Spirit

Read Ephesians 1:13-14. What happened when you first believed the gospel? _____

When you received Jesus into your life the Holy Spirit came to live in you. The Holy Spirit dwells in and with every believer. The Holy Spirit is like a seal on our lives securing us for God and our inheritance in heaven. The Holy Spirit is always with us working in our lives.

What does the Holy Spirit do?

Read these verses and describe the activity of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 _____

John 16:8, 12-15 _____

Romans 5:5 _____

Romans 8:26-27 _____

Fruit of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit works in our lives to make us like Jesus. Christ-like characteristics are described in the Bible as good fruit.

Review the fruit of the Spirit in the verse below. Circle 2 or 3 that you would like to see more of in your life this week.

(Galatians 5:23)

"the fruit of the spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Read John 15: 1-8. How can we bear fruit? _____

Story on abiding in God

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Coming upon in power

Read Acts 1:8. What does God say the Holy Spirit will do for us? Why? _____

We are “sealed within” by the Holy Spirit when we are saved, but the Holy Spirit also wants to “come upon” us in power. This is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11, Acts 19:1-7) or “being continually filled” with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit so that we can do the works that Jesus did, even greater ones (Acts 1:4-8; John 14:12; Hebrews 2:4). The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a personal encounter with God that draws us close to Him and empowers us to glorify Him on earth. (Read Luke 3:20-22; 4:1, 14, 18-19 to see the baptism of the Holy Spirit and its effects in Jesus’ life.)

Gifts of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit also gives us gifts to serve the church and extend the kingdom of God. These gifts are abilities that are supernaturally empowered by God. Every believer in Jesus has at least one primary spiritual gift to contribute to the body of Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. (see also Romans 12:3-8 ; Ephesians 4:11-12) What did you learn about spiritual gifts? _____

Baptism of the Spirit

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs in a variety of ways throughout the New Testament. There is no one method for being baptized with the Holy Spirit. Neither is there only one demonstration of the Spirit. The following are common, biblical characteristics of those who experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

<u>Receiving the Baptism of the Spirit includes...</u>	<u>Verse</u>
A desire for righteousness	“those that hunger and thirst for righteousness...will be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)
A desire for spiritual gifts	“eagerly desire spiritual gifts” (1 Corinthians 14:1)
Confessing all known sins	“Many of those who believed...openly confessed their evil deeds.” (Acts 19:18)
Coming to Jesus and believing	“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believe in me... streams of living water [Holy Spirit] will flow from within.” (John 7:37-38)
Asking the Father in prayer	“your Father in heaven gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13)
Hearing and receiving the Father’s love	“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:22)
Expecting manifestations like prophecy or tongues or joy or boldness	“The Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.” (Acts 19:6 – See also Acts 4:31-35; 13:53)

Personal testimony on being baptized in the Holy Spirit

Should the baptism of the Holy Spirit be a one-time experience? Yes No I’m not sure
(See Ephesians 5:18; John 20:22; Act 2:4, 4:31.)

Do you want to pray to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit today? Yes No I’m not sure

YOUR RESPONSE THIS WEEK:

- Pray and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
- Have the one taking you through this lesson lay hands on you and pray for you to receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:17; 2 Tim. 1:6)
- Agree with the one taking you through this lesson on a realistic but challenging goal to share the gospel this week.
- Share this lesson with someone who is ready to be trained.

Foundations of Faith

Lesson Six: Growing Christ-like

Read I Peter 1:14-16, 22. What are some characteristics of children of God according to these verses?

Holiness

As you follow Christ, the sin that previously characterized your life will fade away and your life will begin to look more like His. God accepts us by grace not by good works. Yet when true salvation occurs, a change in our lives will be obvious. God promises to purify your life and make you holy (1 Thessalonians 5:21-23). The word “holy” means to be set apart. This lifelong process of becoming Christ-like involves every part of our lives.

What do these verses teach us about dealing with sin in our lives?

Romans 6:6-7 _____

Colossians 3:5-10 _____

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 _____

What is one area of sin that you want greater victory over in your life? _____

Story on victory over sin

Obedience

In Matthew 28:20 Jesus commands His disciples, “*teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.*” Jesus calls anyone who would follow Him to surrender their life to obey Him wholeheartedly (Mark 8:34-35).

What do the following verses teach us about obedience?

Luke 6:46-49 _____

John 14:21 _____

Key Commands of Jesus

“*Repent and believe the good news!*” (Mark 1:14-15)

“*...be baptized, everyone of you...*” (Acts 2:38)

“*...pray and do not give up.*” (Luke 18:1)

“*...love one another.*” (John 13:34)

“*...forgive your brother from your heart.*” (Matthew 19:35)

“*give... to the poor*” (Luke 11:41)

“*do this [Lord’s supper] in remembrance of me.*” (Luke 22:14-19)

“*make disciples of all nations...*” (Matthew 28:20)

Are you obeying the commands of Jesus? Yes No Sometimes I don’t know

Read Matthew 13:44-46. What does this verse teach us about surrender? _____

Story on surrender

Love

“Of all the _____ which is the most important?’ ‘The most important one,’ Jesus answered, ‘is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. _____ the Lord your God with all your _____ and with all your _____ and with all your _____ and with all your _____. The second is this: _____ your neighbor as yourself. There is no _____ greater than these.”(Mark 12:28-31)

The most defining characteristic of any follower of Jesus is love (John 13:35). Jesus has taught us that these core values of His kingdom - loving God, loving each other and loving those that don't know Jesus - ought to govern all the life and decisions of a believer.

What do these verses teach you about love?

Luke 7:40-47 _____

Luke 6:32-37 _____

Story on love

YOUR RESPONSE THIS WEEK:

- Share with the one taking you through this lesson an area (i.e. eating, anger, lust, loving your spouse/roommate) in which you would like to be held accountable.
- As read the gospels, begin writing down the things Jesus commanded His disciples in a journal and seek to obey those commands.
- Discuss with the one taking you through this lesson if and when you need to go through the *Seven Steps of Freedom*.
- Agree with the one taking you through this lesson on a realistic but challenging goal to share the gospel this week.
- Share these lessons with someone who is ready to be trained.

Foundations of Faith

Lesson Seven: The Great Commission

“Then _____ said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore _____ and _____ of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and _____ them to _____ everything I have commanded you. And surely I am _____ always to the very end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

All Authority

These verses in Matthew include some of the last instructions that Jesus gave his disciples before he ascended into heaven. We call this the Great Commission. God has commissioned us with all His authority to share His message of love to the world.

Read the following verses. Describe in your own words what power / authority God has given us.

Acts 1:8 _____

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 _____

John 14:11-12 _____

Story on a demonstration of power in evangelism

Go make disciples!

God’s first command to humans was “be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth” (Genesis 1:28). Today, God still calls us to reproduce life so people who love and follow him fill the earth. A disciple of Jesus is an obedient and reproducing follower of Jesus. Making a disciple means helping someone else receive Christ and obey all He has commanded. God desires that each of us be bold and take the initiative to share the gospel with those that don’t know Christ.

Read Luke 8:4-8, 11-15.

What does this teach us about who responds to the gospel? _____

What does this parable teach us sharing the gospel? _____

Read 2 Timothy 2:2. What does this teach us about making disciples? _____

Personal testimony on the impact of life on life evangelism and discipleship

All Nations!

Read 2 Peter 3:9. Who God does desire to save? _____

Who are some people you need to "go" to and share the gospel? _____

Read Romans 10:13-17. Why is it important to share the gospel with those who have never heard? _____

Read Matthew 24:14. What does Jesus promise in this verse? _____

The very end of the age!

When this Great Commission has been completed then Jesus has promised to return, destroying all sin and evil forever. Then we will be with him forever in perfect paradise – Heaven!

What do the following verses teach us about heaven?

John 14:1-3 _____

Revelation 7:9-10 _____

Revelation 21:3-5 _____

As a Christian you now have a great and living hope that one day you will be with God forever in heaven with those you love that have believed in him as well. The most important thing now is that God calls you to share the gospel and teach people to obey all of His ways. God desires that all people be saved and we have the awesome privilege to join him in spreading the GOOD NEWS!

Check which of the following things you can do to be apart of fulfilling the Great Commission.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ask God for boldness and sign and wonders | <input type="checkbox"/> Train others to obey Jesus and to make disciples also |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for people that don't know Jesus | <input type="checkbox"/> Start a new lifegroup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead people to believe in Jesus | <input type="checkbox"/> Give money to support a missionary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptize those you lead to Jesus | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to another country to share with those that have not heard |

YOUR RESPONSE THIS WEEK:

- Plan a time to go out with your trainer to share the gospel together.
- Pray and ask God for boldness and signs and wonders.
- Make a list of everyone you know that does not know Jesus. Then make a plan to share with them. For accountability, share the plan with the one taking you through this lesson.
- Agree with the one taking you through this lesson on a realistic but challenging goal to share the gospel this week.
- Share these lessons with someone who is ready to be trained.