First Steps
Leader’s Guide

A discipleship course for new or not-yet Christians

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CE National exists to be an equipper of the FGBC by serving local churches in their growth and development of leadership resulting in ministry inside and outside the body of Christ. For more information write to CE National, Inc., P.O. Box 365, Winona Lake, IN 46590 or call (219) 267-6622 or fax (219) 269-7158.

First Steps Leader's Guide
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# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson #</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author's Forward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Your New Life in Christ</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Jesus Christ, The Lord</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Enjoying the Abundant Life</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Being a Disciple of Christ</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Claiming the Promises</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checkup</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 God's Word, Necessary Nourishment</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 The Five Spiritual Food Groups</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 The Christian Life</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Prayer - Communicating with God</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Being a Part of the Family of God</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checkup</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Steps</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AUTHOR'S FORWARD

Jesus commanded us to "... go and make disciples ..." (Matthew 28:19-20). Therefore, you have chosen to "disciple" another person. Praise the Lord! It is my passion that others grow in their love and knowledge of the Lord and enthusiastically study and apply His Word. I'm so glad that you have chosen to help another in this way. I would like to offer you the following words of encouragement.

Far be it from me to write yet another manual on discipleship! There are many good books available to you on the subject. However, I do have a concern when it comes to people being willing to "disciple" other individuals. Most of it springs from my own experience with discipleship, but I do see it also in the lives of others. "Discipleship" of another believer seems like such a complicated and involved process, so much so that it is intimidating and often left to more "qualified" individuals, especially those who may have a theological degree. This is not what our Lord intended when He told all of His followers to make disciples.

I know how we get this idea. For example, I came to Christ through a campus ministry known worldwide for "discipleship." I must say that they are very dedicated and effective in this. However, they have made a "science" of the process. As a new believer I read books and went to conference workshops on the topic. "Discipling," it seemed, required covering so many areas and so many things to do and study. I wondered if I could remember them all, much less do them all with the person I wanted to help. I felt like if I couldn't do all this, then I could not disciple another. For several years, I shied away from trying to help another. I even went to seminary so that I could be "better qualified." Then, I realized what discipleship is: it is a relationship. It is not a list of things to do and areas to cover, it is sharing your relationship with Christ and your understanding of His Word with another. There will be areas that you help another to grow in. It is good to learn how to help another person and to be aware of important areas of obedience, but we are not meant to teach a complete and
inerrant course on the subject. Rather, these things will come and should be incorporated in the time we spend with another.

Sure there is planning, but much growth on their part will come as they observe you and follow your example. The idea of discipleship is more like parenting. Here is how God told parents to "disciple" their children: "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up .... Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates," (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Discipleship is a daily process that purposely occurs in the course of time shared together. That is how Jesus "discipled" his disciples: "Jesus called to Him those He wanted ... that they might be with Him and that He might send them ...," (Mark 3:13). He chose individuals to spend time with Him so that He could train them in the course of His ministry with the aim that they too would be able to train others. It came down to two words, "Follow Me ....," (Matthew 4:19). Paul reflected his Master's method; this was his view of discipleship: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ," (1 Corinthians 11:1). Thus, what "qualifies" us to disciple another is not the books we have read, the workshops we have attended, the methods we use, or the degrees we have; rather it is our relationship with Christ, which every believer possesses.

I don't regret the fine books I have read or the education I was able to obtain; to be sure, I have used these things in my life and throughout this project. But they are not what is required for discipling another. Let me make "discipleship" very simple for you: share, care, pray, and do the Bible studies together! God will supply the growth.

Further, another misconception I had about discipleship was that I am responsible to teach another everything they need to grow. In retrospect, I can see that that is not at all the case. You see, I have been "discipled" by a multitude of individuals. For example, it was Kit and Karen who led me to the Lord and started me in the study of His Word. But then there was Terri who helped me to start and lead evangelistic Bible studies.
7. *Give* your student the next lesson to complete.

May God enable you to experience the joy of watching this person grow as he discovers the wonderful truths in God’s Word and applies them to his life. In the end, it is not these studies, but God using His Word and allowing His Spirit to work through you in the life of this person that brings the growth.

"Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants ..." (2 Corinthians 3:5-6a, NASB)
resources for each study. None of these are required, but you may consider one, two, or a few of these materials to enhance your discipleship program. In some cases, brief notes on these resources are supplied to you.

We suggest that you meet individually with your student on a weekly basis. Find a place where distractions will be kept to a minimum. Make this time together a priority. Allow forty-five minutes to an hour for prayer, discussion, review, and accountability. This is not meant to be a fixed time limit, but a shorter time will cause you to be rushed, and a longer time could result in a loss of attention and/or focus and become a time burden to the student.

Allowing for flexibility in response to the needs of your student and/or the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we suggest the following format for your meetings (By all means, please do not use your stopwatch!):

1. **Conversation** concerning the events and insights from the previous week. (5-7 minutes)

2. **Prayer requests** and **prayer** concerning the student, his requests, and the study. (5-8 minutes)

3. **Discuss** each question of the study. Allowing the discussion to include some tangents and implications can be helpful, but aim to keep the discussion focused on completing the study. Encourage the student to ask about things he does not understand. (25 to 35 minutes)

4. **Review** the lesson's assigned **memory verse**, as well as one or two other verses, once several have been learned. (3 minutes)

5. **Check** to see that your student has attempted to carry out the **application** for the lesson. (2 minutes)

6. **Conclude** by praying about what has been learned. (2-3 minutes)
meeting. In addition, you too will need to memorize the verse for each week. It would also be good for you to set an example by doing the application for each lesson. We wish to stress that Bible study or knowledge is not an end in itself, but rather always a beginning to a deeper relationship with God and a closer, more obedient walk with Him.

The Leader's Guide for each lesson contains the following items:

**SUMMARY:** A statement of the overall aim and purpose for each lesson.

**MAIN POINTS:** The main biblical and theological truths the student should acquire through reading the lesson and answering the questions.

**GOALS:** The responses desired from the student upon completion of each lesson.

**NOTES/SUGGESTIONS:** Where desired or necessary, we have provided answers and/or comments for questions in each lesson. Generally, the answers should be self-explanatory from the Bible reference(s) given for each question. Since Bible study involves two-way communication with God, we purposely have not provided an "answer key." We do not want to spoil or "quench" this communication by providing all the "answers." For certain questions, we do offer you concepts to emphasize, items of clarification, or suggestions for presentation of important truths.

**ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING":** Answers to the objective questions at the end of each lesson.

**NOTES ON "LETTING GOD'S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE":** Comments and suggestions regarding the verse to memorize and/or the application for each lesson.

**RESOURCES:** Other materials, relevant to the lesson, available to assist you and/or your student. We have attempted to assist you by suggesting possible supplementary
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to First Steps Bible studies! This is a series of ten inductive Bible studies and two checkups to check the student’s progress. We refer to the individual you are discipling as a "student," but this is not to imply that this is solely an academic exercise. Rather, the purpose of these studies is to acquaint the individual with basic Bible truths in such a way that, along with the work of the Holy Spirit, he will be guided and motivated to apply these truths to his life day by day and week by week. Each lesson has a verse to memorize and a suggested application (except where the student is asked to develop his own application). We encourage you to hold the student accountable to attempt to answer all the questions in each study, memorize the verse for each lesson, and attempt to carry out the suggested application.

These studies are suggested for use with individuals in grade seven through adult age. If you are finding a young person is having difficulty with the lessons of this series, we suggest using the Children’s Discipleship Course, available in a set of six lessons, designed for children in grades three through six and available from CE National.

The questions in this series are based upon the New International Version of the Bible. All questions in the first five studies are based upon the Gospel of John. After this, the remaining five studies use verses from the entire Bible. Please make sure the person with whom you are working has at least a New Testament for the first five lessons and a complete Bible for the rest of the lessons.

A copy of each lesson has been included in this guide. You may want to start or do the first one or two lessons with your student, but we do strongly suggest for the remaining lessons, you prepare by completing the lesson in advance of your

'We have chosen to use "he," "him," and "his" generically to avoid the constant awkwardness of "he or she," "his or her," etc. We recognize and hope that men and women alike will benefit from the use of these studies.'
There was Carol Sue who taught me several methods of taking in God’s Word (some of which I pass on to you in this series). There was Mrs. Beaver who nurtured and guided me toward loving others, Phyllis and Dolores who instilled in me the value of thriftiness, Brenda who tutored me in self-control and financial stewardship, Deb who guided me into a greater awareness of God’s grace ... I cannot possibly name here all those who have changed and influenced my life by their love and sharing of their lives in Christ with me, but you get the idea. We are only a part of God’s larger plan for the life of the person we have chosen and God has called us to help, by His grace, at this time. While it is good to take personal responsibility to help another to grow, and this will often involve a long term commitment to an individual, we are not the only ones God will use in the life of another. God often uses several members in the Body of Christ to help a person on toward maturity in Christ. I too have had the privilege of being a part of God’s work in the lives of others. For example, Janet and I worked on dieting and self-control. Diane and I worked on sharing the gospel with the unsaved. Michelle and I work on memorizing and meditating on Scripture. Paul said, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow," (1 Corinthians 3:6). So, whether you are "planting seeds" or "watering" them, that is all God holds you responsible to do. He will choose the workers and He will cause the growth. Only be faithful in your task and lovingly committed to the person He has called you to help.

Thank you for allowing me to supply some "gardening" tools for you.

Sincerely,

Faith Joy Heisler

Faith Joy Heisler
LESSON 1: YOUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

This study is geared both to those who have recently prayed to receive Christ and to those who may not have made that decision yet. For the one who has received Christ, it is a review of the facts of the gospel. To the one who has not yet chosen to receive Christ, it is a gospel presentation.

MAIN POINTS

1. We receive eternal life through trusting Jesus Christ as our Savior.

2. Eternal life is a relationship with God; it does not mean we will not experience physical death.

3. People are sinners and do not want to come to God; many refuse to trust Jesus because it means confessing their sins.

4. God loved us so much that He gave us His Son to die for our sins.

5. Jesus loved us so that he came and died for us.

6. Jesus rose from the dead.

7. Because Jesus had the power to rise from death, He can also give eternal life to all who will trust Him as Savior.

8. Eternal life is a gift that must be personally received.

GOALS

1. The student will demonstrate understanding of eternal life and how one can obtain it.

2. The student will confirm his decision to receive Christ by stating whether or not he has received eternal life through
trusting Jesus. If he has not made that decision, he will identify what he perceives prevents him from coming to Christ.

3. The student will express gratitude to Jesus for what He has done for him.

4. The student will memorize and accurately quote John 3:16.

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

1. To get your student started, it would be good to work on at least the first three questions (or even the entire first study) together. Take turns reading the verses aloud. Allow the student to answer the questions, and allow time to record the answers.

2. Please note that question 1 refers to John 20:31.

3. In question 3, it would be good to mention our hope of the resurrection of our bodies to eternal life in the presence of God.

4. You might want to illustrate question 5 with the behavior of cockroaches when the light is turned on; they don't want to be caught. Those who refuse to come to Christ must live their lives like cockroaches, always scurrying and hiding from the light.

5. In question 6, emphasize that Jesus was totally innocent, but took all our sins upon Himself, so that He could pay the penalty for all our sins on the cross.

6. The point of question 12 is that since Jesus rose from the dead, He also has power to give us eternal life.

7. You could illustrate the point of question 14 with a pen: "Do you want this pen? Do you believe I can give you this pen? When does this pen actually become yours? When you believe me and receive it from me." (Allow him to take
the pen from your hand.) Ask him how he knows he has eternal life. Ask him to identify when he personally received Christ. He may not be able to give an exact time and date, but look for some indication of a time when he chose to trust Christ. If he is uncertain of his decision, discuss anything he may have stated would stop him from coming to Jesus. If he seems to understand the facts of the Gospel and is willing, offer to pray with him at this time to receive Christ.

ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"

1. c
2. b
3. b, c

NOTES ON "LETTING GOD'S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

1. Help him learn how to memorize and review verses:
   a. Have him write the verse down on a small card or index card.
   b. Tell him to try learning the verse a sentence or phrase at a time.
   c. Instruct him to review the verse at least two to three times a day by writing it down and/or repeating it from memory.
   d. Encourage him to say the reference along with the verse.
   e. Tell him that you will each have to recite the verse accurately from memory at the next meeting.
2. Let him know that at your next meeting, you will ask him if he has done the application.

RESOURCES

"The Bridge." FOCUS: P.O. Box 335, Winona Lake, IN 46590.
(A tract that presents the entire Gospel with the use of a single verse, Romans 6:23)

"Bridge to Life." Navpress: Colorado Springs, CO.
(A tract)

(A booklet presentation of the Gospel)

(A pamphlet; copies available through CE National, Inc., P.O. Box 365, Winona Lake, IN 46590)

(A booklet that presents Jesus as the only way and discusses common objections to the message of the Gospel)

"Life's Most Important Question..." BMH Tracts: Winona Lake, IN, No date.
(A tract; copies available through the Brethren Missionary Herald Bookstore, P.O. Box 544, Winona Lake, IN 46590)

(A tract; copies available through: Student Office, 1141 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73103)

(A classic, "basic" presentation of the theology of the Gospel for adults)

(This book has a wealth of information, but we suggest you use it for a personal resource to acquaint yourself with historical facts which support the Gospel. It also has extensive bibliographies.)


(Explains salvation basics)


(This book takes a more "intellectual" and philosophical approach to presenting the Gospel; only recommended for advanced readers who might benefit from this approach.)

(Chapters one and two would be especially relevant to this lesson.)
LESSON 2: JESUS CHRIST, THE LORD

Similar to Lesson One, this study is also geared both to new believers and to those who still have not made a decision to trust Christ as Savior and Lord. The identity of Christ is revealed as God come in human flesh to save us from our sins. The revelation of Christ’s identity necessitates a response from each of us. That response will determine our eternal destiny.

MAIN POINTS

1. Jesus was not alone in the testimony of His identity. The Scriptures, John the Baptist, His works (miracles), and God the Father all testify that Jesus is the Son of God.

2. As God the Son, Jesus was not a created being; rather He was present with the Father at creation, and all things were created through (by) Him (cf. Colossians 1:16).

3. Jesus, eternally God, was born into the world as a man ("became flesh") in order to reveal God the Father to us.

4. Apart from Jesus Christ, it is impossible for man to have a relationship with God; Jesus is the only way provided for men to come to God.

5. Jesus will not turn away any who come to Him; to all those who come to Him in faith, He gives eternal life; they do not come into condemnation, and will not experience separation from God (spiritual death).

6. In contrast, those who refuse to come to Jesus Christ, trusting instead in their own righteousness, will suffer death (both physical and eternal separation from God) and eternal condemnation for their sins.

7. We must respond to Jesus’ identity. He is God’s Son, our Savior, and our only hope of a relationship with God and eternal life. Our response will determine our eternal destiny.
8. Our response should be to trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior and to worship Him as God.

GOALS

1. The student will demonstrate understanding that Scripture teaches that Jesus Christ is God the Son who also became a man to pay the penalty for our sins so that we could have a relationship with God and eternal life.

2. The student will demonstrate understanding that Jesus is the only way to have eternal life and a relationship with God.

3. If he has not already made a commitment, the student will be confronted with the decision he needs to make regarding his response to the deity of Jesus Christ and His identity as the only way to come to God and receive eternal life.

4. The student will be able to accurately quote John 14:6 from memory.

5. The student will identify an area of obedience and carry out at least one specific act of obedience necessary in this area.

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

1. Question 4: Many new believers do not realize that "the Word" refers to Jesus Christ. The point of this question is that far from being a created being (as some heretical cults assert), Jesus Christ is God, existed before creation, and in fact, took part with God the Father (and the Spirit [see Genesis 1:2]) in the creation of all things.

2. Question 8: Discuss other ways that people may try to gain eternal life or have a relationship with God (e.g. good deeds outweighing bad, other religions, etc.).

3. Question 10: The point is only God has the power to give life.
4. Question 13 and question 14 are reminders that we do not come to God on the basis of our own works of righteousness, but rather on the basis of trusting in the finished work of Christ.

5. Question 17: Honoring Jesus, God’s Son, takes nothing away from God the Father; rather it glorifies both the Father and the Son. Refusing to honor the Son is refusing to believe and honor God the Father who bears witness of His Son (cf. Luke 3:22; John 8:18).

6. In question 18, encourage the person with whom you are working to be honest about how he regards Jesus. Discuss, but do not criticize or degrade any doubts expressed. A true decision to acknowledge and respond to Jesus as Lord is both a work of God and the individual’s will (cf. Matthew 16:15-17). Further, having doubts does not disqualify a person from choosing to believe. Some may think that they cannot make a decision to trust Christ as Savior until all their doubts are eliminated, but that is not the case; even Christians have doubts at times.

7. Question 19: besides serving as a summary of the main points of the lesson, this question is also intended to be a first practice for witnessing of Jesus to unbelievers.

ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False
NOTES ON "LETTING GOD'S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

1. Be sure to not only have the student recite this verse, but also review the verse from Lesson One, John 3:16. Both verses should be recited accurately from memory.

2. The main point of this application is that faith leads to action (cf. James 2:17). Later lessons will focus on making good applications. Identifying an area of sin or need for obedience and expressed willingness to take a step of obedience are the main goals at this point. However, you may try to help the person state his step of obedience as something specific, that can be accomplished during a stated period of time. For example, instead of "I will read God's Word," a specific step of obedience would be, "I will read a chapter of the Gospel of John each morning before breakfast this week."

RESOURCES

   (Section 2 is especially relevant to this lesson.)


   (A very readable, informative, and devotional study of the signs performed by Jesus with the added enjoyment of color illustrations throughout the book; done by a well-known and sound biblical scholar)

(This book is intended for people from a Jewish background who are considering Jesus as the promised Messiah. It would also be a good resource tool to prepare you when dealing with such people.)
LESSON 3: ENJOYING THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Christians are never promised an "easy" or "comfortable" life in this world. To the contrary, aside from the common suffering in this life due to the effects of sin and the curse, Christians tend to experience even more hardship due to trials, discipline, persecution by unbelievers, and opposition from satanic forces. Yet, in the midst of this, believers are promised enabling joy and blessings unknown and unavailable to the rest of the world. These blessings are part of the abundant life that Christ gives to us in the context of our relationship with Him.

MAIN POINTS

1. Jesus is the source of life and He came to give us that life abundantly.

2. All blessings of the abundant life are in the context of a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. We only enjoy the blessings as we live a life of faith characterized by obedience to God.

3. The blessings of our abundant life cannot be taken away by the difficulties we face in this life, no matter how severe.

4. There are some things, though, that would prevent us from enjoying the abundant life Jesus came to give us. These include unbelief, enslavement to sin, disobedience, and refusing to come to Jesus.

5. The abundant life is daily, moment-by-moment enjoyment of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Believers are never alone: the Father provides for us, the Son prays for us, and His Spirit is ever present to help and guide us.

GOALS

1. The student will demonstrate a correct understanding of the abundant life that Jesus came to give us.
2. The student will be able to list at least four or five blessings that are part of this abundant life.

3. The student will be able to name four things that would prevent one from experiencing the abundant life in Christ.

4. The student will demonstrate understanding of the role of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in his daily life.

5. The student will memorize and accurately recite and/or write John 10:10.

6. The student will demonstrate dependence in His relationship with God by praying for a particular need daily for at least one week.

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

1. Question 3: Most people would desire a life of prosperity and items of comfort.

2. Question 4: While all these blessings are promised as part of the abundant life and are available to all believers, our enjoyment of these blessings and experienced ("feeling") level of satisfaction in Jesus grows in proportion to our relationship with Him and level of dependence on Him. That is, the closer we walk with Him and the deeper our knowledge and experience of Him grows, the more fuller we experience and enjoy these blessings.

3. Question 5: This is where the student is to demonstrate understanding of the "abundant life."

4. Question 6: Certainly all unbelievers are excluded from the blessings of the abundant life in Christ, but Christians can also at least temporarily miss out on blessings Christ longs to bestow due to disobedience, doubt, and failing to depend on God.
5. The comment after question 8 is yet one more opportunity for the individual to choose to trust Christ as his Savior and Lord. While not excluding those who have not trusted Christ, the remaining studies are geared to those who have chosen to trust Christ as Savior and now want to grow in their relationship with Him. A decision should not be forced, but if the person is still reluctant to receive Christ as Savior, then it might be wise to incorporate some of the materials suggested in the Resource sections of these lessons, especially the tracts and books listed at the end of Lesson One. Of course, it should also be a time of increased prayer for this person and demonstration of God’s love to him.

ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"

1. c, d, f

2.a. True

b. True

c. False

NOTES ON "LETTING GOD'S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

1. Don’t forget to review John 3:16 and John 14:6 as well.

2. If the person is willing to share the prayer request he wrote down in the application section with you, then we suggest you incorporate this request in the closing prayer you have together following your study. In addition, it would probably be an encouragement for him if you would continue to pray about his request and remember to ask him about the outcome or progress of this request the next time you meet.
RESOURCES

(This book is actually twelve lessons in basic discipleship, but being a disciple is key to enjoyment of the abundant life.)

(A treatise on how God allows and works through suffering in the lives of believers)


"Growing Through Affliction." Bettie Cashman. CE National, Inc.: P.O. Box 365 Winona Lake, IN 46590.
(A Grace Brethren pastor's wife shares from her heart what she learned about the role of suffering in her life. Mrs. Cashman has since gone to be with the Lord after a difficult struggle with cancer.)

(A classic Christian allegory that well illustrates the joys of our moment-by-moment journey with Jesus)

Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret. Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 1932 (with many reprints).
(A biography which chronicles the daily dependence on Christ by a man of God who founded and served in the China Inland Mission; one is impressed by Mr. Taylor's intimate relationship with the Lord.)


(An encouraging book that helps enable one to see God at work even when it seems as though difficult circumstances aren't changing or improving fast enough)

18
LESSON 4: BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

Once someone has chosen to trust Christ as Savior and Lord, the next step is to follow Him. This following of Christ's example in trust and obedience is called discipleship or "being a disciple of Christ." Disciples demonstrate Christlikeness in their lives and "bear fruit" (lead others to Christ) by their testimony and lives. Certain precious promises are given to those who follow Christ.

MAIN POINTS

1. The Bible gives us ways to distinguish true disciples of Christ from people who merely profess to believe in Him. A disciple is one whose life is characterized by becoming more and more Christlike.

2. The steps of discipleship involve moment-by-moment choices made and carried out with the help of the Holy Spirit.

3. We demonstrate our love for Jesus by obeying His commands.

4. Jesus promises the disciple His eternal, never-ending presence and protection. No one can sever our relationship with God, because we are held strong by His matchless power and love.

5. Not all those who claim to believe in Christ are true disciples of His.

6. There is a cost involved in discipleship; those who follow Christ can expect opposition from the world.

7. Disciples lead others to Christ.
GOALS

1. The student will demonstrate understanding of what it means to "be a disciple" in general, and more specifically, what is involved in being a disciple of Christ.

2. The student will be able to name at least four things that distinguish a true disciple from those who merely profess to believe in Christ.

3. The student will demonstrate understanding that we must depend upon the Holy Spirit to enable us to follow Christ and obey His commands.

4. The student will be able to personally claim the promise of eternal security and demonstrate that assurance by stating that he knows he has eternal life, that he will not perish, and that no one can remove him from Christ’s protection.

5. The student will demonstrate understanding that there is a cost involved in discipleship.

6. The student will be able to accurately recite/write John 10:27-28 from memory.

7. The student will demonstrate understanding that one of the marks of a disciple is leading others to Christ. He will demonstrate this by naming a nonbeliever with whom he will share his faith and then actually telling this person about his decision to trust and follow Jesus Christ.

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

1. **Question 1:** This is not meant to be an exhaustive list or definition of what distinguishes a disciple, but from the Gospel of John, it does give a good sampling of what characterizes a disciple.

2. **Question 3:** You might ask, "What does it mean for us to 'become less'?" We certainly do not decrease in value (The
Son of God gave His life for us; nor do we lose our individual identity. Rather, we more and more fully express Christ through ourselves, in our own unique ways with the talents and gifts God has given us. We become "less" in the sense that our will and purpose are yielded more and more fully to Christ.

3. **Question 7:** Discuss some ways that Jesus might "show Himself" to one who obeys His commands.

4. **Question 9:** For the sake of illustration, have the person write his name on a small (1/2" x 2") piece of paper. Fold the paper up and place it in your hand; close your hand over the paper. Then cover your closed hand with your other hand. Ask the person to try to get his "name" from hands. Similarly, but to a much greater degree and strength, we are safely and eternally protected by the mighty hands of God the Son and God the Father.

5. **Question 10:** You might ask the person if he has experienced any difficulty or persecution yet as a result of choosing to trust Christ. It might also be an encouragement for you to share a personal example from your own experience, telling how you dealt with the situation.

6. **Question 12:** If the person has sufficient Bible knowledge, ask, "Who was Andrew's brother? From what you know about the Bible and the history of the early Church, what might have been different if Andrew did not bother to bring his brother to Jesus?" [Otherwise, you could tell some things about the life and lasting contributions of Peter to the Church]. Of course, God had a purpose and a plan for Peter's life, but He chose to use Andrew as the one who would bring Peter to Jesus. We could ask, who does God want us to bring to Him? To the leader: you never know how God will use the person you are helping to get started with Christ!
ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True

NOTES ON "LETTING GOD’S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"


2. If the person has not yet shared his faith with another, you might "role play" a situation with him. You can be his "unbelieving" friend; allow him to tell you about his decision to trust Christ as his Savior. Ask him questions such as, "How did you find out about Jesus?"; "How did you come to the decision to trust Him as your Savior?" and "What difference has Jesus made in your life?" You might also review the previous lesson by asking the person to respond to the following during your role play: "Well, that’s fine for you, but I don’t believe Jesus is God; He was just a very kind man who taught us about loving one another."

3. Ask the person what he will say or do when others accuse him of being a "born again fanatic." Consider this question: "Is a disciple a fanatic?" In this age of "tolerance", "open-mindedness," and "freedom to believe whatever you want," those who hold to anything with conviction are often labeled fanatics. This word has taken on a negative connotation. A "fanatic" is defined as "a person possessed by an excessive and irrational zeal," (The American Heritage Dictionary, p.474). Our choices will seem "excessive" to those who have not given their lives to God; the changes we make in our lives may seem "irrational" to those who do not have the
Word of God and cannot understand why we believe and choose the things we do. Discuss how we are to respond to those who regard us as "fanatics."

RESOURCES

(a booklet)


(Five very basic Bible studies on five key assurances for new believers: assurance of salvation, answered prayer, victory, forgiveness, and guidance. These could be as supplemental studies, follow-up studies, or material to begin a "quiet time" program.)

(a classic booklet on discipleship that would tie in very well with this lesson)

(another classic booklet; it very effectively describes the disciple's life as home in which we allow Christ to enter into and work from 'room to room,' allowing Him to transform our hearts into a home which is honoring to Him.)

LESSON 5: CLAIMING THE PROMISES

People tend to measure their wealth by the amount of assets they hold. However, not all assets are alike. Some assets are uncertain or lose their value over time. In fact, in this material world, there are no certain or permanent assets. Every thing we value can either be stolen, destroyed, depreciated, or decayed (cf. Matthew 6:19-21). In Christ, however, God freely gives us a wealth of permanent, eternal assets—assets of infinite worth that will never lose their value. Many of the assets God gives to us are in the form of promises which are found in God’s Word. Man, in his weakness, dishonesty, and greed, has given the word "promise" a bad connotation, like "junk bonds." But with God, a promise is a certain reality. It is founded upon His strength, faithfulness, and goodness towards us. Our holy God will not make a promise He will not or cannot keep. These promises are ours on the basis of our relationship with Christ. They are claimed by faith. God has ordained that in order for us to receive some promises, we must meet certain conditions of obedience. Other promises, God has made unconditional; He grants them totally out of grace. Conditions do not negate God’s grace; just the fact that sinners such as we can obtain God’s promises is a demonstration of God’s grace. Thus, all promises are on the basis of God’s grace and claimed by our faith.

MAIN POINTS

1. God’s promises are certain; they are made on the basis of God’s grace and are to be claimed by our faith. They are available to all who have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

2. When studying God’s promises, we should observe the following:
   * To whom is the promise given?
   * What does God promise?
   * What conditions, if any, are given for claiming the promise?
3. When claiming God’s promises, we should ask God’s help in examining ourselves with the following questions:

* Am I eligible for the promise (i.e., Do I have a relationship with God through trusting Christ as my Savior?)?

* Am I willing to trust God to fulfill His promise, even if I don’t "see" an immediate answer (i.e., Am I asking in faith?)?

* Have I met the conditions, if any, God has set forth for claiming this promise?

* How does this promise apply to my life (i.e., What is it that I need, and what does God promise to provide so that I can live for, serve, obey, and glorify Him?)?

4. God’s Word is full of precious promises; the ones in this study are just a sampling of selected promises from the Gospel of John, fundamental to new believers, but vital to all believers. These promises include [This list is presented for your information, not necessarily for your memorization!]:

a. **John 5:24** Those who trust Jesus Christ as Savior have eternal life; they will not suffer condemnation or spiritual death; they have spiritual life.

b. **John 10:27-29** Those who follow Christ are eternally secure in Him. No one can deprive them of their life and relationship with God.

c. **John 15:7** and **16:24** If we and our requests are vitally linked to Christ and what He commands us, then God will grant whatever we request to enable us to do His will.

d. **John 6:35** Jesus promises to satisfy the true hungers of all those who come to Him in faith.

e. **John 6:37** Jesus will never reject a person who comes to Him in faith.
f. **John 6:40** All who belong to Jesus have the sure hope of eternal life and the resurrection of their bodies.

g. **John 14:2-3** We have an eternal home; Jesus has made a place for us in heaven; He will return to take us to be with Him forever.

h. **John 14:7** We know and have a relationship with God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

i. **John 7:38-39** Whoever believes in Jesus Christ receives the gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell within him.

j. **John 14:16; 16:8, and 16:13** Believers are never alone in this life. The Spirit dwells with us and within us to guide us and enable us to live for God, serve Him, and lead others to Christ.

k. **John 14:21** Those who study and obey God’s Word will experience God’s love and presence in their lives.

l. **John 12:46** Those who follow Christ will not walk in darkness.

m. **John 12:26** Those who follow Christ will enjoy the presence of Christ and receive honor from the Father.

n. **John 14:23** Those who obey Jesus will experience the joy of the presence of Jesus and the Father.

o. **John 15:5** Those who live in, with, by, and for Jesus will bear much fruit (i.e., their lives will produce lasting results).

**GOALS**

1. The student will demonstrate an awareness that God’s Word contains promises vital to his life in Christ.
2. The student will demonstrate gratitude and an excitement about the wealth of promises which God has bestowed upon us in Christ.

3. The student will be able to list at least five promises given to those who trust and follow Christ.

4. The student will demonstrate ability to recognize a promise in Scripture, state the promise, the conditions (if any), and give an example of how the promise would apply to his life. An indication of this is his ability to complete the chart on page 5 of this study.

5. The student will demonstrate an increasing assurance of his eternal life and eternal security in Jesus Christ.

6. The student will gain and demonstrate at least an initial awareness of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in his life.

7. The student will demonstrate an understanding that God's promises are sure, are given on the basis of His grace through Jesus Christ, and are to be claimed by faith. An indication of this will be that the student selects at least one promise from the study and claims it by faith for his life.

8. The student will be able to accurately recite/write John 14:21 from memory.

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

1. **Question 1:** The three promises are: eternal life, no condemnation, rescue from death.

2. **Question 2:** The five parts of the promise are: we are given eternal life; we will never perish; no one can snatch us out of Christ's hand; the Father is greater than all; no one can snatch us out of God the Father's hand.

3. **Question 3c:** ASK! ... is the answer.
4. **Question 6b:** Examples of answers might be, but are not limited to: answered prayer, provision for a need, encouragement from a brother or sister in Christ, a clearly marked "open door," protection from evil, etc.

5. **Question 7:** Encourage the student to use a separate sheet of paper to complete this chart. We’ve listed a general application as an example in the question, but you and/or the student should feel free to make this a specific application (i.e., apply the promise to a specific situation that you and/or he are/is facing in life). For example, perhaps the student has a decision to make; this promise could be claimed for guidance in this decision. Consistent with our studies, we encourage immediate and practical application of God’s Word to one’s life.

**ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"**

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c

**NOTES ON "LETTING GOD’S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"**

1. This method of thinking about a verse will be presented in detail in Lesson 7; we simply introduce it here. It would be good to try this together when you review the verse for the lesson. It would provide some variety to simple recitation of the verse.

2. Have the student recite and/or write John 14:21 from memory. Be sure to review John 3:16, John 14:6, John 10:10, and John 10:27-28 as well; the student will be required to write each of the verses from Lessons 1 through 5 from memory on the Checkup.
3. Ask the student to share with you the promise he has claimed. It would be good to remember this promise in prayer when you pray together.

4. The "promise notebook" can be quite an encouraging exercise, especially for a new believer. Even an appropriately labelled sheet of paper or a small spiral notebook will do. The pages could be labelled as shown on the following page (you may photo copy this chart for your use):

5. Please be sure to remind the student to review for the Checkup. Questions on the Checkup are taken from all parts of the studies (i.e., the introduction, the questions, the remarks, the verses to memorize, and the applications. Questions on the verses to memorize involve writing each verse from memory. Questions in reference to the applications involve stating whether or not the student has completed each application. The format of the Checkup is true/false, multiple choice, and short answer (verses and applications). The student will be able to use his Bible and Lessons 1 through 5 for all parts except the Scripture memory section.

RESOURCES


Bible Truths. Alva J. McClain. BMH Books: Winona Lake, IN, 1979. (While not strictly a "promise book," this book does contain many promises in the form of answers to questions posed in the text. It is concise and very readable. It would also serve the purpose of being a basic primer on Christian doctrine for new believers. In addition, it does have a chapter on Bible promises ["XV. Precious Promises"] and the Holy Spirit [IV. The Holy Spirit].)

the Jesus Person Pocket Promise Book: 800 Promises from the
Word of God. David Wilkerson. Regal Books Division, G/L
Publications: Glendale, CA, 1972 (multiple printings)
(Advantages to this book are that it is divided up into topics
and there is a key verse for each topic. Aside from the intro-
duction and topic headings, the book consists of verses written
out, without commentary. A disadvantage for memorization of
promises is that verses are selected from multiple versions
of the Bible. By the way, there are actually 867 promises given in
this book.)

House: Grand Rapids, MI, 1958 (multiple printings).
(This book is excellent for doctrine but far too technical for
a new Christian. It is recommended for further study for the
leader.)

How to Interpret the Bible for Yourself. Richard Mayhue.

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth. Gordon D. Fee &
Douglas Stuart. Zondervan Publishing House: Grand Rapids,
MI, 1981.
(This is actually a book on interpreting the Bible; we include
it here as a resource for the leader because claiming promises
can and should involve principles of correct interpretation and
application of the Bible.)

How to Study the Bible. Jack Kuhatschek. InterVarsity Press:
Downers Grove, IL.
(A booklet of basic Bible interpretation principles, only thirty-
two pages in length; again, included in this lesson due to the
interpretation of the Bible involved in claiming promises)

(This fine work is readable, but probably too advanced for
a new believer; it would provide excellent background material
for you to do or develop a supplementary study.)
GOSPEL OF JOHN STUDIES: CHECKUP

INTRODUCTION

This is the first of two "checkups" provided for the student and you to assess his knowledge, understanding, and application of the biblical information presented in the studies. This checkup covers the first five lessons. We do stress that the purpose of these checkups is not to assign a "level of spirituality," but rather give an indication of the level of learning, comprehension, and application of the information presented in the studies. God measures growth by our level of faith and obedience (John 6:29; John 14:21). Yet the greater our knowledge and understanding of the God's Word, the more informed and Scripture-based our faith will be, and the greater will be our opportunity to conform our lives to the principles and commands found in God's Word. Thus, careful study and application of God's Word go hand in hand with growth in faith and obedience.

THE "POINT" OF THE MATTER...

Answers to the Checkup are provided on the following pages (except "Examine Your Scripture Memory"; please use the appropriate version of the Bible to check these). The checkup is based on 100 points, and the point values are given on the checkup itself, in the directions for each section (the verses for "Examine Your Understanding" are considered "extra credit"). The points have been assigned in such a way that the memorization and application of verses combined receive equal emphasis with the acquisition of doctrinal knowledge. The points were not given for an absolute grading scale, but rather to give some sort of measure of attainment. Please feel free to interpret your student's "score" according to your own discretion. The goal of each checkup is not to achieve a certain score as much as it is to expose areas of confusion or lack of understanding. Please discuss and review any items that are missed. Further, the checkups are designed to encourage accountability in learning, memorizing, and applying God's Word.
SUGGESTED "BONUS POINT" VERSES
FOR "EXAMINE YOUR UNDERSTANDING"

The following verses, selected from Lessons 1 through 5, are suggested as ones which support the answers to the questions in this section; there may be other possibilities.

1. John 17:3 or John 6:40
2. John 5:24
3. John 3:19-20
4. John 8:31-32
5. John 14:6
7. John 16:33 or John 15:18-21
8. John 15:11 (compare with John 16:22)
10. John 1:1-3 or John 9:38
11. John 1:3 (see also John 1:10)
12. See Lesson 5, page 1; John 6:29 or John 6:35
14. John 6:37
15. John 3:36 or John 8:24
16. John 3:16 or John 3:17
17. John 6:29 or John 6:37
18. John 14:16 or John 16:13
GOSPEL OF JOHN STUDIES: CHECKUP!

The true test of our relationship with God is whether or not we are walking in obedience to His Word (John 14:21). This "test" cannot measure the growth in your relationship with God or your level of obedience. What it can do is give an indication if you are understanding what we have studied and are making an effort to apply principles from the Word in your life. You may refer to your Bible and the studies for all questions, except Section III ("Examine Your Scripture Memory").

EXAMINE YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. Based on the verses we have studied in the entire series, determine whether each of the following statements is true or false, then mark "T" if the statement is true and "F" if the statement is false. (2 points each, plus 1 bonus point for finding and writing down a verse in the Gospel of John to prove your answer). All questions come from verses studied.

   - T 1. A person who has eternal life will never experience physical death.
   - F 2. It is impossible to be sure of having eternal life.
   - F 3. People are eager to confess and forsake their sins.
   - T 4. When a person is saved, he no longer needs to be a slave of sin.
   - T 5. Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven.
   - F 6. Satan can deprive a believer of eternal life.
   - T 7. Once a person becomes a Christian, he can expect problems.
8. Difficult circumstances can prevent one from enjoying abundant life.

9. All suffering in our life is a result of our own lack of faith.

10. We should worship Jesus Christ as God.

11. Jesus created the world.

12. All God’s promises, conditional and unconditional, must be claimed by perfect obedience.

13. All believers receive the Holy Spirit.

14. Jesus will not turn away any person who comes to Him.

15. Those who refuse to come to Jesus will suffer eternal condemnation.

16. Man took the initiative to be saved.

17. If one wants to invite Jesus into his life, he must first get rid of his bad habits.

18. Christians are “on their own” to try their best until Jesus returns.

II. Read each of the following questions carefully, then circle the letter of the response that best answers or completes the statement. (2 points each)

1. A believer receives the Holy Spirit at the time he ...
   a. Quit sinning.
   b. Is saved.
   c. Knows to ask.

2. A person should be baptized in order to ...
   a. Gain eternal life.
   b. Join a church.
   c. Give a public demonstration of his faith in Christ.
3. We obey God's commands in order to...
   a. Show our love for Him.
   b. Obtain and keep our salvation.
   c. Prevent bad things from happening to us.

4. Which of the following can cause a believer to lose eternal life?
   a. Satan
   b. Sinning after being saved
   c. Nothing and no one

5. Jesus promised his truth could set us free from...
   a. Sickness
   b. Enslavement to sin
   c. Being hated by others

6. God will answer the prayers of...
   a. Anyone who prays
   b. Christians who ask in Jesus' name
   c. His "favorite children"

7. Why did Jesus come into the world?
   a. To save sinners from death
   b. To see what it was like
   c. To judge the world

EXAMINE YOUR SCRIPTURE MEMORY

III. Without using your Bible, write out each of the following verses (on a separate sheet of paper) as accurately as possible from memory — (5 points for each totally correct quotation; 3 for coming close; 1 for trying).

1. John 3:16
2. John 14:6
3. John 10:10
5. John 14:21

Please see Bible
IV. The following question concern the assigned application for each lesson. Answer each of the following questions "Yes" or "No" in the space provided. (5 points for each completed application)

Yes 1. Lesson 1: Did you write a "thank you" note to God?

Yes 2. Lesson 2: Did you try to change one practice in your life?

Yes 3. Lesson 3: Did you pray daily (for at least a week) for one request from God?

Yes 4. Lesson 4: Did you attempt to tell at least one other person about your faith in Christ?

Yes 5. Lesson 5: Did you select and claim a promise from the study?

This now completes your checkup. You may return it to the address below for scoring. Remember, though, it is only provided as a means to check your understanding and application of what we have been studying; only God can evaluate your relationship with Him. However, if you had problems on this exam, now would be a good time to review the items you missed and ask another believer for help on questions you did not understand. Knowing and understanding God’s Word is an important part of growing in obedience to it.

- Ask for LESSON #6: GOD’S WORD : NECESSARY NOURISHMENT.

FOCUS  
P.O. Box 335  
Winona Lake IN, 46590
LESSON 6: GOD’S WORD, NECESSARY NOURISHMENT

This is the first study in the series which requires an entire Bible. It is a brief introduction to the Bible. The study covers a basic outline of the Bible, its unique source, its vital importance, and the place God intends for it to have in our lives. Lessons 6 and 7 are actually a two-part study on the Bible. This lesson shows the necessity of incorporating the Bible in our lives, and the next lesson shows how to incorporate the Bible into our daily lives and thoughts.

MAIN POINTS

1. The Bible consists of sixty-six books divided into two sections, called the Old Testament and the New Testament.

2. The information in the Bible is presented in several styles by a variety of human authors.

3. God directed the authorship of the entire Bible through the process of divine inspiration. That is, God is the source of everything contained in Scripture. Since God is the source and He directed the process of authorship, the Bible is His Word, without error, communicated through human authors.

4. We require a steady intake of God’s Word for our spiritual growth and strengthening.

5. God’s Word is also given to protect us against Satan’s attacks and to keep us from falling into temptation.

6. God intends for us to study His Word, apply it to our lives, and obey it without reservation or compromise.

7. Those who intently study and obey God’s Word will receive blessing and reward.
GOALS

1. The student will demonstrate knowledge of basic facts about the Bible, including: the two main parts, that there are different styles of writing, authorship, God’s being the source of Scripture.

2. The student will demonstrate awareness of the necessity of God’s Word for his spiritual growth.

3. The student will demonstrate understanding of the role of God’s Word in resisting temptation and actually demonstrate reliance on God’s Word when he is tempted.

4. The student will demonstrate obedience to specific commands in Scripture.

5. The student will be able to name at least two things promised to those who intently study and obey God’s Word.

6. The student will demonstrate an awareness of the effects of neglecting God’s Word by naming at least two ways this neglect shows up in the lives of believers.

7. The student will be able to accurately recite/write Joshua 1:8 from memory.

8. The student will obtain a daily devotional tool and begin to spend at least five minutes a day (hopefully, this will soon increase to at least ten minutes a day) in prayer and Scripture reading.

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

1. Introduction (the following two comments refer to the introductory remarks on pages one and two of the lesson.)

a. We encourage the student to familiarize himself with the table of contents in his Bible. Encourage him to use this to
find books for biblical references. We also suggest you challenge him to learn the names of the books of the Bible in order. You may divide this project over several weeks.

b. We encourage you to take the time to use this outline of types of literature found in the Bible to show the student examples of each type. We are not necessarily suggesting a "lecture" with notes on the topic, but rather reading through this part of the introduction together and pausing to find examples of each type in the Bible. It would be enough to turn to the book briefly and then move on. Here are examples you can use for each type:

* Historical Accounts: Genesis, Exodus, 1 Samuel, Esther
* Writings: Psalms, Proverbs
* Prophecies: Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 53
* Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
* Epistles: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 1 John

2. Question 1 and 2: The process of inspiration is not easily explained. We speak of artists and writers being "inspired," but this is not the same thing. One reason it is hard to comprehend is that no one is around today who has ever experienced this process! Contrast inspiration with "dictation." A Sunday school teacher I heard recently did a good job of this with this illustration: There were two secretaries and two bosses; both needed to issue a letter. The first boss called his secretary in and told her to take a letter. He proceeded to dictate the letter word by word, as his secretary dutifully recorded everything he said. She then went and typed the letter word for word. The second secretary had worked with her boss for a long time. They had often discussed things. She sat at her desk, pulled out a sheet of paper, and as thoughts came to her mind, she proceeded to type a letter. The contents of the letter were true to her bosses thoughts and wishes. The letter perfectly reflected what her boss wanted to communicate. (Thanks to Jeffrey Taylor, Grace Seminary student, December 1991). It is probably best not to make an issue of explaining the process, but rather emphasize the biblical fact that God used men and their individual personalities and styles to record
His thoughts without error to supply us with all the information we require to come to a saving knowledge of Him and live a life of obedience to His will (cf. 2 Peter 1:3-4).

3. **Question 6**: Jesus quoted scriptural commands that directly contradicted the things Satan tried to tempt Him to do. This also indicates that Jesus, as a man, had Scripture memorized and had studied it in order to apply it to every choice He made.

4. **Question 7b**: We "hide" the Word in our hearts by memorizing it.

5. **Question 8**: This passage demonstrates an example of the use of humor in the Bible to teach a principle. The situation is just as absurd and humorous today; can you imagine a businessman in a suit looking in the mirror, seeing a piece of spinach hanging from the corner of his mouth and then walking away without doing anything about it? Unless his boss is totally blind, this man certainly will not get far in the company!

6. **Question 12**: Eating is used in Scripture to indicate taking something in so that it becomes an inseparable part of one's being, much as our body digests food and then synthesizes molecules from the digested food which are dispersed throughout as inseparable parts of our physical bodies. Christ also used this metaphor to describe His sacrifice becoming an inseparable part of our being (e.g., Matthew 26:26-28). God's Word is to pervade every aspect of our being and the way we conduct ourselves in this life and the next.

7. We offer "MEALS" here merely as an introduction and a "taste" of what is to come in the next study; it is not necessary for the student to memorize the acronym at this point; it will be stressed quite a bit in this next lesson. He will probably easily master the five points by the end of Lesson 7.
ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"

1. a

2.a. True

b. True

c. False

d. True

NOTES ON "LETTING GOD'S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

1. Have the person recite and/or write Joshua 1:8 from memory. We suggest that at this point, you begin selectively reviewing the previous memory verses. That is, select one or two verses to review, instead of trying to say them all. The final Checkup does require memorization of all verses throughout the series, but it should not be necessary to quote every verse every week during your time together to achieve this. Encourage the student to review the verses on his own.

2. Forty Days & Forty Nights is available from FOCUS. This booklet is part of a four-volume series available from CE National, Inc. Other possible daily devotional tools can be found below in the "Resources." If you select this booklet, we suggest using it along with the pamphlet "Seven Minutes with God: How to Plan a Daily Quiet Time," listed below. Although various types of devotional books and booklets are listed below, we highly recommend selecting one that involves at least a small amount of Bible study, as opposed to devotional books that concentrate on reading daily "commentary" by various authors, famous as they may be. This will teach the student to "feed himself," instead of taking in "predigested food." Make it a point to encourage the person from time to time by asking what verse he read that day or what he has been learning from his "quiet" or
"devotional" time. It would also be good to share what you do for your quiet times and what you are learning, assuming this is part of your life too (see Luke 6:40).

3. We do suggest setting aside time in the morning for a time of Scripture reading and prayer. This is not a hard and fast rule; individuals vary; some even have devotions both morning and evening (see Psalm 5:3 and Psalm 63:6—or even more often: see Daniel 6:10). Jesus also gave an example of praying both first thing in the morning and during the night (see Mark 1:35 and Luke 6:12).

4. Please note, although we have offered extensive suggestions and possible resources for having a daily quiet time, please do not allow this to be presented as a mechanical thing that one does with certain rigid guidelines and time limits. This definitely takes the joy out of devotions, and they could easily become a strictly legalistic exercise. Instead, please stress that there is no one right way to have a quiet time. In fact, spontaneity and creativity are probably something God Himself would enjoy during this time. A quiet time is personal and is simply a time we set aside to spend with God in order to communicate with Him, get to know Him better, and prepare ourselves to do His will day by day.

RESOURCES

DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES:


(This is a two booklet set; the first booklet explains how to have a quiet time, and the second is a workbook for a month's worth of quiet times.)

Closer Walk and Daily Walk and Family Walk. Walk Thru the Bible Ministries, Inc.: P.O. Box 80587 Atlanta, GA 30366.

(Each of these is a daily devotional magazine in the form
"How to Read the Bible." Tim LaHaye. Good News Publishers: Westchester, IL.
   (A helpful tract)


   (A booklet that supplies helpful suggestions things to include during the quiet time)

   (A collection of daily devotional readings)

   (A classic book of devotional readings)

   (A booklet that explains why and how to have a daily quiet time)

   (A tract)

   (This supplies eight weeks of quiet time material.)

"Seven Minutes with God: How to Plan a Daily Quiet Time." Robert D. Foster. NavPress: Colorado Springs, CO.
   (An excellent tract to get one started on a planned time with God; this may be used with any of the devotional tools listed here.)
(A good daily bible study/devotional booklet that includes emphasis on application)

(A pamphlet)

RESOURCES ON THE INSPIRATION AND INERRANCY OF THE BIBLE:

(A booklet in which the author not only discusses the inerrancy of the Bible, but also calls for our obedient response to the Word of God as fundamental to our faith)

(This is a good, readable introduction to the inspiration, inerrancy, and canonization of Scripture; it would be suitable to studious students who wish to explore this study further.)

"The Bible--without Error." Harold J. Berry. Back to the Bible: P.O. Box 82808 Lincoln, NE 68501.
(A tract)

(A resource for the leader and possibly for the more mature and inquisitive students. It probably is too technical for new believers, but yet it is a thorough introduction to the topic.)

(A collection of essays on the topic of the inerrancy of the Bible; a helpful resource tool for the leader)
(This is a good resource tool for the leader; there are introductory comments, a presentation of authorship and historical background, and an outline for each book in the New Testament.)

(A technical work suitable as a leader's resource)

(A voluminous work recommended as a resource for the leader)

(A readable work by a well-known Bible scholar, suitable for both the leader and the advanced student who want to explore the topic)

(The book jacket itself says it is a "middle-level introduction to the Old Testament" for "the pastor and seminarian." It is more technical reading than the mass market books, yet it does contain a wealth of information from a scholar who holds to the strict inerrancy of the Bible. This is recommended as a resource tool for studious leaders.)

Unless otherwise noted, most of the above resources are available through the Herald Bookstore; you may contact them at 1104 King's Highway, Winona Lake, IN 46590, telephone number (800) 348-2756.
LESSON 7: THE FIVE SPIRITUAL FOOD GROUPS

The last study showed the necessity of a regular intake of God’s Word. In this study, we show that the process of taking in God’s Word is more than passive reading or rote memory. Rather, it is a dynamic interaction with God’s thoughts, allowing our minds to be active and opening our hearts to the teaching and guidance, and correction of the Holy Spirit. This study presents several ways to purposefully and profitably interact with God’s Word, the Bible.

MAIN POINTS

1. Meditating on God’s Word is one way to actively expose our hearts and minds to God’s thoughts. It is an active process of concentrating our thoughts on the details of God’s Word.

2. To "exercise" is to apply God’s Word. A healthy intake of spiritual food demands we put this food to use. To apply God’s Word means to find specific ways to obey His commands and principles in our own lives. It is finding ways to follow Christ’s example more fully in all we think and do. Exercise of God’s Word requires dependence upon His enablement; it is a choice we make, but it is never fully carried out in our strength alone.

3. We "absorb" God’s Word into our hearts and lives by memorizing it. Having God’s Word in our heart makes it always available for the Spirit to use it to assist and guide us in every choice we make. God’s Word in our heart will provide a valuable support and reinforcement when we are required to resist temptation.

4. God gave us ears to hear and listen to His Word. Hearing God’s Word produces faith, by which we live in and for Him.
5. **Studying** God’s Word is a crucial part of our obedience to Him. It is through studying the Bible that we become personally acquainted with God’s Word and expose our lives to the standards of His will. It is also where we learn of the wealth of spiritual blessings and promises He gives to enable us to live for Him.

**GOALS**

1. The student will learn to meditate on Bible verses. This will be demonstrated by his trying each of the four methods presented (defining words, asking questions about the verse, observing details about the context of a verse, and reflectively emphasizing words of a verse).

2. The student will demonstrate awareness of the importance of applying God’s Word to his life through specific steps of obedience. Further, the student will be able to recite and explain the five key elements of a good application. He will demonstrate understanding of this by being able to identify a good application by the criteria presented in this lesson.

3. The student will demonstrate awareness of the benefits of memorizing verses. He will demonstrate this by being able to state at least two benefits of having verses memorized. Further, the student will select at least one of the methods given for memorizing verses (or develop his own) and use it when learning verses by memory.

4. The student will identify the effect of listening to God’s Word, that is, increased faith. Further, the student will demonstrate awareness that listening to God’s Word is more than listening to a sermon or the Scripture reading in church. He will identify at least three ways he can listen to God’s Word throughout his time at church and outside of time spent at church.

5. The student will demonstrate awareness of the need to study the Bible; he will demonstrate this by being able to state at least two reasons we are commanded to study God’s Word.
Further, the student will be able to state at least two ways to be involved in studying the Bible.

6. The student will demonstrate awareness of the need for a daily intake of God’s Word through the five methods presented in the study.

7. The student will demonstrate proficiency in the "emphasize" method of meditation by successfully using this with Joshua 1:8.

8. The student will demonstrate proficiency in developing a good application by developing an application for Joshua 1:8 that meets the five criteria for a good application presented in the study (see page 4 of the lesson).

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

In reference to "MEDITATE":

1. The questions in this study are purposely fairly brief and limited. This study is meant to follow Lesson 6. Lesson 6 contained the "doctrinal" aspect of the need to take in God’s Word; this lesson stresses the "practical" aspect of how to take in God’s Word. The questions have been kept to a minimum so that the student would use the study time to practice the methods given in the study. When you give this lesson to the student, strongly encourage (or require) him to "obey" the "stop signs." This study is different from all of the others in the series, but we believe that besides teaching some valuable learning tools, it will also furnish a bit of variety and enjoyment (fun) in learning new ways to take in God’s Word.

2. The acronym for the four ways given for meditating on the Word happen to spell "DICE" (or perhaps you prefer "ICED"—since thinking on God’s Word is never a "gamble"; it’s a sure thing!). This may help to remember the methods given.
3. Have fun with your student on trying these methods. They may seem new and awkward at first, but they do work; after the awkwardness is forgotten, practicing them will yield encouraging insights into God's Word. You may want to select at least one other verse on which to meditate with these methods during your time together. You might try all four methods with the same verse (but as we stated in the lesson, some methods may suit a verse better than others; it will be okay if that is apparent with the verse you select).

In reference to "EXERCISE":

1. Require the student to learn the five criteria for forming a good application. You may wish to try developing good applications for other selected verses. However, we do suggest you emphasize that while there are suggested criteria for developing good applications, our obedience is to be guided by the Holy Spirit. He will often bring steps of obedience to our attention; it is not always necessary to go through these five criteria before we obey. Obedience is more than mechanically coming up with a good application. The point of these criteria is to look for specific ways we can apply God's Word to our lives with definite steps of obedience, as opposed to simple theoretical acknowledgement of truth. That is, it emphasizes taking action upon what we study; these methods offer some guidance on how to put scriptural principles and commands into practice.

2. Letter "b" is the correct answer for the best application among the ones given. [Once again, the truly "best" application for an individual is the one that identifies an area in which he needs to take a step of obedience.]

3. Letter "a" corresponds to the verse in some way (although it seems to deny it), but is unobtainable. We suppose if it were possible, it could be measured and evaluated, and it did state a specific time.

4. Letter "c" also corresponds somewhat to the verse (though the emphasis of the verse is confessing our sins to God), but
is unobtainable, unmeasurable, and lacks a specific time. Further, who, but God, could evaluate whether one has confessed "all" his sins?

In reference to "ABSORB":

1. Review from Lesson 6 how Jesus used memorized verses to resist Satan and temptation. Also review Psalm 119:9,11.

2. We suggest you bring a supply of blank 3 x 5 index cards or smaller cards, and each of you write down the verses (perhaps from memory) that have been studied so far (i.e., John 3:16, John 14:6, John 10:10, John 10:27-28, John 14:21, Joshua 1:8). You could also just begin this during your time together and make completing it an assignment for the following week. When writing a verse on a card, a helpful way to do it is the following:

![Image of a table with verses]

In reference to "LISTEN":

1. Discuss ways we can find to listen to God's Word during the week. You may wish to acquaint the individual with a local Christian radio station or Christian recordings. There may also be conferences or seminars that come up in your area.
2. You could verbally go through a typical Sunday morning (and evening, perhaps) at church and list together ways God’s Word is presented. If the individual does not already attend church, this would be a good time to invite them, if you haven’t already.

In reference to "STUDY":

1. The King James Version actually uses the word "study" in this verse (2 Timothy 2:15). It might be helpful to point this out. The Greek word used is actually defined as "do one’s best, spare no effort, work hard" (from "A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament" by Barclay M. Newman, Jr., United Bible Societies: London; included in The Greek New Testament, Third Edition. Edited by Kurt Aland et al. United Bible Societies: London, 1975.). This definition certainly seems to include a careful study and diligent application of God’s Word.

2. If the individual is not already involved with a Sunday school class (or adult Bible fellowship--"ABF"), this would also be a good time to invite them to yours or introduce them to another group in which they would most likely feel comfortable.

ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"

1. False

2. True

NOTES ON "LETTING GOD’S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

1. In order to encourage the student to truly set aside time to try emphasizing a verse, we chose not to require the added task of learning a new verse. This verse is fairly well suited to the "emphasize" method. However, if you wish to make it a standard of memorizing a verse for each lesson, then a suggested memory verses are 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
2. Ask the student to share some insights he gained from meditating on Joshua 1:8; you could also share some of your own.

3. Go over with the student his application for Joshua 1:8; examine the "COMES" criteria together as it relates to his application. Equally important, check to see if your student actually carried out his "good" application!

RESOURCES

Beginning with Christ and Going on with Christ. NavPress: Colorado Springs, CO.
(Two small packets of key memory verses with brief explanations for new believers; a great way to start memorizing Scripture)

(A booklet)

Biblical Beliefs, Books One and Two. CE National, Inc.: P.O. Box 365, Winona Lake, IN 46590.
(This two-volume series of studies covers the topics of the Grace Brethren Statement of Faith through inductive Bible study. The student can discover for himself the biblical basis for our beliefs. It is available in editions for adults, youth, and Spanish-speaking individuals. Recommended as a follow-up to First Steps)

Brethren National Youth Conference. CE National, Inc.: Winona Lake, IN.
(An annual opportunity for individuals through their twenties to hear stirring messages on the Word of God and put these principles into practice. Contact CE National, Inc. for time and location.)
(This very readable booklet reinforces principles in this lesson and gives practical ways we can "renew" our mind.)*

(A classic Bible study series covering topics of Christian growth and discipleship, a series of seven books)

Discipleship Journal. The Navigators: Colorado Springs, CO. Available through Discipleship Journal Subscription Services, P.O. Box 54470, Boulder, CO 80323
(A bi-monthly magazine filled with writings and small Bible studies on topics concerning Christian life and growth)

(Bible studies for new believers, includes Scripture memory cards for each lesson)


"How to Read the Bible." Tim LaHaye. Good News Publishers: Westchester, IL.
(A practical tract that encourages active Bible reading)


(A daily radio broadcast by a well-known pastor, heard daily on many Christian radio stations)

(Excellent Bible studies recommended for all "newborn" believers)
   (Basic Bible studies for new Christians)


   (This book may be a bit too advanced to give to the student at this point, but it does contain good material on practical study of the Bible.)

Our Daily Bread. Radio Bible Class: Grand Rapids, MI.
   (A quarterly booklet of brief devotional readings; each day gives a verse to read and then has a readable reflection on the theme of the verse; not recommended as a substitute for Bible study during one's quiet time, but it does contain "food for thought."

   (These are weekly miniature Christian magazines, available to individuals as a year subscription mailed in quarterly packets. The first is for adults and contains testimonies and devotional essays by various authors. The second is for junior high age youth and the last is for high school age individuals. The second and third contain fictional stories on topics of Christian growth, as well as nonfictional testimonies and various puzzles and activities concerning biblical material.)

   (A six-book series of basic bible studies, suitable for high school through adult individuals)
**Topical Memory System.** NavPress: Colorado Springs, CO, several printings.

(This is available in several versions, including the New International Version; it contains 60 verses to memorize in the form of a 30-week course on Scripture memory; advantages are that it teaches a systematic way to review verses and it exposes one to topics throughout the entire Bible, which helps one to gain familiarity with the books of the Bible.)

Unless otherwise noted, many of the above resources and others are available through the Herald Bookstore in Winona Lake, IN by special arrangement. You may reach them at 1104 Kings Highway, Winona Lake, IN 46590 or by calling (800) 348-2756.

*Out of print as of this writing*
The new life is far from simply adopting a new code of conduct or living by a new set of rules; it is the wholesale exchange of an entire existence, a complete transformation of being: as Paul put it, "...I no longer live, but Christ lives in me..." (Galatians 2:20). One who has placed his faith in Christ is called a "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We do not live this new existence solely through our own strength or by our own efforts. It is a life based on faith in God's transforming power and making choices in obedience to Him. As we yield ourselves to Him, He brings about the changes in our lives, so that Christ is seen through us. While we receive new life in Christ in an instant, the change from the old ways to the new takes place throughout the course of our lifetime. It is a growing process. During this process we do not always make right choices; we sin. God has made provision for that; if we confess our sin, He forgives and cleanses us, enabling us to go on in our path of sanctification (becoming more and more like Christ).

MAIN POINTS

1. Trusting Christ is the beginning of a brand new existence.

2. The basis of this existence is faith: trust in God -- what He has done for us and what He will do in our lives.

3. The transformation that takes place in our lives through faith is a joint undertaking of God’s Spirit and us; we choose to obey Him, but we are enabled to make these choices by His work in us. The evidence of this process is called "fruit."

4. Although Christ freed us from the power of sin in our lives, Christians still choose to disobey God at times, that is sin. Everyone has some degree of sin in their lives, from which God is working to cleanse us. When we sin, we are to confess it to God. God promises to forgive us for that sin and to cleanse us. He will not continue to remind us of it or hold it against us.

58
5. Even though Christians are tempted, and from time to time choose to sin, they do not have to; God promises to always provide a way of escape from temptation. Growth is learning to recognize and take the way of escape.

6. God allows difficult choices (trials and temptations) into our lives to help us to grow strong and become more Christlike. Jesus understands the pain and difficulty and promises to pray for us and provide help for us through these times.

**GOALS**

1. The student will demonstrate awareness of the nature of the Christian life, that it is a new birth, a new existence, brought about by God through our faith in Christ.

2. The student will demonstrate awareness that this transformation takes place as a lifelong process, involving both God’s work and ours. He will also demonstrate awareness that we cannot change ourselves without God’s enablement.

3. The student will be able to name at least four results of allowing God’s Spirit to work in our lives (i.e., four fruits of the Spirit).

4. The student will demonstrate awareness that obedience involves allowing God to change our lives; he will also demonstrate a willingness to yield to this process.

5. The student will acknowledge that all Christians, including himself, do sin. He will also be able to state what he should do when he sins and what God promises to do.

6. The student will demonstrate understanding that Christians do not have to sin, that God provides an escape; the student will be able to give specific examples of temptations and ways of escape.

7. The student will demonstrate a dependence on Jesus for comfort and help during temptation.
8. The student will be able to accurately recite/write 1 Corinthians 10:13 from memory.

9. The student will name at least one temptation he frequently faces and identify at least one way of escape from this temptation.

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

1. **Question 1:** Compare this verse with John 3:3-8.

2. **Question 2:** It might be good to discuss the question, "Does a person lose his identity when he becomes a Christian?" We definitely change, but God has created each of us as individuals who express Christlikeness in our own unique ways with our individual God-given gifts, talents, and interests. There is to be a change of authority and priorities in our lives. We no longer live for ourselves, but rather for Christ.

3. **Question 6a:** We suggest you encourage the student to memorize the fruit of the Spirit. Ask the student if he has done the optional meditation exercise; discuss his and/or your findings.

4. **Question 6b:** There are other possibilities, but fruit is the product of growth; it is not as a result of effort, but rather of yielding and allowing the substance of the plant to flow through the branch. Fruit is evidence of life, growth, health, adequate nutrition, and ability to reproduce. The taste and appearance of fruit can be imitated (e.g., "flavors" and wax fruit), but never truly produced through manufacturing. Trying to manufacture the fruit of the Spirit apart from the Spirit, produces results much like wax fruit compared to the real thing. You might bring some artificial fruit and artificial flavors with you for an object lesson in order to contrast the work of the Spirit versus the independent effort of the flesh.

5. **Question 8:** Contrast the things that belong to the "earthly nature" versus the qualities we are to demonstrate as part of our new life and nature.
6. **Question 10b:** Remind the student that God forgives our sin on the basis that Christ has already paid the penalty for our sin. God may discipline us for our good so that we learn not to sin, but He will not "punish" us (i.e. take out His wrath on us).

7. **Question 11:** A globe or a ball would be a good illustration for the distance between the east and the west. A person can never go west once he has set out eastward. If removal of sin is a difficult concept for the individual, the following is another possible illustration of how God "cleanses us" and "removes our transgressions from us." Here is something to try: Have the individual write down some of his most troubling sins with a marker on some toilet tissue (It is not necessary that he share them with you.). Then tell him to dispose of the tissue and flush. The sins are far removed and no one, including him, should ever fish them out! [Sorry, this is a bit "crude" (but then again, so is sin), but it should prove to be quite memorable.]

8. **Question 13:** Discuss some common temptations and possible ways of escape. For example: a person who is trying to exercise self control in eating can walk out the door of a donut shop before he buys something (assuming he made the poor choice of entering the place, when he was trying to lose weight); a student offered drugs in the locker room can say "no" and walk away, etc.

9. **Question 16:** Discuss some of the trials and temptations that Jesus faced.

**ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"**

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. True
NOTES ON "LETTING GOD'S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

1. The "inquire" and/or "emphasize" methods would be especially helpful for mediating on this verse (see Lesson 7).

2. Don’t forget to randomly review one or two of the verses from previous studies.

3. We encourage you to share a temptation you deal with and the steps that you take to help you to resist it.

4. Make a note to ask the student about his progress in identifying and taking the way(s) of escape for the temptation he named for the application. You could suggest some "ways of escape." If he is willing, try to hold him accountable in the future.

RESOURCES

(The basics of living an obedient life in Christ explained by a fine Christian scholar)

(God’s standards for our new life in regard to our relationships with the opposite sex)

(A study in God’s grace, forgiveness, discipline, and redemption for our lives)

(Studies in John 15 suitable for both new and growing believers)
(A booklet; it defines forgiveness; the focus is on forgiving others.)


(Written by a seventeenth century saint, this allegory illustrates our path of sanctification; recommended for the more "literary" disciple.)


(God's help available to us in temptation)

(A booklet, illustrates how we yield all aspects of our life to Christ, mentioned also as a resource for Lesson 4)

(Reflections on the new life by a fourteenth century man of God)

(A classic allegory, for more advanced readers; this may be available in other editions.)


(A book on developing Christlike character; a study guide is available; recommended for committed, growing Christians, after basic Bible studies.)


(This book presents our resources and responsibility to strive for a life in Christ separate from sin; a study guide is available; recommended for committed, growing Christians, after basic Bible studies have been completed.)


(This well-known and quite readable writing, in an imaginative way, makes one aware of the strategies of the forces of evil in our lives, the daily battles we face as we commit ourselves to an obedient relationship with God.)


(A 72-passage course in Scripture memory dealing with common areas of struggle. Some of the passages to memorize are a bit lengthy. It is recommended that the Topical Memory System: Scripture Memory Course, also by NavPress, be completed before the Life Issues edition.)


(A classic booklet on rethinking our priorities)

The Vine and the Branches. David Tryon. Africa Evangelical Fellowship: P.O. Box 109, Glen Ridge, NJ 07028, no date.

(A booklet suitable for new Christians that explains our dependence on Christ)
LESSON 9: PRAYER – COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

Prayer: it is a privilege, an invitation, and even a command to communicate with the Lord of the universe. God is available at any time, from any place to hear our prayer. The Bible gives us certain promises, guidelines, and instructions concerning prayer. We explore these in this study.

MAIN POINTS

1. God invites and commands us to share private, intimate, personal communication with Him.

2. When we pray, we should come to God in faith, trusting Him, His faithfulness, and His power. Our requests are to be made in Christ’s name (i.e., recognizing that all things are through Him and for Him).

3. Prayer is more than simply making requests; it is a two-way conversation with God. On our part, communication includes praising God, thanking Him, confessing our sins, and asking for His work and provision for us and others for whom we pray.

4. The Bible gives instructions and examples concerning prayer. Some of these include: addressing God as our Father; praying without ceasing, with an attitude of total submission to God’s will, with thanksgiving; and praying for ourselves and others ("for everyone") in accordance with God’s purposes.

5. It is possible for our prayers to be hindered by unbelief, doubt, disobedience, and asking with wrong motives.

6. God answers prayer according to His timing and His purposes; sometimes His answer is "no" (or "wait"). A "no" answer does not necessarily indicate disobedience or lack of faith on our part; it can mean that God intends to give us something much better.
7. We don’t always know how to pray; God promises His Spirit to assist us in our prayers and to pray for us according to God’s will.

GOALS

1. The student will demonstrate awareness that he is commanded to pray and will exhibit enthusiasm that he has the privilege of communicating with his Heavenly Father.

2. When praying, the student will demonstrate awareness of biblical instruction on prayer, including addressing God as "Father," praying for the purpose of communicating with God instead of being heard by others, praying in Jesus’ name, making requests in line with the priorities and promises in God’s Word, and having a "balanced" prayer life which includes praise, thanksgiving, confession, and supplication.

3. The student will demonstrate faith in his prayer life by praying often and waiting for God’s answers to his prayers.

4. The student will be able to name at least three things that can hinder our prayers from being answered by God.

5. The student will demonstrate understanding that God reserves the right to answer our prayers according to His plan, purpose, and timing, and that God demonstrates His love and faithfulness to us through "yes" as well as "no" answers to our prayers.

6. The student will demonstrate awareness of the Holy Spirit’s assistance to us in our prayers.

7. The student will demonstrate dependence on God and obedience to His command to pray by praying about difficult circumstances he may face in his life.

8. The student will be able to accurately write/recite Philippians 4:6-7 from memory.
9. The student will demonstrate understanding of four ways to communicate with God in prayer by: praising God for something about Him, confessing at least one sin, thanking God for at least one blessing in his life, and making a request of God.

NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

1. **Question 3:** Actually, for the new Christian, the difficulty will probably not be about having him pray in front of others, but rather reluctance to pray out loud in front of others. Do not force him to do this, but rather focus on instructing him in how to address God and how and what to pray. Eventually, after praying with others who pray aloud in a group, he should gain the confidence to join in "conversational" prayer when he is ready. Remind him that God hears both "silent" prayers, spoken only in our heart, and vocal prayers, expressed out loud. In fact, He also hears the prayers we write out on paper to Him.

2. **Question 5:** The idea is not a mechanical appending of "in Jesus’ name" to the end of all our prayers, but rather an acknowledgement of our dependence upon Jesus Christ and what He has done for us in order for our prayers to be heard by God. It is also making requests in line with the things Jesus commanded us to pray. Though we often signify these things by saying "in Jesus name" when we pray, it is the attitude and motive that are at issue here.

3. **Question 6:** The presentation of these is based upon the popular acronym "ACTS" to help remind us of ways to communicate with God (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). You could present this to the person as a way to remember ways to communicate with God.

4. **Question 7b:** We can pray "without ceasing" by talking to God throughout the day, often called "practicing the presence of God." It is being aware of His presence with us at all times and in all places, always being ready to speak with
Him about anything and everything—and being alert to recognize His responses to our prayers throughout the day. Another way to look at it is unbroken communication and fellowship with God. Discuss some things that could cause our prayers to cease (e.g. disobedience, an attitude of independence, doubt, being distracted by worldly things, etc.).

5. Question 10: Discuss ways we can help to ensure that we are praying according to God’s will (e.g. praying for things which God commands us to pray in His Word and using the example of prayers in the Bible for our prayers, such as "the Lord’s prayer" and the prayers of Paul recorded in his epistles).

6. Question 17: Discuss the significance of addressing God as "our Father" (e.g., the new relationship we have with Him, His love, care, and concern for us, His commitment to provide for us, His commitment to discern what is best for us, etc.).

ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"

1. b

2.a. False

   b. True

   c. True

   d. False

   e. False

   f. True

   g. True
NOTES ON "LETTING GOD'S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

1. Encourage the student to meditate on the memory verse; any of the methods presented in Lesson 7 would be suitable for this verse.

2. Have the student recite and/or write the verse from memory. Also, select one or two of the previous memory verses to review.

3. When you close in prayer by praying with one another, we suggest that you try to incorporate these four elements of prayer as an outline for your prayer time.

RESOURCES

"A Day with God: Your Invitation to an Experience that Will Leave Its Mark on Your Life." Tom Julien and Roger Peugh. Grace Brethren Foreign Missions: P.O. Box 588, Winona Lake, IN 46590.

(Copies available from the above address; a pamphlet explaining how to spend a day alone in prayer with God; written by two Grace Brethren men whose lives demonstrate intimate fellowship with God)


(A booklet suitable for new believers)

God Answers Prayer. Back to the Bible: Lincoln, NE, multiple printings.

(This booklet can be obtained from Back to the Bible, P.O. Box 82808, Lincoln, NE 68501 (800) 759-2425. It is a pocket-sized prayer notebook that includes Scriptures concerning prayer and spaces to record prayer requests, Bible promises, the date the request was first prayed, and the date the request was answered. This resource is highly recommended for a new believer; it ties in well with these studies. Special arrangements have been made with this ministry so that if you send 95¢, they will send a single copy postage paid [pre-paid mail orders only; other terms apply to phone orders and larger quantities].)

(This is a somewhat unique and refreshing book on communication with God, but you may not agree with everything in it [i.e., at least this author does not]; recommended as a resource for the leader.)


(This booklet presents a month's worth of suggested items for prayerful supplication with Scriptural references.)


"NavNotes on Prayer." The Navigators. The Navigators Devotional Ministry: P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934.*


(This is a very informative guide to praying for nations and the work of Christian missions throughout the world.)


(This would be a good resource for the leader, but might be a bit detailed for a new believer.)

Prayer. O. Hallesby. Augsburg Publishing House: Minneapolis, MN.

(A standard, biblical work on the subject, recommended for the author's presentation of God's love and grace toward us)


(A biblical study in prayer by a man who has been a beloved Grace Seminary professor and church pastor. An edition of this book is also published by Back to the Bible: Lincoln, NE, 1985. The book is also available through the Herald Bookstore in Winona Lake, IN.)


(A booklet that discusses some possible causes for communication problems we might have with God)

With Christ in the School of Prayer. Andrew Murray. Fleming H. Revell Company: Westwood, NJ.

* Out of print as of this writing
LESSON 10: BEING A PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD: WITNESSING, SERVING, GIVING, AND SHARING

People are saved as individuals but once saved, they are joined to the Body of Christ, the Church, by the Holy Spirit. The Body of Christ that spans the age of the Church is visibly manifested through gatherings of believers in the local church. Believers demonstrate their part in the Body of Christ through participation in the ministry of a local church. While certainly not all service and ministry takes place within the walls of a church building, the Bible teaches that believers are to be based in and support a local body of believers (a local church) for the purposes of fellowship, worship, prayer, accountability, encouragement, witnessing, sharing, and caring for one another. The purpose of this study is to encourage the new Christian to be open about his faith and to become active in a Bible-based local church.

MAIN POINTS

1. Jesus commands and expects His followers to identify themselves with Him, be open about their faith, and demonstrate their faith through their words and actions of obedience.

2. Two ways to identify with Jesus are to be baptized and to be united with a local body of believers.

3. Baptism by triune immersion symbolizes our identification with the Trinity (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and our identification with Christ’s death and resurrection on our behalf. The act of baptism does not save us, but rather once we are saved, we act in obedience by being baptized; thus baptism is for believers who have personally placed their faith in Christ.

4. Jesus commands us to present the Gospel to people of all nations. Each of us has a personal responsibility to present
the Gospel to others; for apart from Christ, all men, women, and children are lost.

5. Each and every believer receives at least one spiritual gift at the moment of salvation that enables him or her to serve others as part of the Body of Christ. We are commanded to use this gift in a way that serves and honors Jesus Christ.

6. God is a gracious, loving giver; He delights when we give cheerfully and out of love. Our giving is not to be in response to a legal minimum, but rather in response to God’s abundant grace towards us.

7. God promises to provide the means for us to give; all believers should give in proportion to God’s provision. The Bible gives other instructions and principles for giving, including weekly support of His work and workers.

8. Members of the local church meet with a purpose; through His Word and commands, Jesus instituted practices to be carried out in the local church. The purposes of the church are to glorify God, help one another to grow to maturity in Christ, and reach out to a lost world with the love and truth of God. Two special practices which symbolize basic truths of the Christian faith are the ordinances of Triune (also called Trine) Immersion Baptism and Threelfold Communion (consisting of feetwashing, the Bread and the Cup, and the Lord’s supper, also called a love feast).

9. Members of the Body of Christ also meet with a presence. Whenever believers are gathered together in Christ’s name, He promises to be present among them.

**GOALS**

1. The student will demonstrate awareness of Christ’s command to openly acknowledge Him as Lord and identify with Him. He will demonstrate this by telling others of His faith in Christ.
2. The student will demonstrate awareness of Christ’s command for believers to be baptized and will also demonstrate knowledge of the truths symbolized by triune immersion baptism (being immersed three times in one act of baptism). Further, if he has not already done so, the student will choose to identify with Jesus Christ by being baptized in a local church through triune immersion baptism.

3. The student will begin to actively share his faith in Christ and the facts of the Gospel with nonbelievers.

4. The student will demonstrate understanding and awareness of the concept and purpose of spiritual gifts; he will begin to actively seek opportunities to serve Christ, and he will demonstrate a desire to discover and employ his spiritual gift.

5. The student will demonstrate understanding of the concept of giving under grace: that is, the freedom to give out of gratitude for what God has done and by faith in His provision. He will demonstrate awareness of God’s instructions for giving by beginning a regular practice of giving a portion of his income to the local church toward the work of the Lord.

6. The student will demonstrate awareness of God’s command to gather with other believers for regular worship, fellowship, prayer, instruction, service, and encouragement. He will demonstrate this by regular participation in the meetings of a local church.

7. The student will demonstrate awareness of the ordinance of Threefold Communion. He will demonstrate knowledge of the biblical truths symbolized through the practices of Threefold Communion.

8. The student will demonstrate awareness of the promise of the presence of Christ in his meetings together with other believers.
NOTES/SUGGESTIONS

In Reference to "WITNESSING":

1. **Question 3b:** Baptism symbolically identifies us with the death and resurrection of Christ on our behalf.

2. **Question 3c in reference to God:** The act of being immersed three times in one act of baptism symbolizes God who is three distinct persons in one being. (Correctly answering this question involves some background knowledge on the teaching of the triune [Trinity] nature of God. You may need to acquaint the student with this concept. We did say "acquaint"; no one fully comprehends it. A rudimentary illustration of the concept is the nature of water; it is one, single substance but is manifested in three distinct ways: steam, liquid, and ice.)

3. **Question 3c in reference to our salvation:** Christ was "totally immersed" in death for three days as a payment for our sins. We are totally immersed in water to symbolize total identification with Christ. Just as one comes up from the water when baptized, Jesus rose up from death. Jesus rose up from death to a new existence, and we rise from death caused by sin to a new existence of forgiveness and life in Jesus Christ. Baptism signifies a break with our old existence and a start of our new life in Christ. Others add that we are baptized forward to symbolize our forward movement toward God and new life. (Other wording and comparisons are possible; this is given for an outline and guidance of truths symbolized by baptism; it is not necessary that the student memorize this explanation.)

4. **Question 4:** Disciples (i.e. those who trust in and follow Christ) should be baptized.

5. It is recommended that the student learn the five sets of statements ("a" through "e") in question 9 to the point where he can state them as they are presented or in his own words. Memorizing the verses also would be nice, but would probably be a bit ambitious at this point; being able
to state the facts of the Gospel is a significant accomplishment in itself.

In Reference to "SERVING":

1. **Question 3:** We have purposely avoided, for the time being, distinguishing the different types of spiritual gifts and dealing with controversies concerning spiritual gifts. Our priorities at this point are presenting the concept of spiritual gifts and the source and purpose of spiritual gifts. We do not encourage stirring up a controversy that may not exist in the mind of a new Christian, but if you do discern that a fuller treatment of the subject is warranted for the person you are helping, we encourage you to seek and employ supplementary study materials.

2. It often takes time, spiritual maturation, guided experimentation with several avenues of service, and feedback from mature Christians before one's spiritual gift (or gifts) becomes evident. A desire to perform a certain ministry is a good start and can be an indication of an area of giftedness, but not always; desires can arise from other motives and improper perspectives as well. We only suggest that you encourage the person to begin by trying an appropriate ministry or area of service.

In Reference to "GIVING":

1. **Question 2:** The Old Testament standards are not meant to be a legalistic minimum, but do serve to give us a starting point when prayerfully determining our own personal giving standards under grace.

2. **Question 3c:** It is true that some obedient believers give at other than weekly intervals; the principle appears to be regular setting aside of resources for God's work at frequent intervals; Paul recommended in wisdom that this be done on a weekly basis. Discuss why he would have chosen weekly intervals as opposed to some other frequency.
3. **Question 4:** This question reinforces that it is not the amount of our gift so much as the proportion of the gift that is an indication of our faith and willingness to give.

In Reference to "SHARING":

1. **Question 2:** Have the student learn the three parts of Threefold Communion. We also recommend that you invite him to participate with you in a Threefold Communion service.

2. **Question 3c:** In an ordinary meal, people come hungry and usually plan to eat all they can, at least until the food is gone; in the Lord's supper (love feast), Christians were instructed to eat before they came (so the focus would not be on the food but rather on the Lord and the truths symbolized).

3. **Question 4:** Many individuals are taught that the church building is "God's house," and it is mainly in the church building where people focus on the presence of Christ. This promise teaches that Jesus is present in and among believers wherever and whenever they gather in His name.

**ANSWERS TO "CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING"**

1.a. False
   b. True
   c. False
   d. False
   e. False
   f. True

2. b
NOTES ON "LETTING GOD’S WORD CHANGE YOUR LIFE"

1. Have the student recite and/or write Matthew 18:20 from memory. Be sure to review one or two previous memory verses. The student will be responsible to be able to accurately write any of the memory verses from the entire "First Steps" series for the Final Checkup. We suggest you remind the student of this and help him review for the checkup.

2. We would suggest strongly encouraging the person to take steps of obedience in regards to baptism and affiliation with a local church (including doing what you can to acquaint the person with the pastor and facilitating making an appointment), but we have also made an alternate application available for this lesson. If the student selects the alternate application option, then help him to evaluate his application in light of the "C O M E S" criteria presented in Lesson 7.

3. Encourage the student to "make up" (i.e. complete) any applications he may have missed or left incomplete on previous lessons; he will be held accountable for all the applications of Lessons 6 through 10 on the final Checkup ("Final Exam").

4. Besides reviewing all ten lessons, including the previous checkup, a good way for the student to review for the Final Checkup is to review the "Check Your Understanding" questions at the end of each lesson.

RESOURCES


All Things Whatsoever I Have Commanded You. Herman A. Hoyt. BMH Books: Winona Lake, IN, 1948. (A book that gives the biblical basis for common practices in the local church.)
Books One
and Two. CE National, Inc.: Winona Lake, IN.

(Inductive Bible studies organized and presented according to the articles of the Grace Brethren Statement of Faith; this two volume set of studies contains a more in depth treatment of some of the topics covered in this lesson. They are available in both adult and youth editions.)


(A booklet containing the philosophy of the late founder of the Navigators Christian ministry; a worldwide ministry involved on college campuses, with individuals in the military, and in the community; an expanded edition of this booklet with additional testimony by the author has been produced by Back to the Bible in Lincoln, Nebraska.)

"The Brethren Church." Homer Kent, Sr. BMH Tracts: Winona Lake, IN.

(A detailed tract presenting a concise history of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches and a copy of the Statement of Faith)


(A detailed history of the roots of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches)


(A book that discusses many of the basics of the Christian life discussed in the this lesson and the previous ones)


If I Wash Thee Not. Charles W. Mayes. BMH Books: Winona Lake, IN.


(A modern classic on evangelism)


(A booklet; good reading for new Christians learning of their responsibility to share their faith)

"Should I Join a Church?" Richard Wolff. Back to the Bible: Lincoln, NE.

(A tract)

This Do in Remembrance of Me. Herman A. Hoyt. BMH Books: Winona Lake, IN, 1947.

(A book; a detailed study of the ordinances of Triune Baptism and Threefold Communion)


(A booklet)
"Trine Immersion." Miles Tabor. BMH Tracts: Winona Lake, IN.

(A mid-sized booklet)

(A small booklet)

(A small book; this is suitable for a brief presentation on the topic, but it may still be too detailed for a new believer.)

(A pamphlet)

(A pamphlet)

In addition, any of the resources, especially the tracts, listed in Lesson 1 would be appropriate for this lesson also.

Unless otherwise noted, most of the above resources are available through the Herald Bookstore in Winona Lake, IN. (You may contact them at 1104 Kings Highway, Winona Lake, IN 46590 (800) 348-2756).
FIRST STEPS BIBLE STUDY SERIES: CHECKUP

INTRODUCTION

This checkup is designed to serve as a "final exam." That is, it covers the material presented in the entire series, with emphasis on the final five lessons. The purpose, format, and priorities are identical to the first checkup.

MAY WE "POINT" OUT...

Though the total number of points (without "bonus points") remains the same, the number of points assigned to questions in this checkup varies slightly from the first checkup. The point values are listed on the checkup itself, in the directions for each section. The correct answers are provided on the following pages (once again, except for "Examine Your Scripture Memory"; please use the appropriate version of the Bible to check these).

The real "point" of this exercise is to uncover areas of deficiency in knowledge, understanding, or application of the verses presented in the series. Please review and discuss any items missed on the checkup. It is also provided as an encouragement for the accomplishment completing the entire series of studies. Therefore, if the completed checkup (or a copy) is submitted to FOCUS, a certificate of completion will be sent to the student upon request.

SUGGESTED "BONUS POINT" VERSES FOR "EXAMINE YOUR UNDERSTANDING"

The following verses, selected from Lessons 1 through 10, are suggested as ones which support the answers to the questions in this section; there may be other possibilities.

1. John 3:19-20
2. John 6:40 or John 17:3
3. John 15:18-21 or John 16:33
4. John 1:1-3 or John 9:38
5. Luke 11:2 or Matthew 6:9
6. John 14:6 or 1 John 5:11-12
7. John 10:10 or John 15:11
8. John 10:27-29 or 1 John 1:9 or Psalm 103:12-14
10. Joshua 1:8 or 1 Peter 2:2
11. 2 Peter 1:20-21
12. 2 Timothy 3:16
13. Psalm 119:9,11 or Matthew 4:3-10
14. Philippians 2:12-13 or John 15:4-5
15. 1 John 1:8
16. 1 John 1:9 or Psalm 103:12-14
17. 1 Corinthians 10:13
18. Matthew 6:6 or Mark 1:35
19. James 4:2 or John 15:7 or John 16:24
20. Psalm 66:18
21. Philippians 4:6 or Hebrews 4:16
22. Ephesians 2:8-9 or Matthew 28:19
23. 1 Corinthians 11:34
24. 1 Corinthians 16:2
26. Romans 12:6-8 or Ephesians 4:11-13
27. Ephesians 2:10
28. Mark 1:35
29. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 or Matthew 26:26-28
30. Acts 2:41
As we stated on the previous "Checkup," this test cannot measure your level of spiritual maturity; it can only give an indication of how well you have understood and tried to apply the lessons we have studied.

You may refer to your Bible and all the studies in this series for each question, except those in Section III ("Examine Your Scripture Memory").

EXAMINE YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. Based upon the verses we have studied in the entire series, determine whether each of the following statements is true or false; then mark "T" if the statement is true, or "F" if the statement is false.

(1 point for each correct answer, plus 1 bonus point for finding and writing down a verse from our studies which proves your answer)

1. Many people are reluctant to come to Jesus because they do not want to admit their sins and have them exposed.  

2. Eternal life means we will never experience physical death.  

3. The abundant life can include some physical and emotional suffering.  

4. Jesus Christ should be worshipped as God.  

5. We can address God as our "Father" when we pray.  

6. Jesus gave us one of the easiest ways to heaven, but there are other ways.  

7. Jesus came into our lives to give us a little happiness.

84
8. Even those who put their trust in Jesus can lose their eternal life if they commit a horrible sin.

9. All believers receive the Holy Spirit at the moment they are saved.

10. We can get all the Scripture we need from listening to Christian radio stations and going to church twice on Sunday.

11. God directly dictated His Word to the men who wrote it.

12. All Scripture is from God.


14. Spiritual growth requires both God's work in our lives and our obedience.

15. Real Christians can only be recognized by their sinless lives.

16. The sins we commit after becoming a Christian can be removed from us.

17. There is always a way out of temptation.

18. We should always try to make sure we are in public when we pray.

19. Since God already knows what we need, we don't need to bother to ask Him.

20. One reason for unanswered prayer could be sin in our lives.

21. When we experience difficult circumstances we should give thanks and pray to God.

22. A person is not a "real Christian" until he or she is baptized.

23. The Love Feast is meant to be a huge meal where everyone eats all the food he or she can eat.

24. Christians are instructed to give voluntarily, in proportion to their income.
25. Following Jesus must include telling others about our faith in Him.

26. Every Christian is given a spiritual gift to enable him or her to serve others in some way for Jesus.

27. God has prepared good works for each of us to do.

28. The best time to pray, based upon Jesus’ example, is just before we go to sleep at night.

29. The Bread and the Cup in Threefold Communion represent Christ’s payment for our sins by His death on the cross.

30. Becoming involved with a local church is an important part of our public acknowledgement of Jesus.

II. Read each of the following questions carefully, then circle the letter of the response that best answers or completes the statement. (2 points for each correct answer)

1. Prayer is . . .
   a. Simply telling God what we need.
   b. Simply communicating with God.
   c. Only for mature Christians.

2. The books in the Bible that give a historical account of the life and words of Jesus Christ are called the . . .
   a. Writings
   b. Epistles
   c. Gospels

3. Which of the following is not a use God intended for Scripture?
   a. Correction
   b. Telling us every detail of our future
   c. Training in righteousness
4. Which of the following is promised to one who intently studies and obeys God's Word?

   a. Jesus will show Himself to that person.
   b. That person will have a long and happy life on earth.
   c. That person will be liked by all those around him.

5. Based upon what we have learned about making good applications, which of the following would be a good application for Mark 1:35?

   a. "I will set my alarm clock for 4:00 a.m."
   b. "Tomorrow morning I will get up fifteen minutes earlier than I usually do and spend that extra time in prayer with God, before I eat breakfast."
   c. "I need to get some exercise in the morning."

6. Which of the following is not a fruit of the Spirit?

   a. Peace
   b. Joy
   c. Popularity

7. God promises to answer any prayer we...

   a. Pray over and over
   b. Pray according to His will
   c. Pray

8. For which of the following people should we not pray?

   a. Other Christians
   b. The Unsaved
   c. People in authority
   d. None of the above

9. Which of the following is not necessary for answered prayer?

   a. Faith
   b. Asking in Jesus' name
   c. Saying "amen"
EXAMINE YOUR SCRYPTURE MEMORY

III. Without using your Bible, write out (on a separate sheet of paper) each of the following verses as accurately as possible from memory. (5 points for each totally correct quotation; 3 for coming close; 1 for trying)

1. Joshua 1:8
2. 1 Corinthians 10:13
3. Philippians 4:6-7
4. Matthew 18:20
5. John 14:21

Please see Bible

EXAMINE YOUR APPLICATION OF THE WORD

IV. The following questions concern the assigned application for each lesson. Answer each of the following questions "Yes" or "No" in the space provided. (5 points for each completed application)

Yes 1. Did you spend at least five minutes reading your Bible and praying for seven days?

Yes 2. Did you develop and carry out an application for Joshua 1:8?

Yes 3. Did you identify a temptation with which you frequently struggle and write down a way to escape from that temptation?

Yes 4. Did you take time to praise God, confess your sins, give thanks, and make a request at the end of the study on prayer?
5. Did you make an appointment to speak with your pastor about baptism and church membership (or make and carry out another application if you are already baptized and a church member)?

Yes

Thank you for all your hard work in completing this "checkup" and all the studies. If you still have some questions on these studies, please ask someone in your church or contact FOCUS.

If you submit a copy of your completed "Checkup," FOCUS will send you a certificate and information on additional Bible study material.

FOCUS
P.O. Box 335
Winona Lake IN, 46590
NEXT STEPS ...

CONGRATULATIONS! You, by God's grace, have guided an individual through the "first steps" of learning and obedience in the Christian life! Whether it is your first time or another time, you have begun to "disciple" another believer. We trust and pray that working through this series has also been a growing experience for you. The aim of this series is not only to help new believers begin their walk, but also to better equip individuals, such as yourself, to help others on toward maturity in their Christian lives. We trust that it has been a joyous experience for you and the new disciple as you discovered new truths about God's love and His plan for our lives.

"First Steps" signifies a beginning; we encourage you to continue on with the person you are helping. Continue to love, nurture, pray for, and be an example to him or her. There are many fine materials available to help you continue in the course of discipleship, but once again, please remember that above all else, discipleship is a relationship. God will use your positive relationship and godly example in the life of the person whom you are helping. Continuing on in your study and application of Scripture is one aspect of this relationship.

Suggestions for Possible "Next Steps":

1. Celebrate the completion of "First Steps"!

2. Continue to meet together for prayer and encouragement. Please don't abandon the person. If you cannot meet, please find someone or a group that he or she can join.

3. Do what you can to encourage and assist the person to become involved with a local church.

4. Introduce the new Christian to some of your Christian friends.

5. Make an effort to become acquainted with the person's family and unsaved friends.
6. Assist the new believer to compose his or her "testimony" in order to be prepared to share it with nonbelievers.

7. Acquaint the individual with the local Christian bookstore, Christian radio station (if available), and/or your church library (if available).

8. Take him or her with you when you share your faith with a nonbeliever.

9. Continue on with your Scripture memory program (see Chapter 7 for resources).

10. Select another study to work through together (and/or help incorporate the individual into a small group Bible study for new believers). We recommend Biblical Beliefs, available from CE National as a possible next study, depending upon the readiness and willingness of the student. There are also a number of good basic studies listed in the "Resources" for Lesson 7; basic studies suitable to new believers have been noted in that list.

*May the Lord bless you and this person as you both continue to take steps with Him!*

**RESOURCES ON DISCIPLESHIP**

Discipleship Journal. The Navigators: P.O. Box 35004, Colorado Springs, CO 80935.

(A bi-monthly magazine dedicated to topics and assistance in the process of Christian discipleship)


(A helpful booklet)


("Standard" reading on the topic; it contains a wealth of practical information and suggestions; if you only get one resource; this is the one recommended.)


(A scholarly and in depth look at the way Jesus "discipled" the twelve Apostles)

The 2:7 Series. The Navigators Church Discipleship Ministries: P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934.
(This is discipleship program designed to be utilized in local churches; it is a good program, but it does require a significant investment of time and some expense [two initial seminars are required for leaders].)

This is just a sampling; other fine resources are available on the topic.
of a monthly magazine. There are selected passages to read and comments for each day. Closer Walk takes one through the New Testament in a year. Daily Walk covers the entire Bible in a year. Family Walk is designed for daily family devotions. The first two magazines may also be obtained through The Navigators Devotional Ministry P.O. Box 6000 Colorado Springs, CO 80934.)


(Fifty-two devotions related to the workplace designed for men and women)


(A small booklet miniature Bible studies for thirty days)


(Other volumes available in the Forty Days & Forty Nights series are: Gospel of John and Selected Passages, Psalms and Epistles, Marriage.)


(This excellent book provides twelve weeks of brief daily Bible lessons. This may not be suitable for the very first devotional tool, but it is quite appropriate for a new believer. Each lesson has a statement of purpose, a small Bible study, suggestions for personal applications, and suggestions for further study. Each lesson will take approximately fifteen to thirty minutes to complete.)


"How to Have Family Devotions." Good News Publishers, Westchester, IL.

(A tract)