

# Discipleship Detour

A four week  
discipleship  
program to  
put your Christian  
walk on track  
for Jesus



Week 1	Knowing God
Week 2	Discipleship
Week 3	Communication
Week 4	Spiritual Growth



Week 1:  
Knowing God

## KNOWING GOD/DAY ONE - God's Character:

A right concept of *God* will always lead to worship...Your concept of *God* reveals much about you. What you think about *God* will determine the depth of your prayer life, your sensitivity to sin, and your potential for victory in trials. If you understand that *God* cares about you and bends His ear to your voice, you will pray differently. You'll pray as though He's listening - because you know that He is.

If you understand that *God* is holy, omnipresent (everywhere), and omniscient (all-seeing), you'll desire purity in your life. You won't take sin lightly. If you understand that He is omnipotent (all-powerful) and sovereign (over all), you'll lift your head during trials and watch for your victory. You'll leave your problems in His hands, trusting the outcome to Him."  
(From *Pleasing God* by Kay Smith pgs. 160-161)

God is everywhere. He is omnipresent. Read Psalm 139:1-12 and write what God sees.

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God is all knowing. He is omniscient. Write Proverbs 15:3 here: \_\_\_\_\_

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God is omnipotent. He is all powerful. He is able to save and destroy. How do James 4:12 & Ephesians 3:20 confirm this truth? \_\_\_\_\_

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God is in control. He is sovereign. Read Hebrews 2:8 and Philippians 3:21 and describe God's sovereignty. \_\_\_\_\_

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God is eternal. He has no beginning and no end. Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 and write your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_

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God is never changing. He always remains the same. Write Psalm 102:27 here: \_\_\_\_\_

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God is righteous. He is never wrong. What does Psalm 11:7 say about God's righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_

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God is just. Everything he does is fair and excellent. Write your thoughts about Psalm 89:14: \_\_\_\_\_

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God is honest and truthful. How does Isaiah 45:19 confirm this? \_\_\_\_\_

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God is holy. He is special, set apart, not influenced by the ideas of the world. Read Hebrews 7:26 and 1 Peter 1:14-16 and write the truths about God's holiness here: \_\_\_\_\_

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God is caring. Why does 1 Peter 5:7 say that we should tell God about our concerns?

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God is loving. He's so loving the word 'agape' (uh-gah-pay) had to be invented in order to describe God's kind of love. It is sacrificial love with no favoritism. Write Psalm 145:13 here: \_\_\_\_\_

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Read 2 Peter 3:9. God is so incredibly loving and caring that he wants EVERYONE to be \_\_\_\_\_.

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Write down as many characteristics of God that you can remember without looking back in the study: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Spiritual Prayer Requests based on today's study: Please help me know and remember the characteristics of You and that they are good.\_\_\_\_\_

\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Praises: Thank you for who you are, God. There is NO one like you. You are amazing!

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**KNOWING GOD/DAY TWO - God's Word:**

The purpose for reading the Bible daily is to learn more and more about God's character. It's the most important thing we could do in a day. How does Hebrews 4:12 describe the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write the truths about God's Word from 2 Timothy 2:15 & 2 Peter 1:3: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you know that the Word of God is our protection for spiritual warfare too? In Matthew chapter 4:1-11, Jesus overcomes temptation by doing what? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Proverbs 2:1-5. How should we treat the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens to those who hear the Word and obey it according to Luke 11:28? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read James 1:22-25. What happens to the person who studies God's Word and remembers to do what it says? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

According to Psalm 1:2-3, what is the result for someone who continually meditates on the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Life Verses:

Keep a list of verses you come across as you read your Bible that stick out to you. Here are a few of my examples you can look up:

- Proverbs 29:11 - Don't vent
- Proverbs 15:28 - Read my Bible every day
- Romans 12:10 - Be humble, don't justify
- Titus 3:14 - Don't be lazy
- Hebrews 13:15 - Be content and satisfied
- Philippians 4:11 - Trust God
- Proverbs 13:3 - Think before I speak
- 1Corinthians 15:32 - Choose friends wisely
- Jeremiah 29:11 - hope instead of despair

Read the following scriptures about God's Word. Then choose a word from the box to finish the sentence.

weapon	perfect	eating	Jesus
sin	living	hearts & minds	

Deuteronomy 8:3 - Reading God's Word daily is more important than \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Samuel 22:31 - God's ideas are \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalms 119:11 - God's Word keeps me from \_\_\_\_.

John 1:1&14 - God's Word is lived out through \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 6:17 - God's Word is our \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 3:16 - God's Word should constantly be filling our \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 4:12 - God's Word is never irrelevant or outdated. God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_ and active.

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: Help me to study and remember your Word so that I won't sin against you. Help me use your Word to combat sin and temptation. And help me make reading my Bible the priority every single day.\_\_\_\_\_

\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*And Praises: Thank you for giving us your Word and for preserving it that I can still read it for myself today! Thank you for your instructions and hope and help available to me by reading my Bible.\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**KNOWING GOD/DAY THREE - God's Son:**

Hebrews 1:3 says, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

God's Word, our Bible, is God's character expressed in written thought. God's Son is God's character demonstrated in person.

Read John 1:1-14 and answer the following questions:

1. What did the Word become? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did the Word dwell? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 5:12-19 and write your thoughts about why Jesus came to live on earth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How are we saved by Jesus' sacrifice according to Romans 3:21-26? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said this, "No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."

(John 10:18 NLT)

And Hebrews 12:1-3 says,

And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

What do these two passage tell you about Jesus and his sacrifice for our sins? Circle the words that apply...

Willing, Glad to do it, Obedient, Enduring, Humble, Victorious, Sacrificial, Loving

Why must we believe in God's Son?

Read John 3:16-18 to help answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Romans 3:21-22 What does believing in Jesus make us? \_\_\_\_\_.

How were people made righteous with God before Jesus came? \_\_\_\_\_.

Is that easy to do? \_\_\_\_\_

Since Jesus came to make us righteous, do we need to obey God's laws anymore? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? What is the purpose of God's laws as we believe in Jesus? (Remember Romans 3:20 & read Galatians 3:23-26).

(Circle the right answer)

- a. God's law has no purpose anymore.
- b. God's law is our 'teacher' and shows us our need for a Savior because it's impossible to keep them all!

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: Help me always remember my need for Jesus and to share him with others. \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Praises: Thank you for your Son, for his sacrifice and example and incredible love for me. \_\_\_\_\_

**KNOWING GOD/DAY FOUR -**

**The Holy Spirit:**

Jesus said, in John 16:7, "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

According to Philippians 2:13 God works in us through his Holy Spirit to give us "the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ to do what pleases him."

Read John 15:26 and John 14:26. What does the Holy Spirit do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read John 16:8. What else does the Holy Spirit do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Look up the following verses in order to match it to one of the truths about the Holy Spirit. (The answers are at the end of the lesson)

- |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Romans 8:27       | a. How God reveals things to us |
| 2. John 6:63         | b. Prays for us                 |
| 3. Romans 8:26       | c. Helps us in our weakness     |
| 4. 1Corinthians 2:10 | d. Gives life                   |
| 5. 1 John 3:24       | e. Proof that God lives in us   |

(Answers: 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-a, 5-e)

**\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: Help me to rely on the power of your Holy Spirit every day.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**\*Praises: Thank you for your Holy Spirit who helps and guides me.**

\_\_\_\_\_



**KNOWING GOD/DAY FIVE - Review:**

Fill in:

1. God is everywhere. He is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God is all-knowing. He is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God is all-powerful. He is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God controls everything. He is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What is the special name given for God's kind of love? \_\_\_\_\_. What make it so special? \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What's the most important thing a person could do in a day? \_\_\_\_\_.
7. God's Word is like a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Why did Jesus give his life for us?  
(Circle all that apply)  
because he wanted to    because he loves us  
because he was forced to    out of obedience
9. Why did God send his Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Write out one of your own Life Verses:

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Praises: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Week 2: Discipleship

### DISCIPLESHIP/DAY ONE -

#### A Brief History Lesson:

"Acts 8:1, 'They were all scattered abroad except the apostles.' Now we know that the apostles did their share and more than that. But the point is that everyone besides the apostles also went and evangelized.

"This is how the Church of Christ in 300 years accomplished amazing results. The Roman Empire was overthrown by the Gospel of Christ which, on the lips of Christ-conquered disciples, crossed seas and deserts, pierced the darkest jungles, seeped into every city and town, and finally into the senate and the palace of Rome itself - until a 'Christian' Caesar was placed upon the throne. How? Because everyone was preaching the Word. ...

"Constantine knew very well that he had no chance of unifying the roman Empire of holding power in that empire without the help of the Christians.

"By A.D. 300 the church had shown such tremendous strength, and was spreading so swiftly, that it

appeared the entire civilized world could be evangelized by A.D. 500. But something happened...Constantine, supposing to do a favor to the church, declared the whole Roman Empire to be Christian. Thus millions of barbarians flooded into the church, bringing with them all the pagan superstitions and heresies. They didn't even know the Gospel. They had never experienced its transforming power, and of course, they could not go out and tell others about it. So, little by little, the idea arose that there was a division between the clergy and the laity, and that this task of evangelism was the job of professionally trained individuals...The Dark Ages followed! With only a few bright spots in the history for the church since that time, this deplorable condition has continued down to our day."

(From One to One Discipling by Al and Lorraine Broom, 1983, pg.69)

Time to mix in faith to our religion and avoid another Dark Ages!

Hebrews 4:2

"For we also have had the Gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard it did not combine it with \_\_\_\_\_."

Lots of people know the Good News that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. But not everyone combines that information with faith.

The definition of faith according to Hebrews 11:1 is, "Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually \_\_\_\_\_; it gives us assurance about things we cannot \_\_\_\_\_."

And Hebrews 11 goes on in verse 6 to say that "without faith it is impossible to \_\_\_\_\_ God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly \_\_\_\_\_ him."

Clearly, faith is believing. And believing is our job as Christians. Read John 6:29. "Jesus told them, 'This is the only \_\_\_\_\_ God wants from you: \_\_\_\_\_ in the one he has sent.'"

If I have heard the Good News of Jesus, I must "combine it with faith" in order to please God and having that knowledge makes a difference in my life.

I must believe first of all that I am a sinner because Romans 3:23 tells me that I am. "For everyone has \_\_\_\_\_; all fall short of God's glorious standard."

I must believe that I really need saving no matter how "good" I try to be. Romans 5:6 says, "When we were utterly \_\_\_\_\_, Christ came at just the right time and died for us \_\_\_\_\_."

I must believe in Jesus to be saved. Romans 10:9 says this, "If you \_\_\_\_\_ with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_ God raised him from the dead, you will be \_\_\_\_\_." There is no other way.

Knowing why I'm saved isn't something to just consider one time. Author Jerry Bridges recommends for believers to "preach the Gospel to ourselves every day." We must remember to mix the Good News with faith - that means believing that salvation is intended for me. And I'm remembering what Jesus did for me so I won't treat him casually.

I also want to be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks me about the \_\_\_\_\_ that I have within me. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to \_\_\_\_\_ it." We can't explain it if we don't practice knowing it well!

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Praises: \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCIPLESHIP/DAY TWO -

### God's Witnesses:

In Matthew 28:18-22, what did Jesus tell all of his disciples to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 1:18. Where are some place you can be God's witness? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 2 :42-47 & Acts 5:42 and describe how the disciples lived after Jesus went up into heaven. \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 1:16 says, "I am not \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel of Christ." So why not share it?!

**God's Representatives:**

We must accurately represent God to the world, and he promises to equip us to that!

Philippians 2:13 says, "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

Read Galatians 5:15-26. What is the evidence our lives offer that shows we are allowing God to work in us? \_\_\_\_\_

God says, "The righteous shall live by faith." Read the following passages and comment on the importance of faith.

Hebrews 10:38 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_

**God's Workers:**

In John 6:29, Jesus clearly expresses what is the work of the believer: \_\_\_\_\_

Read Matthew 9:35-38. What did Jesus need help doing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does 1 Corinthians 15:58 tell us about working for the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

How are we to work for the Lord? (Read Colossians 3:23). \_\_\_\_\_

Why do we work for the Lord according to Ephesians 4:12? \_\_\_\_\_

How do we equip ourselves to do God's work according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17? \_\_\_\_\_

Write Ephesians 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: Help me to share you with others. Help me to do everything like I'm doing it for you. And please give me the ability and the desire to do what pleases you so that I can work for you. \_\_\_\_\_

\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Praises: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **DISCIPLESHIP/DAY THREE -Relationships**

### **Fellowship With God:**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." How can believers practically spend time with God daily? \_\_\_\_\_

Read James 1:25. How is reading the Bible the key to happiness? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Philippians 4:4-7. What happens when we pray? \_\_\_\_\_

Read 1 John 1:6-7. What does it mean to "walk in the light" and how does that affect our fellowship with God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fellowship With Others:**

Read Act 2:42-47. Describe the fellowship of believers with one another. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

According to Hebrews 10:25, why should believers remain in the habit of meeting together? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus say happens when believers gather together? (Read Matthew 18:20)  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do we show love to other believers all the time? (Read 1 John 5:2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 12:9-21. Make a list here of how all believers should behave:

**Wise Counsel:**

Write out the verses and use them to answer the following questions about seeking wise counsel. (Answers at the end of the lesson.)

1. 1 Kings 22:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do wise people always do first? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Psalm 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

People who reject wicked counsel are \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Psalm 73:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How does God guide us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Isaiah 28:29 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God's counsel is magnificent in \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Hebrews 13:7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Imitate the \_\_\_\_\_ of those whose lives show they have accepted godly \_\_\_\_\_.

(1. Seek God, 2. blessed, 3.with his counsel, 4. wisdom, 5. faith, counsel)

**God's Intervention:**

Write out the verse. Then use the words from the box to complete the truths from each verse.

good   invincible   begin/finish   plans

Philippians 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the good work he starts in spite of any hiccups along the way.

Romans 8:28 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God works all things for \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 8:31 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We're \_\_\_\_\_ with God on our side!

Jeremiah 29:11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God's \_\_\_\_\_ for us are always good.



\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: Help me to read your Word and pray daily because it's how you communicate with me. Help me to love like you do, seek wise counsel and trust you.

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\*Other Prayer Requests:

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Praises: Thank you for communicating with me through your Word and through prayer and for your counsel and intervention.

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### DISCIPLESHIP/DAY FOUR - Obedience

James 1:22-25 says when we study the Word we must remember what it says and do it, or it's like looking in a \_\_\_\_\_ and forgetting what we \_\_\_\_\_ like.

Match the following passages with one of the words from the list that describe what obedience brings:

Psalm 119:45	not sin
Deuteronomy 6:5	wisdom
Joshua 1:6-9	freedom
Psalm 119:30-32	courage
James 4:17	joy & peace
Joshua 1:7	strength

(answers)

When we obey God, what are we showing according to John 14:21? \_\_\_\_\_

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And what does Jesus call us in John 15:14 because of our obedience? \_\_\_\_\_

What do we receive because of our obedience according to Acts 5:23? \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 5:29 teaches us that obeying \_\_\_\_\_ is more important than obeying \_\_\_\_\_.

According to Deuteronomy 11:26-28, what is the result of obedience? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the result of disobedience? \_\_\_\_\_

What does obedience ensure for Joshua in Joshua 1:7? \_\_\_\_\_

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-26. Why does Samuel tell Saul, "To obey is better than sacrifice?"

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\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: Help me to obey you. \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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Praises: Thank you for the strength and freedom that obeying you brings. \_\_\_\_\_

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## DISCIPLESHIP/DAY FIVE - Faith

According to Hebrews 11:1 Faith is being sure of what we \_\_\_\_\_ for and certain of what we do not \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore there are times when it is necessary to wait on the Lord. What do you think it means to "wait on the Lord?" \_\_\_\_\_

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Waiting on the Lord never involves a period of inactivity. I think of a waiter at a really great restaurant who is always near the table ready for action and continuously doing what they're supposed to be doing.

Match each passage to a truth about waiting on the Lord:

1. Isaiah 30:18    a. God does amazing things for those who wait
2. Philippians 4:6-7    b. God is worth waiting for
3. Titus 2:12-13    c. Being anxious is the opposite of waiting
4. Isaiah 64:4    d. Be godly & self-controlled while waiting

(Answers: 1.b, 2.c, 3.d, 4.a)

We are to allow our faith to 'grow.' Read Jude 20 for advice on how to do this: "But you, dear friends, must \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ in your most holy faith, \_\_\_\_\_ in the power of the Holy Spirit, and \_\_\_\_\_ the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ in God's love."

Consider the example of Joseph. He is sold in slavery by his own brothers but he continues to wait on the Lord even when he is wrongly imprisoned. He always works like he's working for God not people.

(Ephesians 6:7 - "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.")

And when his brothers unintentionally meet him again he happens to be the man in charge capable of saving many people from starvation, including his own family.

Read *Genesis 50:19-21*. Write down what Joseph tells his brothers. \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there an example from your own life where it looked like you were in an unfortunate situation that turned out in the end to be beneficial not only to you but others as well?

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Remember *Romans 8:28*! "And we know that God causes \_\_\_\_\_ to work \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

Look up the following scriptures and use words from the box to fill in the truths about faith...

job see valuable embarrassed please

1. *John 6:29*: Faith is our work; it's our \_\_\_\_.
2. *1 Peter 1:7*: Faith is extremely \_\_\_\_\_.
3. *Philippians 1:6*: God finishes what he's started even when we can't \_\_\_\_\_ the whole picture.
4. *Romans 10:11*: We'll never be disappointed or \_\_\_\_\_ by our faith in God.
5. *Hebrews 10:11*: Faith is how we \_\_\_\_\_ God.

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: Help me to wait on you and trust you in all circumstances.  
Help me not to doubt and question everything you do.

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\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Praises: Thank you that your plans are always worth waiting for.

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Week 3:  
Communication

**COMMUNICATION/DAY ONE & TWO-**

**Prayer:**

Prayer is how we communicate with God. We tell God our needs and concerns and thank him for all he has done by praying.

Praying can be done out loud or in our minds, so we can literally be praying all the time.

Proverbs 15:29 says, "The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous." (And remember, it's by believing in \_\_\_\_\_ that we are made right with God.)

Look up these verses and answer the following questions regarding truths about prayer... (Do #1-12 today, and the rest tomorrow)

1. Deuteronomy 4:7 - Where is God when we pray? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. 1 Samuel 12:23 - Should we only pray for ourselves? \_\_\_\_\_

3. 2 Chronicles 7:14 - What does prayer trigger in our hearts? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Jeremiah 29:12-14a - What does God promise to do when we pray to him and look for him? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Jeremiah 42:3 - Why do we pray? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. 1 Chronicles 5:20 - What happens when we pray AND trust God at the same time? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Luke 6:28 - How does our heart heal when we've been hurt by someone? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Luke 22:40 - What's a good prayer to begin the day? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Romans 8:26-27 - What does the Holy Spirit do for us when we don't even know what to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Ephesians 6:18 - Is there ever an occasion not to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

11. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - When should we pray? \_\_\_\_\_ (By the way, the MORE we do something, the more AUTOMATIC and less awkward and burdensome it becomes!)

12. James 5:13-18 - What is revealed by prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Praises: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Jude 20 - How are we kept safe in God's love? \_\_\_\_\_

14. 1 Peter 4:7 - Why should we have an urgency to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Proverbs 15:8 - How can we please God? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Acts 2:24 & Matthew 18:19 - Should we only pray privately and alone? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Philipians 4:6 - What cures anxiety?  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. Colossians 4:2 - How should we pray? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. 1 Timothy 2:8 - What might we do with our hands when we pray? \_\_\_\_\_

20. 1 Peter 3:7 - What happens to our prayers when we pray while simultaneously being disobedient? \_\_\_\_\_

21. 1 Peter 3:12 - What does God do with the prayers of the righteous? (Remember, by believing in Jesus we are made righteous according to Romans 3:22!) \_\_\_\_\_

22. Mark 12:40 - Do our prayers have to be lengthy and wordy? \_\_\_\_\_

23. 2 Corinthians 1:11 - How can we help other believers? \_\_\_\_\_

List another verse you have found regarding prayer here: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Praises: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNICATION/DAY THREE -

### Worship:

Worship is another way for us to communicate with God and he often uses it as a means through which he communicates with us as well.

Pastor and author A.W. Tozer wrote, "Man was made to worship God. He can worship Him in a manner no other creature can."

Read Luke 19:37-40. What will happen if believers don't worship and praise God?

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Pastor's wife and author Kay Smith says,

When I get to heaven I would not be at all surprised to discover that God put that innate desire to worship in us - not because of His great need for our worship, but because of our great need to worship. We need to have our eyes lifted from ourselves and our limitations, and placed squarely on God, Who is all-powerful and sovereign. Worship does that. It reminds us of our insignificance and our helplessness apart from God.

(From Pleasing God, 2008 pg.168)

Fill in from Psalm 95.

Come, let us \_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ to the LORD; let us \_\_\_\_ to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him \_\_\_\_\_ and extol him with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. For the LORD is the \_\_\_\_\_ God, the great \_\_\_\_\_ above all \_\_\_\_\_. .. Come, let us \_\_\_\_\_ in worship, let us \_\_\_\_\_ before the LORD our Maker; for he is our \_\_\_\_\_ and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his \_\_\_\_\_. (NIV)

What are some ways we can worship the Lord according to Psalm 95? \_\_\_\_\_

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In Pleasing God, Kay Smith states that "worship requires three necessary elements: humility, submission, and commitment." (pg. 177)

Look up James 4:10. Why should we worship with humility?

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According to Hebrews 5:7 what happens when we submit to God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:9 describes why we commit to giving the Lord the praise he deserves. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Praises: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNICATION/DAY FOUR -**

**God's Will:**

God's will is something he communicates to us through his Word. How can we readily determine God's will for our lives through scripture?

According to Micah 6:8, God's will is for us to do 3 things every day. What are they?

1. To do what is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. To love \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Walk humbly with \_\_\_\_\_.

Truths from Micah 6:8:

1. "To do what is right" means every option for my life should align with obeying God's expressed commands.

**Example:** Do I buy those shoes I just saw in the store window?

**Answer:** I know the Bible teaches not to covet (Deuteronomy 5:21) Therefore, do I just wish I had those shoes or did seeing them remind me that I

need some shoes? I know the Bible teaches me to be content with what I have ( 1Timothy 6:8). So, was my purpose for coming to the mall today to buy shoes at all? Do I have sufficient shoes at home? Do I have sufficient funds to buy new ones because God is not the author of chaos (1Corinthians 14:40) which includes chaos with my checking account.

2. "To love mercy..." Are my decisions based on what makes me comfortable and look good?

**Example:** Does God want me to point a particular issue out to a certain person or not?

**Answer:** Am I loving mercy if I do? And mercy is NOT giving someone the punishment they deserve. Or am I justifying my own behavior? Do I just want to put them in their place because they bug me?

3. "Walk humbly with your God" means considering if my decisions will take time away from time I spend with the Lord. Is this decision appealing to my pride and selfish desires?

**Example:** Do I take that new job and relocate my family?

**Answer:** Is the extra money actually necessary? Will I spend more time with God or less as a result of the move? Will I be working more hours away from my family I should be discipling? Is there a comparable church fellowship at the new location?

### **God's will from Ephesians 5:15-20:15:**

(NLT)

"So be careful how you \_\_\_\_\_. Don't live like \_\_\_\_\_, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every \_\_\_\_\_ in these \_\_\_\_\_ days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the \_\_\_\_\_ wants you to do. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ with wine, because it will ruin your life. Instead, be \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ among yourselves, and making \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_. And give \_\_\_\_\_ for everything to \_\_\_\_\_ the Father in the name of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ."

List some things from the Ephesians passage that we clearly know God doesn't want us to do:

1. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Don't get \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Don't act without \_\_\_\_\_.

List some things from the passage that we clearly know God DOES want us to do:

1. Sing \_\_\_\_\_ & know some of the Psalms by heart.
2. Constantly be \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ God all the time.

**God's will from 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12:**

(NLT)

"Make it your goal to live a \_\_\_\_\_ life, minding your own \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with your \_\_\_\_\_, just as we instructed you before. Then people who are not Christians will \_\_\_\_\_ the way you live, and you will not need to \_\_\_\_\_ on others.

Truths about God's will from the passage:

1. Lead a \_\_\_\_\_ life.
2. Mind your own \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_.

(answers: quiet, business, lazy)

**God's will from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:**

"Always be \_\_\_\_\_ . Never stop \_\_\_\_\_ . Be \_\_\_\_\_ in all circumstances, for this is God's \_\_\_\_\_ for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Praises: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNICATION/DAY FIVE -Peace**

God uses peace to communicate confirmation of his presence in our lives.

Philippians 4:6-7 beautifully describes the relationship between prayer and peace in our lives. Memorize this passage!

Do not be \_\_\_\_\_ about anything, but in everything, by \_\_\_\_\_ and petition, with \_\_\_\_\_, present your \_\_\_\_\_ to God. And the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which transcends all \_\_\_\_\_, will guard your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus. (NLT)

Use words from the box to fill in the truths from this passage:

anxious	tell	peace	miraculous
thankful		guard	

1. God doesn't want me to be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Always be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ God what I need.
4. God gives \_\_\_\_\_.
5. God's peace is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. God's peace is like a \_\_\_\_\_ for my heart.

Look up each verse and match it to its corresponding biblical truth about peace:

- 1. Psalm 29:11 Gives life
- 2. Proverbs 14:30 Comes from Jesus
- 3. John 14:27 Peace is a BLESSING
- 4. 1 Corinthians 14:33 God's peace is miraculous
- 5. Psalm 85:10 Result of the Holy Spirit's presence
- 6. Philippians 4:7 Goes together with righteousness
- 7. Galatians 5:22 Not peace?...Not from God

(Answers: 1. c, 2. a, 3.b, 4.g, 5.f, 6.d, 7.e)

Use a Bible Concordance to look up another verse about God's peace and write the verse here: \_\_\_\_\_

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Write a fact from your verse. Add the fact as one of your Spiritual Prayer Requests or Praises at the end of this section.

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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Praises: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Week 4: Spiritual Growth

The importance of knowing God, discipleship and communication with him is crucial in order to achieve spiritual growth. Like anything else in life, if we don't make time for it, it just won't happen.

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH/DAY ONE -

#### Consider the Cost:

What does following after God actually entail? Read Matthew 16:24.

Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me." What does Jesus mean by "take up your cross?" \_\_\_\_\_

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"Turn from your selfish ways" is a clue that "taking up your cross" means for us not to have our way all the time and assert our own will once we've decided to follow Jesus. Otherwise, why follow him at all if we're not prepared to give up the proverbial driver's seat.

"Taking up our cross" means a life of self-denial, but in no way is that a negative thing.

Remember Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT): "Come to \_\_\_\_, all of you who are \_\_\_\_ and carry heavy \_\_\_\_, and I will give you \_\_\_\_\_. Take \_\_ yoke upon you. Let me \_\_\_\_ you, because I am \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ at heart, and you will find \_\_\_\_ for your souls. For my yoke is \_\_\_\_ to bear, and the burden I give you is \_\_\_\_\_.

We may be used to being in charge of our lives, but letting Jesus be in control is actually much easier if our 'burden' with him is 'light.' That means he'll do all the heavy lifting!

Write out the following verses and choose a word from the box to fill in the truths about deciding to follow after God.

day everything deny rash control

1. Proverbs 20:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Being a Christian must not be a \_\_\_\_\_ decision.

2. Philippians 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Must be willing to give up \_\_\_\_\_ and all \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Mark 8:34-38 \_\_\_\_\_

Must \_\_\_\_\_ myself every \_\_\_\_\_.

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: Help me to let you be in control of my life everyday.\_\_\_\_\_

Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Praises: Thank you that following you is not burdensome and that you give rest.\_\_\_\_\_

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH/DAY TWO -

### Read & Study God's Word Daily:

In order to know God's will for our lives, we must know God's will for our lives and he reveals that to us through his Word.

Our hearts are like a bucket. Every day we spend time Reading the Bible and praying we are filling up that bucket. Each day adds more and more. After a while, when we go to make a decision about something or encourage someone else, we are confident and know how God feels about it because we've spent time filling our heart bucket daily and learning how God thinks about stuff.

When we neglect our study time in the Word, we let our buckets dry up and we make our decisions based on our feelings and emotions and not the truth of God.

So it is very wise to read the Bible and study from it every single day. Here are some ways we could incorporate more study time in our day. (Circle 1 you will try this week!)

1. Wake up early and read the Bible before the whole day gets away from you.
2. Attend church two times a week and take notes.
3. Attend a Bible study.
4. Memorize a verse while you do your chores.
5. Memorize a verse for the week during dinner with your family every night before you say the blessing for your food.
6. Listen to praise and worship music that contains scripture while you're in the car or at home.
7. Tell someone else (like a family member or friend) what you studied today.
8. Review/Rewrite your notes from church.
9. Listen to Bible teaching radio programs.
10. Get a Bible on CD and download it to your iPod.



We only retain about 57% of what we hear, but 100% of what we memorize.

What does Psalm 119:11 say memorizing scripture will help us do? \_\_\_\_\_

Even if you have difficulty memorizing scripture, reading the Bible every day helps you become more and more acquainted with it and passages become very familiar in no time at all!

### Studying God's Word:

5 Minute, 5 Step Study:

**\*Step 1:** Read a verse from a daily devotional book. (Like The Daily Bread (usually free at church) or something like Grace for the Moment by Max Lucado.)

**\*Step 2:** Look up the verse in your Bible, Highlight the verse and read the paragraph or surrounding verses so you know the context.

**\*Step 3:** Write the verse down in a notebook.

**\*Step 4:** Decide what the facts are from the verse and write them down.

Example: Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

Fact #1 God never leaves.

Fact #2 He can rescue me from any kind of trouble.

Fact #3 God likes me.

Fact#4 He is comforting.

Fact #5 He is happy about me.

Fact #6 He is so happy about me, it makes Him sing!

Fact #7 What am I so happy about that I sing over it?

**\*Step 5:** Pray (The facts are going to be my spiritual prayer for today in the form of 'help me ...' or 'thank you for...')

Example: Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you never leave. Thank you for handling all the trouble that comes my way; help me rely on your strength. Thank you for liking me, for your kindness to me. Help my life bring you joy in song today as I trust you more. Amen

**Assignment:**

Look up \_\_\_\_\_ and do a  
5 Minute, 5 Step Study!

1. Read the verse.
2. Highlight the verse in your Bible.
3. Write the verse \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Write some facts from the verse: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Pray the facts in the form of 'help me' and 'thank you' prayers and add your other prayer requests and praises.

That's it. You're done! That bit of study every day fills up your heart bucket day after day!

(For a little bit longer study, go through a whole book of the Bible reading 1 chapter per day. Focus on a verse that pops out at you, write it down, and list some facts. Then look up other verses that remind you of that verse and write them down too. Pray the facts to close.)

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Praises: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH/DAY THREE -**

**Ask Seek and Knock:**

In Eddie Rasnake's discipleship series he discusses our need for prayer.

One near-fatal flaw we human beings have is our innate tendency to 'lean on our own understanding'....

As a new Christian, I knew God had a moral will for me...,however, I didn't yet understand that He could lead me even in the smaller decisions of my life...We cannot expect God to give us the wisdom we lack of we haven't even asked Him for it.

**Read James 1:5-8 (NLT)**

If you need \_\_\_\_\_, ask our generous God, and he will \_\_\_\_\_ it to you. He will not \_\_\_\_\_ you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in \_\_\_\_\_ alone. Do not waver, for a person with \_\_\_\_\_ loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to \_\_\_\_\_ anything from the Lord.

Their loyalty is divided between \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, and they are \_\_\_\_\_ in everything they do.

Facts:

1. God wants to give us \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God doesn't make fun of us for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If we don't ask with \_\_\_\_\_, our loyalty is \_\_\_\_\_ between God and the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Divided loyalties makes one \_\_\_\_\_.

God doesn't want us to wander around in the dark. He wants us ask him about every single detail of our lives.

Take a minute to wonder why God wants us to ask and seek him instead of just reading our minds. \_\_\_\_\_

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Look up the following passages about pursuing God in our decision making and daily living:

**Matthew 7:7-12** (NLT)

"Keep on asking, and you will \_\_\_\_\_ what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will \_\_\_\_\_. Keep on knocking, and the door will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you. For everyone who asks, \_\_\_\_\_. Everyone who seeks, \_\_\_\_\_. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be \_\_\_\_\_.

"You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of \_\_\_\_\_, do you give them a \_\_\_\_\_ instead? Or if they ask for a \_\_\_\_\_, do you give them a \_\_\_\_\_? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give \_\_\_\_\_ to your children, how much more will your heavenly \_\_\_\_\_ give good gifts to those who \_\_\_\_\_ him.

**Jeremiah 29:13** (NLT)

If you \_\_\_\_\_ for me wholeheartedly, you will \_\_\_\_\_ me.

**1 Peter 5:7** (NLT)

Give all your \_\_\_\_\_ and cares to \_\_\_\_\_, for he \_\_\_\_\_ about you.

We don't ask of the Lord or seek his will and then just go our merry way. We must wait for a response. God always responds.

Pastor Craig Caster says in his parenting seminars that every morning after he reads the Bible and prays. Then he takes out a pen and expects God to tell him something about himself or someone else. He never enters time with the Lord without the expectation of hearing from the Lord, and he's never been disappointed.

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Praises: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SPIRITUAL GROWTH/DAY FOUR -

Stewardship & Service:

Now that you've decided to follow God and fill your heart bucket daily, he wants your life to have an effect on others for his purposes!

God wants us to take care of what he's given us. Stewardship is the fancy name for that.

Write out the following passages about stewardship and use words from the box to complete the biblical truths.

small most generously opportunity
-----------------------------------

1. Matthew 25:21 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Begin by being faithful in \_\_\_\_\_ areas first.

2. Ephesians 5:15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make the \_\_\_\_\_ of every \_\_\_\_\_.

3. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

One who plants \_\_\_\_\_ gets a generous return.

### Spiritual Gifts:

**Ephesians 4:7** says God "has given each one of us a special \_\_\_\_\_ through the generosity of \_\_\_\_\_."

Fill in Ephesians 4:11-16 for elaboration:

"Now these are the \_\_\_\_\_ Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

Their responsibility is to \_\_\_\_\_ God's people to do his \_\_\_\_\_ and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge

of God's Son that we will be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ."

Fill in what **1 Corinthians 12:27-13:3** has to say about spiritual gifts:

"All of you \_\_\_\_\_ are Christ's body, and each of you is a \_\_\_\_\_ of it. Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church:

first are apostles,

second are prophets,

third are teachers,

then those who do miracles,

those who have the gift of healing,

those who can help others,

those who have the gift of leadership,

those who speak in unknown languages.

Are we all \_\_\_\_\_? Are we all \_\_\_\_\_?  
Are we all \_\_\_\_\_? Do we all have the power to do \_\_\_\_\_? Do we all have the gift of \_\_\_\_\_? Do we all have the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ in unknown languages? Do we all have the

ability to \_\_\_\_\_ unknown languages? Of course not! So you should earnestly desire the most \_\_\_\_\_ gifts. But now let me show you a way of life that is \_\_\_\_\_ of all.

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't \_\_\_\_\_ others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't \_\_\_\_\_ others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ others, I would have gained nothing."

Clearly, \_\_\_\_\_ is the most important gift God has given us!

Fill in **Romans 12:6-9** to elaborate on spiritual gifts even more: (And notice what subject Paul immediately focuses on at the end of the passage!)

"In his grace, God has given us different \_\_\_\_\_ for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to \_\_\_\_\_, speak out with as much \_\_\_\_\_ as God has given you. If your gift is \_\_\_\_\_ others, serve them \_\_\_\_\_. If you are a \_\_\_\_\_, teach \_\_\_\_\_. If your gift is to \_\_\_\_\_ others, be encouraging. If it is \_\_\_\_\_, give \_\_\_\_\_. If God has given you \_\_\_\_\_ ability, take the responsibility \_\_\_\_\_. And if you have a gift for showing \_\_\_\_\_ to others, do it \_\_\_\_\_.

Don't just pretend to \_\_\_\_\_ others. Really \_\_\_\_\_ them."

\_\_\_\_\_

**Serving:**

Since LOVE seems to be the greatest gift God has given let's notice how God's love is described so that we can SERVE others by it...

Read **Galatians 5:13**. How are we to serve one another?

---

Read **1 Corinthians 13 4-7** and make a list describing what our love should look like:

1. P\_\_\_\_\_
2. K\_\_\_\_\_
3. Not j\_\_\_\_\_
4. Not b\_\_\_\_\_
5. Not p\_\_\_\_\_
6. Not d\_\_\_\_\_ its own w\_\_\_\_\_
7. Not I\_\_\_\_\_
8. Not s\_\_\_\_\_ k\_\_\_\_\_
9. P\_\_\_\_\_
10. H\_\_\_\_\_

Consider this! The opposite of love is hate, so the opposite of love is sin. Roy Hession elaborates on this in his book, *The Calvary Road*...

How "easily provoked" we are! How quick to be irritated by something in the other. How often we allow the unkind thought, the resentful feeling over something the other has done or left undone! Yet we profess there are no failures in love in our homes. These things happen every day and we think nothing of them. They are all of them the opposite of love, and the opposite of love is hate. Impatience is hate, envy is hate, conceit and self-will are hate, and so are selfishness, irritability and resentment! And hate is SIN. "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in the darkness even until now." What tensions, barriers and discord it all causes, and fellowship with both God and the other is made impossible.

Read **1 Peter 4:11** and fill in:

"Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ others? Do it with all the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ supplies. Then \_\_\_\_\_ you do will bring \_\_\_\_\_ to God through Jesus Christ."



Read and fill in **Philippians 2:13-15**:

For God is working in you, giving you the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ to do what pleases him. Do everything without \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, so that no one can \_\_\_\_\_ you. Live clean, innocent \_\_\_\_\_ as children of \_\_\_\_\_, shining like bright \_\_\_\_\_ in a world full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ people."

How does God want us to serve others according to **Colossians 3:23**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Praises: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH/DAY FIVE -**

**The Basics You Should Know:**

**1. The Ten Commandments:**

We don't learn these just because we're supposed to follow them. Pastor Ray Comfort says to use the 10 Commandments to point people to their need for a Savior.

If God were to judge your unsaved friend based on how well they keep these rules, how would they do?

For instance, 1 John 3:15 says, "Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them." So they may not have killed anyone, but are still guilty of breaking the spirit of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment.

Take time to memorize the Ten Commandments so you can use them as a tool to share your faith. The pictures will help you!

(The 10 Commandments can be found in Deuteronomy 5:1-21)



## 2. The Fruit (Evidence) of the Spirit:

Roy Hession says in his book, *The Calvary Road*,

It is self, too, who is often doing Christian work. It is always self who gets irritable and envious and resentful and critical and worried. It is self who is hard and unyielding in its attitudes to others. It is self who is shy and self-conscious and reserved. No wonder we need breaking. As long as self is in control, God can do little with us, for all the fruits of the Spirit (they are enumerated in Galatians 5), with which God longs to fill us, are the complete antithesis of the hard, unbroken spirit within us and presupposes that it has been crucified.

Galatians 5:19-21 lists the evidence of our natural lives without the help of the Holy Spirit:

"When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God."

**Galatians 5:22-23** lists the evidence, or 'fruit,' that the Holy Spirit is in charge of our lives based on these specific behaviors and attitudes being seen.

List those behaviors here.

L\_\_\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_  
P\_\_\_\_\_ K\_\_\_\_\_  
G\_\_\_\_\_ G\_\_\_\_\_  
F\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_ -c\_\_\_\_\_

**3. God's Kind of Love:**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

Love is \_\_\_\_\_, love is \_\_\_\_\_. It does not \_\_\_\_\_, it does not \_\_\_\_\_, it is not \_\_\_\_\_. It does not \_\_\_\_\_ others, it is not \_\_\_\_\_-seeking, it is not easily \_\_\_\_\_, it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_. Love does not delight in \_\_\_\_\_ but rejoices with the \_\_\_\_\_. It always \_\_\_\_\_, always \_\_\_\_\_, always \_\_\_\_\_. Love never \_\_\_\_\_.

**4. Thoughts:**

Our thoughts often control our words and actions. That's why God chose our minds to be the place where our transformations as Christians is to begin...

**Romans 12:2**

"Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the behavior and customs of this \_\_\_\_\_, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you \_\_\_\_\_. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

And God encourages us in what we should think about during the day...

**Philippians 4:8**

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. Think about things that are \_\_\_\_\_ and worthy of \_\_\_\_\_."

Make a list of a person, event, or answer to prayer that you could think about during the day that would help set your mind on things that are good to think about instead of thinking about all that is wrong with the world...

True \_\_\_\_\_

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

Right \_\_\_\_\_

Pure \_\_\_\_\_

Lovely \_\_\_\_\_

Admirable \_\_\_\_\_

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_

Worthy of Praise \_\_\_\_\_

And God wants us to think about Heaven all the time!

**Colossians 3:2**

"Think about the things of \_\_\_\_\_ not the things of \_\_\_\_\_."

Spending time with God is the most important thing we can do in a day. Everything else will fall into place when we make spending time with God our priority...

**Matthew 6:33**

"Seek the Kingdom of God above \_\_\_\_ else, and live \_\_\_\_\_, and he will \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ you\_\_\_\_\_."

**5. The Lord's Prayer:**

Memorize this!

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

## 6. The Books of the Bible:

2 Timothy 3:16 says that "all scripture is God-\_\_\_\_\_."  
 The Bible is an infallible document miraculously preserved for thousands of years just for us! Learn the order of the Old Testament and New Testament.



\*Spiritual Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Other Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Praises: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Now that you have completed your discipleship program, consider whom God may be leading you to disciple next. Always be making disciples!

Remember what Jesus said,

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

## **Appendix I**

### **Sharing your faith:**

I took the time to write what I call "A Friendly Letter" and I leave on the car next to mine when I park somewhere. Then I pray for whomever might come across it and read it - the driver or the earth friendly shopper who picks it up off the ground in the parking lot.

If you want, you can just xerox it off this page. Or, write out your own testimony to share. Then keep some on you to put on cars next to yours in the parking lot or leave in a waiting room.

People may not want to strike up a conversation with you, but they are all desperate to read something when they're bored!

Here's what my Friendly Letter says...

(And on the reverse side I print out "Who is Jesus?")

Dear Friend,

I am a wife and a mother of 4 kids. We have a busy life together and life is good. But what happens when this life is over? What will happen to me? What will happen to my husband and my kids whom I love so much? Well, I have had the privilege of knowing who Jesus is my whole life. I was raised in a Christian home and never stopped trusting in God. He has indeed blessed me with a beautiful and healthy family and has always provided for us. God loves me so much that he doesn't want me to be spiritually dead, or even dead-dead when I die. Instead, he shows me a new way of thinking and a new way of living through the example of his Son, Jesus! So...I can have joy and peace now and live forever in heaven and NOT be punished here and eternally for my natural desires that are evil. He saved me! Maybe not from drugs, suicide, sleeping around, homosexuality, or a life of crime, but he saved me from ever even going down those roads! That's nice. He DID save me from hatred, unhappiness, pettiness, impatience, anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, jealousy, and recklessness indulgence and replaced them with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control and I am SO thankful; I just had to share that with YOU! Because of Jesus, I know what will happen to me and my family when we die. We'll be in heaven. Will you? If you already know Jesus, please give this letter to someone who doesn't.

Thanks! -J.M.

### Who is Jesus?

He was an actual man who lived, died and historians have proved that people saw him alive again after they witnessed his death. He was able to do that because he is God's son. Because he is God's son, he is also perfect. He died for the sins of all people so that anyone who will believe in him and what he did can go to heaven when they die and be with God. We know God is real because you can't look at the world without recognizing there is a Creator behind all the creativity in nature. You would never look at a house and think it got built by accident, a builder was behind it. Since God is real, how do we know that we will be with Him when we die? You may not consider yourself a major criminal, but God is perfect and holy and can't be around sin. We are not perfect and holy. Even the best of us walk off with pens that aren't ours and tell little white lies. Imperfect. We all need saving. Jesus came for us like a stranger coming out of nowhere to pay a huge traffic fine that you can't afford to pay. He took the punishment for all sins so that we can have a relationship with God in heaven. Don't go to bed tonight without talking to Jesus and asking for his forgiveness and thanking him for his sacrifice. Jesus was a real man. He didn't come to make our lives better, he came to save us out of his great kindness. If you have never been sure what happens to you when you die, you can be sure that you will live forever in heaven with HIM by believing in Jesus & asking him to be with you. If you now believe in Jesus, find a church that teaches out of the Bible (God's letter to us) so you can learn more about him. You shouldn't be required to give money or do anything weird. Believing in Jesus is all you have to do to be saved.

## Appendix II

### Spiritual Growth Resources:

The Calvary Road

by Roy Hession

Pleasing God

by Kay Smith

**janysmurphy.com**

Grace for the Moment (daily devotions)

by Max Lucado

Families Where Grace is in Place

by Jeff Van Vonderen

A Lifetime of Wisdom: Embracing the Way God  
Heals You

by Joni Eareckson Tada

Parenting is a Ministry

by Craig Caster

**newsongcc.net** (audio sermons)

## Appendix III

### Why keep a journal?

We are busy and easily distracted people. So I keep a notebook with me every time I study and pray. If I get interrupted, I can go back to exactly where I was. If it's not written down, I'm sure to forget.

Keep a notebook with you when you study at church too. Take notes on the pastor's message and note the references. Later type them up and make your own Bible commentary you could pass on to your family members.

Share with others what you study. If it's not written down, you're sure to forget.

Write your prayers out. When you go back and reread them on a rainy day your heart will be filled with thankfulness at all the answered prayers. If you don't write them down, you're sure to forget.

In the Old Testament we constantly read about people passing by a place where rocks are stacked up in remembrance of something. Notebooks and paper weren't in abundance back then is the reason why. Today with easily accessible paper products why not keep journals and purpose to remember and retain what we learn every day about the goodness and greatness of our God!



## Appendix IV

Verses to help you to

# Just Trust God!

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Psalm 103:6

Jeremiah 29:11

Psalm 56:3-4

Matthew 11:28-30

Ephesians 3:20

Philippians 4:6-7

Notes:

