

Disciple's Copy



# NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

For the KBCFers'  
Spiritual Journey

---

**Basic steps of the Christian life  
and Establishing Spiritual Habits**

# **NEW LIFE IN CHRIST**



**Volume 1**

---

**Basic steps of the Christian life**

Revised edition, 2014

This is the Revised English edition of NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, Vol. 1. It was originally produced in Spanish as NUEVA VIDA EN CRISTO. Its purpose is to give you a solid foundation for your Christian life. When you finish with Volume 1, continue with the other volumes.

**For more information** email us at [info@nuevavidaencristo.org](mailto:info@nuevavidaencristo.org)

**You may download a free copy of this book at the following website:**  
[www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com](http://www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com) See note below about making photocopies.

**For printed copies contact:**

Camino Global, 8625 La Prada Dr., Dallas, TX 75228 USA  
Phone: 800-366-2264 or 214-327-8206

For free materials in Spanish go to [www.obreroziel.com](http://www.obreroziel.com)

It is also available in Spanish, French, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Swahili, Malagasy, Kinyarwanda, Miskitu, Italian, Catalan, and German. The document is in PDF format and requires Adobe Reader (formerly known as Acrobat Reader) to be read. If you have trouble opening the documents, download the latest free version of Adobe Reader at <http://www.adobe.com>

Revised in 2014

Fourth English edition 2014. Copyrighted 1993

© Mark Robinson

Permission is given to make copies of this material with the condition that you cite the original source and make no changes or additions to its content or format.

Produced in cooperation with Camino Global and believers  
from the Asociación Evangélica Centroamericana de Costa Rica  
8625 La Prada Dr., Dallas, TX 75228 USA

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Teacher's Guide .....	4
Welcome to God's Family .....	5
Step 1 Saved! .....	6
Step 2 Secure! .....	8
Step 3 Victorious! .....	10
Step 4 Lord of All .....	12
Step 5 Living in the Spirit .....	14
Step 6 God Speaks to Me .....	16
Step 7 Talking with God .....	18
Step 8 Meeting with God Every Day .....	20
Step 9 My Church .....	23
Step 10 <b>Stewardship</b> .....	25

Appendices .....	33
------------------	----



## TEACHER'S GUIDE

1. We congratulate you for accepting the challenge of discipling new believers using New Life in Christ as your guide. The results of this study can produce eternal fruit.
2. Let the Bible always be your authority in answering questions. The students should look up the Bible passages by themselves and try to answer the questions based on what the Bible says.

New believers may need a brief orientation on how to find references in their Bibles.

3. This manual may be used in many different ways. In most cases, you will study one lesson a week, encouraging the disciple to do all assignments in each lesson.
4. Try not to let sessions get too long.
5. Encourage students to answer questions in their own words. Avoid copying the Bible word for word. Using their own words will help them analyze the meanings of the texts studied.
6. Avoid preaching. Use questions to discover what the students understand and stimulate active participation.
7. Prepare well for each session. As the teacher, you should be familiar with the content and key concepts of each lesson.

Your preparation should include prayer for your students and for your own heart.

8. Try to have students think about practical implications for their lives. Help them understand specific, practical applications.

The assignments in the boxes at the side of each lesson are designed for this purpose. Make use of them.

9. Help students cultivate the habit of prayer. Teach them by praying together with them.
10. It is important to understand that discipleship is much more than studying the lessons of New Life in Christ. Discipleship implies a life change for the disciple.

This manual is just an initial help. Students need continual help in seeking changes in their character, ways of thinking, and habits.

11. It is of the utmost importance that disciples learn habits like daily Bible reading, prayer, and Scripture memorization.

At the beginning of each lesson, take time to review the previous memory verse and ask how the daily Bible study is going. Do not scold students who have not completed assignments, but be sure to encourage them to finish.

12. Be sensitive to what God is doing in their lives. Take time during each session to answer any questions they might have or help them to face problems in their personal lives.

Keep in mind that there are times when it is not possible to get to every question in the lesson because of time. In these cases, choose the questions of most importance to discuss.

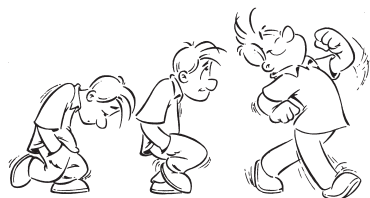
13. Don't get bogged down with the True or False questions. Read them very carefully before answering, but remember that some of them could be either true or false, depending on how you interpret the question. If they become a problem, deal with them at the end of the lesson instead of the beginning, or eliminate them altogether.

## Welcome To God's Family

Congratulations! If you have received Christ as your personal Savior, you have been born again into God's family. Your sins are forgiven and you are now a new creature possessing eternal life.



***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17***



God is just beginning to transform your life. Live each day by faith, entrusting yourself to God as He makes changes in your life. Have patience and wait with anticipation. A great adventure lies ahead!

Above all remember that you were saved by God's grace apart from your own works. As a believer you will continue to live by His grace. Your position before God is, and always will be, based on what Christ did for you on the cross, not on what you do for God. The Christian life is one of dependence. Trust Him for salvation, but also for power to live your life each day.

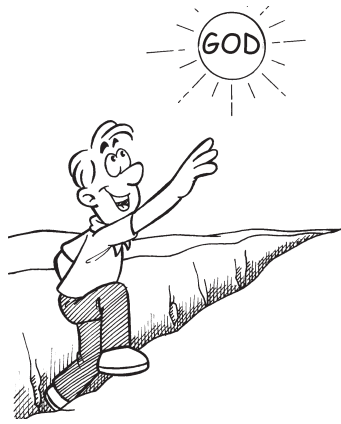
You could get discouraged when you sin and fall. Instead keep looking back to Jesus on the cross. What He did is your only hope for restoration and victory, so keep depending on Him to continue to forgive your failures. When you acknowledge your sin and repent He is faithful to cleanse and bring you back to sweet communion.

## Exercises To Help You Grow

As a new believer, you are beginning a relationship with Christ that will grow as you follow Him. Learning to follow Him is called discipleship. There are certain exercises that will help strengthen you as a new Christian. The more you practice them, the stronger you will become.



- ✓ Christ wants to be the center of your life. Submit to Him moment by moment, letting Him control all areas of your life.
- ✓ Pray throughout the day, every day. Prayer is simply talking with God.
- ✓ Read the Bible daily. Before beginning tell God "Here I am, Lord, ready to hear your voice through the Scriptures."
- ✓ Find a church that preaches the Bible. Other believers are your new family.
- ✓ Leave behind the world of sin to which you used to belong. Ask God to help you resist temptation and form new friendships.
- ✓ When you sin, confess that sin to God and receive the forgiveness He offers. You do not need to continue to feel condemned or ashamed because He forgives you and restores you to full fellowship even though you feel unworthy.
- ✓ Tell others about Christ. Show them compassion because they are like sheep without a shepherd.
- ✓ When you finish this volume, continue with the other volumes of *New Life in Christ*. If you can't find a place to get them, you may download them for free at the following website: [www.newlifediscipleship.com](http://www.newlifediscipleship.com)



# Step 1 Saved

Have you read **Welcome To God's Family** on the previous page? If not, go back and study it carefully. It will give you an overview of what it means to live as a follower of Christ.

## THE OLD LIFE

1. According to Ephesians 2:1, what was our condition before Christ gave us eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ephesians 2:2-3 Not only were we dead, but we were trapped, following the ways of this \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 2). We lived under the power of Satan who is called the ruler of this world, the kingdom of the air. Instead of following God, we followed the lusts or cravings of our \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 3). We were deserving of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (v. 3).
3. The Bible sums it up: "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). Can anyone claim they are not a sinner? Yes  No   
We all fall short; no one is good enough for heaven on their own merits.

## THE WORK OF GOD

4. In Ephesians 2:4, how is God described? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Mercy: God's compassion holds back the punishment we really deserve.*

5. According to this passage, what has God done for us? v. 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

He did all this even when we were \_\_\_\_\_ in our sins.

God showed his love when **Christ died for us** (Romans 5:8). He took our place on the cross, shedding his blood to pay our debt to save us.

6. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. God says that we cannot be saved by our works (v. 9). Give examples of some of the good deeds people do in order to be saved \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Many believe that if they just try harder they will be good enough to gain God's acceptance. They try religion and good deeds, but no matter how good they become, they never measure up to God's standards.

7. Instead, we are saved by \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8).

**Grace** means "an undeserved gift." *In other words, salvation is a free gift, even though we do not deserve it.*

## DECISION TIME

Have you already accepted Christ?  
Yes  No

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, do you want to?  
Yes  No

## TO RECEIVE CHRIST

1. Admit that you are a sinner. Don't try to hide it any longer.
2. Decide to distance yourself from sin. Repent.
3. Believe that Christ came from heaven, died for your sins, and rose from the dead.
4. Ask Jesus to come into your heart to forgive your sins, and take control of your life.

The following prayer could serve as a model of how to receive Christ.

*Dear Lord Jesus*

*I know that I am a sinner and that I need your forgiveness. I believe you are God and that you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I want to leave sin behind and live a pure life. Come into my heart and be my Savior. I want to follow you as my Lord. Thank you for saving me. Amen.*

## THINK ABOUT IT

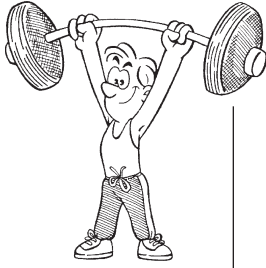
Think about your home and everyone and everything that you love. How does your sin affect them?

Think about your future. Had you continued with the old life, you would have faced the judgment of God. Read Revelation 20:11-15 and think on it, thanking God for His great love.

## GROWING STRONGER

It is important to form habits that will help you grow in your new life.

Just as exercise strengthens the body, there are spiritual disciplines that help you to grow in Christ.



These disciplines include:

- Bible study
- Prayer
- Memorizing Bible verses.
- Daily repentance
- Faith

In addition to completing these lessons, it is important to read a portion of the Bible and pray to God every day.

This week read chapters 1-7 in the book of John, one chapter per day.

Pray to God before reading, preparing your heart to receive what He is going to tell you through His Word.

After reading each chapter, pray again, talking with God about what you have read.

With God's help, I commit to reading a chapter a day in my Bible.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."*

In Appendix 1 you will find some cards to help you memorize the verses in these lessons.

8. In whom should we have faith in order to be children of God?

Galatians 3:26 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Tell in your own words what it means to have faith in Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE NEW LIFE

10. Why did Christ come? John 10:10 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What does God offer to the person who accepts Christ? John 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_

12. According to John 5:24, what happens when a person accepts Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What did God create us for according to Ephesians 2:10? \_\_\_\_\_

*Note that we are not saved **by** works, but we are saved **for** good works. While good deeds will not save us, they are the fruit of true salvation.*

14. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. To be "in Christ" means to have accepted Him as Savior. So, if someone is in Christ, what does he or she become? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Verse 17 speaks of changes in our lives. Give specific examples of:

The old which passed away: \_\_\_\_\_

The things that are new: \_\_\_\_\_

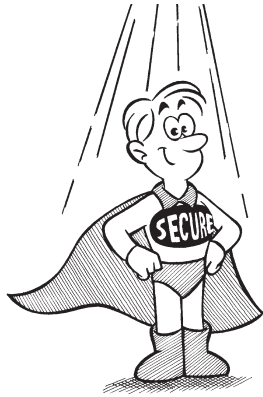
Verse 18 tells us that all these new things are from God himself.

## IN SUMMARY

- **You were saved by grace through faith.** That means Christ died to give you eternal life as a free gift even though you did not deserve it nor could you earn it.
- **You live now as a Christian by grace through faith.** Your standing before God does not depend on your ability to do good things to please him. Instead it means that you believe God now sees you as righteous on the basis of the blood of Christ, so you act accordingly.
- **Think about the following questions** as a way to review this lesson:
  - What was your life like without Christ?
  - What did Christ do for you?
  - How can you show every day the new life that God gave you?



## Step 2 Secure!



### GOD GIVES ME SECURITY

1. Read Romans 8:38-39. Once we have accepted Christ, is there any way we can be separated from the love of God? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **John 10:27-29** and respond to questions 2 through 7.

2. What is offered to us? (v. 28) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who gives eternal life? (v. 28) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Can something eternal come to an end? \_\_\_\_\_  
The verb "give" is in the present tense. This indicates that we already have eternal life. Eternal life does not begin when we die, but rather at the moment we accept Christ as our personal Savior.
5. When will we perish? (v. 28) \_\_\_\_\_  
This refers to the fact that eternal life never ends.
6. Can anyone snatch us out of **Christ's** hand? (v. 28) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Can anyone snatch us out of the **Father's** hand? (v. 29) \_\_\_\_\_

Now read **Ephesians 1:13-14** and respond to questions 8 and 9.

8. What is the work that God did in us? (v. 13) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. When were we sealed? (v. 13) \_\_\_\_\_

Read verse 14. God gave us the Holy Spirit to guarantee that we belong to Him until Christ comes for us. We have been branded by the Spirit as belonging to God forever. Being sealed is something the Spirit does which does not depend on our own works or effort.

**Read "Who am I in Christ?" in Appendix 2, at the end of the book.**

How do you feel as you read these affirmations? Do they give you confidence? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

Avoid spending too much time on these T/F questions. The answers will become clear as you study the lesson.

- \_\_\_ Right now I can be sure that I am saved.
- \_\_\_ God wants me to sin so He can show more of His love.
- \_\_\_ If I sin and die without confessing it, I am still saved.

#### GIVING THANKS

According to John 10:28-29, you are in the hand of Jesus Christ, and at the same time you are in the Father's hand.

Think of how protected your life is in those hands! No wonder it says two times that no one can snatch you from their hands.



I am secure in my Savior's hands  
and in the hands of the Father.

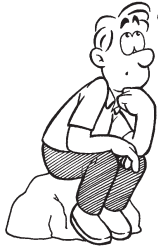
#### THINK ABOUT IT

To sin is to do, say, or think something against the will of God. Although God loves me, He hates my sin.

Think about and write down two reasons why you believe that a Christian should seek to avoid sin.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WHERE WILL I GO WHEN I DIE?



**THIS WEEK**

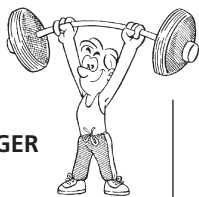
This week, pray for one of your family members who has not yet received Christ. Ask for his or her salvation. Write down their name:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Having trouble finding passages in your Bible?**

Here's a tip. Memorize in order the names of the first ten books of the New Testament:

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- Acts
- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians



**GROWING STRONGER**

**Read John 8-14**  
this week (one chapter per day).

**Memorize John 10:27-28**

*"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me; I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; and no one can snatch them out of my hand."*

10. How can we know for sure whether we have eternal life or not?

1 John 5:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you sure that you have eternal life? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WARNING**

11. Now that I am saved, why shouldn't I play around with sin?

Romans 6:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Why does God discipline me? Read Hebrews 12:5-10

Verse 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GOD GIVES ME A CHOICE**

God's desire is that you don't sin, but as human beings, we are subject to temptation. This means that we still struggle against sin in our lives.

What happens when you sin? You don't lose your salvation, but sin can affect your fellowship with God. As the loving Father that He is, He has provided the way of escape from temptation and also the means for us to draw near to Him in repentance if we do sin. We will study this more in Step 3.

Even though all Christians sin, having eternal life is not a license to sin, rather it motivates us to obey. If someone claims to be a Christian, yet continually lives in sin with an unrepentant heart, he should ask himself if he really understood the gospel and truly accepted Christ.

Churches are full of so-called "Christians" who never had eternal life because they never really understood or believed the gospel of grace. No one is saved because they dropped some bad habits and began to attend church. They are saved, and continue to be saved, by the grace of God alone.

**THE BELIEVERS REWARDS**

14. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. One day each Christians' works will be judged. If their works are pleasing to God, the Christian will receive rewards. If they aren't, they will lose these special rewards. This judgment is to determine what rewards they will receive, not to see if they are saved, since verse 15 says the person already has salvation.

Will you receive rewards or will you just barely make it into heaven?  
Explain why. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Step 3 Victorious!

Answer True (T) or False (F)

- \_\_\_ If we are tempted, it is inevitable that we will sin, because we are so weak.  
 \_\_\_ If we sin and we confess it to God, He will forgive us.  
 \_\_\_ We have spiritual enemies who tempt us.

### WE ARE ENGAGED IN A BATTLE

1. Have you ever felt helpless like the man on the right? If God isn't the one who tempts us (James 1:13), who then are our spiritual enemies?

James 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How should we respond to each enemy?

The **world** (Romans 12:2) \_\_\_\_\_

The **flesh** (Galatians 5:16) \_\_\_\_\_

In lesson 5 we will study how to be filled with the Spirit.

The **devil** (James 4:7) \_\_\_\_\_

Note the two steps. Resisting will not work without submitting to God first.

### WE CAN BE VICTORIOUS

3. Who is greater than Satan? 1 John 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who lives in the believer? 1 Corinthians 6:19 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who gives us the victory? 1 Corinthians 15:57 \_\_\_\_\_

### GOD GIVES US RESOURCES TO BE VICTORIOUS

6. What do the following passages say to keep us from falling into sin?

Psalm 119:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Think about concrete ways you to hide God's word in your heart.

Matthew 26:41 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 4:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

How does this relate to the friends you choose and where you choose to go?

2 Timothy 2:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Meditate on the things that consistently make you fall. Do you have a strategy to avoid putting yourself into places of temptation? We must not only **flee** evil, but must **pursue** what is good. Also, note that we need to pursue righteousness **together** with the mutual support of other believers.



### THIS WEEK

This week, pray for a friend, co-worker, classmate, or neighbor who needs to know Jesus Christ.

This week I will pray for:

\_\_\_\_\_

### AFFIRMING THE TRUTH

The Christian can conquer temptations. Can you recall a time recently when you were tempted and overcame it with God's help?

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

## MAKING THINGS RIGHT

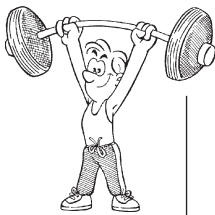
The one to whom I should confess my sin is God (Psalm 32:5); but there are cases in which this is not enough. I need to go one step further.

If my sin has affected another person, I should seek out that person and ask his or her forgiveness as well (James 5:16; Matthew 5:23-24).

Paraphrasing the Apostle John: How can I be right with God, whom I don't see, if I am not right with my neighbor, whom I do see? (1 John 4:20)

Memorize the next ten books of the New Testament, reviewing the first 10 from the last lesson:

Philippians  
Colossians  
1 and 2 Thessalonians  
1 and 2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews  
James



## GROWING STRONGER

Read John 15-21 this week (one chapter per day).

## Memorize 1 John 1:9

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

7. We are all tempted, but this doesn't mean that we have to sin. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Meditate on the following truths and believe them.
  - Temptations are part of being human. It is possible to overcome them.
  - God puts limits on temptations; we can resist them.
  - In every temptation, God always provides a way to escape.

## WE CAN BE FORGIVEN

8. Can anyone, even Christians, claim to be sinless? 1 John 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
By sinning, the fellowship between God and the believer is broken. Although He still loves us, He will not answer our requests while we are unwilling to confess our sin (Psalm 66:18).
9. How can we be forgiven? 1 John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_
10. What two things happen when I confess my sin? 1 John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_
  - When I acknowledge my sin and repent, God **forgives** me and **sees me as clean**, not as a dirty sinner, enemy or hopeless failure.
  - I feel unworthy because I am unworthy, yet he still forgives me.
  - My standing before God doesn't depend on how I feel, but on the cross. God declared me righteous because of what Christ did, not what I do or feel.
  - I don't need to beg for acceptance because God's mercy moves Him to forgive.

## HOW SHOULD I CONFESS MY SIN?

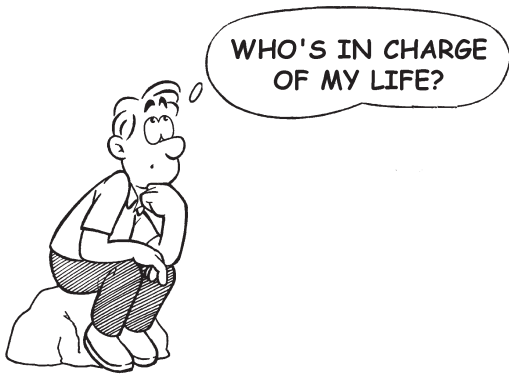
Confession is more than saying "I sinned."  
True confession requires several things:



- Be sincere.
- Be repentant (being truly sorry and desiring to not commit that sin again).
- Be specific (telling God precisely what I did).
- Be quick to recognize my error. As soon as I realize that I have sinned, I should confess it. Otherwise, I am in danger of falling into more sin.
- Be humble. Ask forgiveness of those people who were affected by my sin.
- Accept forgiveness. I should not continue to beat myself up for sins that I have already confessed. If God has forgiven me, I must accept His forgiveness, and believing, give Him thanks. I must reject Satan's accusation that I can't be forgiven.

## SUMMARY

1. Who are our spiritual enemies?
2. What resources do we have to conquer them?
3. If we sin, what should we do to be forgiven?



## Step 4 Lord of All

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- \_\_\_ I know how to run my own life. No one else has any right to tell me what to do.
- \_\_\_ If I yield control of my life to Christ, He'll take away all my fun.
- \_\_\_ When I resist Christ's control of my life, I become a slave to sin.

### WHO'S THE BOSS?

One of the titles that is often used to refer to Christ is "LORD." Although the world lives today in rebellion against God, one day every knee will bow before Christ and every tongue will confess that He is Lord according to Philippians 2:10-11.

1. What does it mean to say: "Jesus is Lord of my life"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does Christ have the right to rule my life?  
Colossians 1:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Corinthians 5:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
To whom does my life belong now? \_\_\_\_\_

### MY RESPONSE

3. If Christ owns me, how should I respond to Him? 2 Corinthians 5:15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Read Galatians 2:20. This verse summarizes one of the essentials of the Christian life. Explain the following phrase: "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To be "crucified with Christ" means that my old life died, or remains behind me. Now I have new life in Christ, with power to conquer sin.

5. How should I live this new life in Christ? See the second part of verse 20.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### CHECK UP

There are many things that are not bad in themselves but can come to take the place that only Christ should occupy in our lives.

Mark the things that are hindering Christ's work in your life:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belongings     | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambition       | <input type="checkbox"/> Work    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment  | <input type="checkbox"/> Habits  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your character | <input type="checkbox"/> Family  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____    |                                  |

What specific areas do you need to surrender to Christ's control?

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

Right now, pray to the Lord, asking Him to take control of the areas of your life that you wrote down

### THIS WEEK

Now finish memorizing the following books of the New Testament, reviewing the other names of the ones you already learned:

- 1 and 2 Peter
- 1, 2, and 3 John
- Jude
- Revelation

## CONQUERING FEAR

Does it scare you to think about surrendering your life completely to Christ?



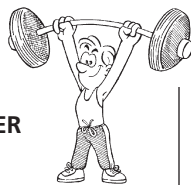
DOES GOD REALLY WANT  
WHAT'S BEST FOR MY LIFE?

Here are some reasons people have for being afraid to surrender to Christ. Mark those that affect you.

- I fear that Jesus doesn't really understand my problems.
- I'm afraid Christ will ask me to do something I can't do.
- I fear that Christ won't let me marry the person who will make me happy.
- I'm afraid God will take away my friends or fun activities.
- I fear that I won't be faithful to follow through on what He wants me to do.

Now read 1 Peter 5:6-7. In light of this passage, do you think there is any basis for your fears?

Yes  No



## GROWING STRONGER

### Read Acts 1-7

(one chapter per day).

### Memorize Galatians 2:20

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*

6. What is a good way to know if Christ is Lord of my life? Luke 6:46

7. Why is it so necessary to yield my life to Christ's control?

- ✓ I cannot serve two Lords. I have to decide whether I'm going to serve God or serve the world. I can't please both (Luke 16:13).
- ✓ Without Christ as the guide of my life, I am a slave to sin (Romans 6:16).
- ✓ One day I will have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of how I lived (2 Corinthians 5:10).

### WHO IS MOST CAPABLE OF MANAGING MY LIFE?

	Jesus	Myself
Who always desires the best for my life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who knows what is best for my life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who is able to do what's best for my life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## WHAT MUST I SURRENDER TO CHRIST?

8. Some areas of my life that I should surrender to Him are:

Romans 12:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:2 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Matt. 6:19-21, 24 \_\_\_\_\_

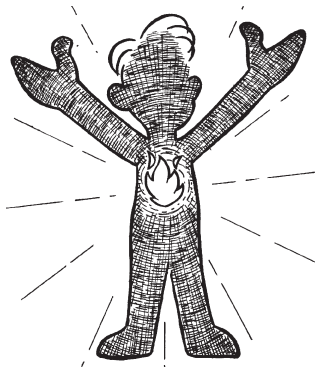
2 Corinthians 9:6-7 also speaks about cheerful giving. I can sow sparingly and reap sparingly, or sow generously and reap generously."

### A DAILY SURRENDER TO CHRIST

Romans 12:1 exhorts us to surrender our bodies to Christ. The following prayer may serve as a model for this daily surrender.

*"Lord, I surrender myself to you.  
Take my mind and what I think.  
Take my eyes and what I see.  
Take my ears and what I hear.  
Take my lips and what I speak.  
Take my heart, what I feel and my attitudes.  
Take my hands and what I do.  
Take my feet and where I go.  
Take my body; it is your temple.  
Fill me with your Holy Spirit.  
I want to obey you.  
I want to do your will."*





# Step 5 Living in the Spirit

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)  
\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit is a "force" of God.  
\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit helps us understand our sin.  
\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit dwells in all children of God.

## THE INITIAL WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When He ascended to the Father in heaven, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Truth) to give testimony about Himself (John 15:26).

1. According to John 16:8-9, what is the work of the Holy Spirit in unbelievers? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Holy Spirit causes the person who accepts Christ to be "born again" (John 3:3-8). What do you think it means to be born again?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

In addition, the Holy Spirit does other things in the person who accepts Christ, as we will see below.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. According to verse 13 we were all \_\_\_\_\_ into one body by the Spirit.  
  
Baptism with the Spirit does not refer to baptism in water, but rather to the Holy Spirit making us members of the body of Christ, that is, the church, which is made up of all true believers throughout the world.
4. According to Ephesians 1:13, we were \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit of promise. To be "sealed" with the Spirit means that we are God's secure possession from the moment that we first believe (v. 14). Just like a rancher brands a steer, God put his mark on us to say, "This one is mine!"
5. According to 1 Corinthians 3:16, the Christian is the temple of God, and the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ in him or her. This means that the Spirit truly and permanently indwells each Christian.



## SUMMARY OF THE INITIAL WORK OF THE SPIRIT:

- He convicts us of sin.
- He seals us forever as God's possession.
- He causes the new birth.
- He dwells in our bodies.
- He baptizes us into the body of Christ.

## DIGGING DEEPER

According to 1 Corinthians 6:11, who is the Holy Spirit?  
\_\_\_\_\_

See also Acts 5:3-4.

## THINK ABOUT IT

Ephesians 1:14 says the Holy Spirit Himself is the "guarantee" or "down payment" of our salvation. How does this truth make you feel?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## MY RESPONSE

Knowing that our bodies are the temple of the Spirit of God, how should we take care of them? See 1 Cor. 6:18-20.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

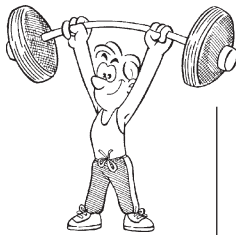
## THIS WEEK

- Share your testimony (how you came to know Christ) with one person. See appendix 6 for ideas.



Maybe this could be with the person you have been praying for. Ask God's Spirit to prepare their heart to receive and understand your testimony. Remember, it is God, not us, who convinces unbelievers of their need.

- Write out the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 on a card and put it on your mirror so you can review it frequently.



## GROWING STRONGER

**Read Acts 8-14**  
(one chapter a day).

**Memorize**  
**1 Corinthians 12:13**

*"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body, whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free, and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."*

## THE CONTINUING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

6. What did Christ promise in John 14:26? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Spirit gives us wisdom and sound judgment. He helps us understand and apply the Scriptures as we read them.

**Need guidance?** Sometimes we are in the middle of a difficult situation and we don't know what to do. Since the Holy Spirit is the author of Scripture, ask him to reveal the truth as it applies to your particular situation. Do you think the Holy Spirit can guide you to a wise decision? Ask him!

7. The Holy Spirit knows us intimately. What else does He do for believers?  
Romans 8:26-27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Romans 8:14 says that the Holy Spirit leads the Christian. In order to be led by the Holy Spirit, the Christian is commanded to:

Ephesians 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

To be "filled with the Spirit" or to "walk in the Spirit" means that the Christian is controlled and guided by Him. This is demonstrated by the fruit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

### HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- ✓ When you realize that you have sinned, confess it to God. Do not wait for sin to build up (1 John 1:9). After confessing your sin, accept by faith the forgiveness that God offers you.
- ✓ Present yourself to God in prayer. Permit Him to control your life, submitting to His will (Romans 6:13). Review the prayer, *A Daily Surrender to Christ*, at the end of the previous lesson.
- ✓ By faith, accept the filling of the Holy Spirit, that is, believe that He is controlling you. Begin to act and live according to that faith.

HERE I AM LORD



## SUMMARY OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE BELIEVER

- He teaches the believer.
- He intercedes for the believer.
- He guides the believer.
- He fills the believer.
- He glorifies Christ (John 16:13-14).





# Step 6 God Speaks to Me

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

\_\_\_ Almost all of the Bible is of divine origin.

\_\_\_ With God's help anyone can to understand the Bible.

\_\_\_ Meditating on the Bible will help us get the greatest benefit from it.

## WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

1. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say about the origin of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The word "inspired," found in some translations, literally means "God-breathed." What does this tell us about God's Word?

\_\_\_\_\_

This verse says that \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture is inspired by God. If that's so, could there be any errors in it? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In what way is the Bible different from other books? Hebrews 4:12  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Explain how the Bible serves as a sword in your life. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

4. The Bible **feeds** you spiritually. To what is the Bible compared in 1 Peter 2:2? \_\_\_\_\_

What can happen to the Christian who neglects to read the Bible?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. The Bible **guides** you in your daily life. To what is the Bible compared in Psalm 119:105? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a lamp used for? \_\_\_\_\_

*We live in an age of confusion. There are many "teachers," churches and friends who want to give us advice. How can we know which ones have the truth? God gave us the Bible for this very purpose, to enlighten our minds and to help us evaluate the advice we receive.*

6. The Bible **helps keep you from sin** (Psalm 119:11). What does "I have hidden your word in my heart" mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THIS WEEK

How are you doing on the Bible readings assigned in each lesson?

Are you reading a chapter a day?  
 Yes  No

Note: You don't necessarily need to read a chapter a day. Sometimes you will read more, sometimes less. It is often helpful to read just a few paragraphs several times and study them in depth.

When reading the Bible, have you seen that its power has touched your heart or changed your life?  
 Yes  No

Tell someone about what you are learning in your readings.

If up until now you have not read your Bible regularly, why not start today?

With God's help I commit to reading my Bible every day.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorize in order the names of the first 14 books of the Old Testament:**

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 and 2 Samuel
- 1 and 2 Kings
- 1 and 2 Chronicles



## MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1:8 commands us to meditate on the Bible day and night; in other words, all the time.

We suggest the following means of meditating continually on the Bible:



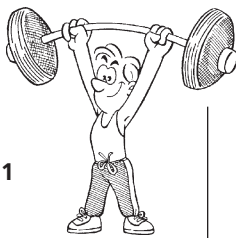
From your daily Bible reading, copy a verse onto a 3x5 card or into a notebook. Carry it in your pocket, purse, or wallet, or tape it up in a visible place (like the mirror or refrigerator) so that you can review it often during the day.

When you meditate on your verse, ask yourself:

- ✓ What does God want to teach me?
- ✓ How can I put this passage into practice in my life today?

## GROWING STRONGER

**Read Acts 15-21**  
(one chapter per day).



**Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

7. The Bible **helps you grow** in your Christian life. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the Bible is useful for:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Those who let themselves be guided by the Bible will be *"thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (v. 17). Be careful of those who say that the Bible is not enough and encourage you to seek dreams and revelations in addition to the Bible. The Bible is enough!

8. Is it hard for you to have faith at times? Read Romans 10:17 and answer.  
How does faith come to us? \_\_\_\_\_  
How can we increase our faith? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Is the Bible the final authority in your life? Read Acts 17:10-11. What custom did the Berean believers have that is worthy of imitation?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE CONTENT OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is divided into two parts:

The Old Testament 39 Books	The New Testament 27 Books
The Law (Genesis to Deuteronomy)	The Life of Christ (the 4 Gospels)
The History of Israel (Joshua to Esther)	The Growth of the Church (Acts)
Poetry (Job to Song of Solomon)	Teaching (the Epistles)
Prophecy (Isaiah to Malachi)	Prophecy (Revelation)

### HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE BIBLE

**Listen:** Fellowship at a church where the Word of God is faithfully taught.

**Study:** Are you reading your Bible daily? Get a notebook and take notes about what you are learning as you study (see Appendix 4). A good place to start is with the books of John, Acts, and Romans.

**Meditate:** See "MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE" in the side column. Biblical meditation involves *thinking and mulling over* God's Word for understanding. Eastern religions and those who practice yoga use another type of meditation. They try to *stop thinking, completely empty their minds*, and repeat a word or phrase over and over, in order to achieve relaxation, mental clarity or increased energy. Many do not realize it opens them to spiritual forces apart from God. The focus is *inward*, while biblical meditation seeks *external* input from Scripture.

**Memorize:** A memory verse is assigned in each lesson. This is important because once you have the verse memorized, it is kept in your mind for future use.

**Obey:** Write in your own words the main idea of James 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Follow the example of Ezra. Write down the three things that he did with the Scriptures. Ezra 7:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Step 7 Talking with God

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- \_\_\_\_\_ In order to pray, it is important to be in a church and on your knees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I can pray with confidence, because God hears me and promises to answer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is enough to just pray before I eat and when I go to sleep.

## WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is communicating with God. It is as simple and natural as talking to a friend. You can talk to God with complete confidence about anything including your fears or needs. Prayer is intimate communication with Him.

1. What great offer does God make in Jeremiah 33:3? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Prayer is a means of honestly expressing everything that is in your heart to a friend who listens to you with great interest.

How does God promise to respond to your prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there times when God is too busy to hear your cry? Yes  No

2. What should our attitude be when we come before God in prayer?

Hebrews 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

What is the reason for this degree of confidence that we can have in prayer?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What dangers do we need to avoid when we pray? Matthew 6:5-7

v. 5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

Explain verse 7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

"The Lord's Prayer" in verses 9-13 is an example of the right way to pray.

## HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

4. What reasons does Psalm 106:1 give you for praising God?

\_\_\_\_\_

Mention some of the many ways you see God's goodness revealed.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Instead of always worrying, what should you do? Philippians 4:6

\_\_\_\_\_

We are to pray in **every** situation, not just the big things or emergencies.

## THINK IT OVER

*"We should pray when we have the desire to pray, because it would be a sin to waste such a valuable opportunity. We should pray when we do not have the desire to pray, because it would be dangerous to stay in such an unhealthy condition"*

Charles H. Spurgeon

## THIS WEEK

Memorize in order the names of the following books of the Old Testament and review the ones previously learned.

- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther
- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel



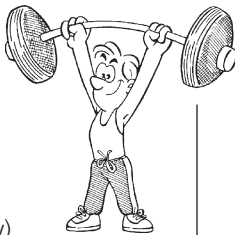
**THIS WEEK**

1 Timothy 2:1 asks that "requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone."

Do you have a list of prayer requests to remind you for whom you should pray?

Your list could include the following categories:

- Family members.
- Friends.
- Brothers and sisters in the faith.
- Servants of God (your pastor, missionaries, etc.).
- The people that govern your country and community.
- People who have done you harm.
- People you want to see come to Christ.
- Your goals and personal growth.



**GROWING STRONGER**

**Read Acts 22-28**  
(one chapter a day).

**Memorize Philippians 4:6-7**

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

6. According to Philippians 4:6, what should our attitude be when we ask God for something? \_\_\_\_\_

When we pray "with thanksgiving," we are expressing faith in God for the answer that He **will** give to our request.

That is why verse 7 says we can experience \_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Leaving our burden in the hands of the One who is completely willing and able to help us is one of the most freeing things we can do.

7. What does "pray without ceasing" mean? (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

\_\_\_\_\_

If you should pray all the time, does that mean that you can pray in any place, for example, at your job, riding the bus, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_

**Your prayer can include:**

**Adoration and Praise** to God for who He is.

**Confession** of your sins so that they don't hinder your fellowship with God.

**Thanksgiving** What has God done for you? Express your gratitude to Him.

**Requests** for personal needs and intercession for others.



8. According to John 14:13 we are taught to pray in the name of \_\_\_\_\_. He is the one who makes it possible to come before God.

9. What else can we learn about how to pray from the following passages?

Psalm 66:18 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 5:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 21:22 \_\_\_\_\_

10. How does Ephesians 3:20 encourage your faith? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS**

God promises to answer our prayers. He **always** answers, but how? Someone has said that God has three ways of answering prayer:

- Sometimes He says **yes**.
- There are times when, for our good, He says **no**.
- Others times He says **wait a while**.



## Step 8

# Meeting with God Every Day

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- \_\_\_ It is important to read the Bible and pray every day.
- \_\_\_ We should always try to read many chapters of the Bible each day.
- \_\_\_ God wants to transform us day by day through His Word.

### WHAT IS A DEVOTIONAL TIME?

A devotional time is our daily appointment with God. It should be regular, every day, because it takes time to develop our relationship with Him. Maturity does not come "instantly," rather it is cultivated day by day, one step at a time.

*"Morning by morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." Psalm 5:3*

Some people call it a "quiet time" because it is a time to wait before God so that He will speak to us through His Word, and then respond in prayer.

### ITS IMPORTANCE

Why is it important to have a daily devotional time?

Joshua 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 63:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Would you say that a daily appointment with God is a necessity or just a good idea (if you have time)? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

### WHEN AND WHERE TO HAVE YOUR DEVOTIONS?

For most of us, the best time is in the morning. This lets us start the day off with God. Men like David and Christ set aside a special time in the morning (Psalm 5:3 and Mark 1:35). Obviously, this implies that we will have to get up earlier than usual, but it will be worth the effort. Some like to set aside time in the evening (Psalm 63:6) or at another time during the day when they know they can keep their "appointments" with God.

Whatever time you choose, look for a peaceful place where you can spend this time without interruptions. Sometimes, to seek this privacy, it might be necessary to get up before others, to close the door to your room, or to go outside.

Set a time and place now for your devotions:

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ I will get up at: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

### THINK ABOUT IT

Hebrews 4:12 compares the Bible to a "two-edged sword."

Sometimes, reading the Word is uncomfortable because it penetrates our lives to show us what we are like and what we have to correct.

Have you ever thanked God for the ability of the Scriptures to do this?

### THIS WEEK

Memorize in order the names of the following books of the Old Testament, reviewing the ones you learned before.

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi



## BIBLE READING PLAN

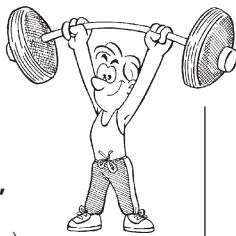
We suggest beginning your reading in the New Testament. Read from one book daily until you finish it.

You might begin to read the books of the Bible in the following order:

- John
- Acts
- Romans
- James
- Philippians

Appendix 5 gives a list of readings for a whole year.

Note: When you finish reading a book, before starting another one, try reading some chapters in Psalms and Proverbs.



### GROWING STRONGER

**Read 1 John 1-5, Psalm 1 and 5**  
(one chapter a day).

**Memorize Joshua 1:8**

*"Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*

**Appendix #4 contains a summary of how to have your devotional time.**

Cut out the page and paste it in your Bible. It will serve as a guide to help you benefit from your daily appointment with God.

## WHAT YOU CAN INCLUDE IN YOUR DEVOTIONAL TIME

### Prepare your heart:

What should your attitude be when you come before God?

Psalm 139:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

### Study the Word of God

The psalmist says, *"I have sought out your precepts... I will ponder your statutes"* (Psalm 119: 94, 95). This implies not only reading, but also studying the passage for the purpose of discovering its meaning and seeing what God wants to communicate to you.

To begin, study short passages (no more than one chapter). It is sometimes better to read a shorter passage, maybe only a paragraph or two. That way you can analyze it more carefully.


### How to Study the Bible



Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

Asking questions will help you dig into the passage. Here are a few examples of the kinds of questions to ask as you read.

1. What things caught your attention in this passage?
2. What is the main idea of the passage?
3. What are some of the key words? What do they mean?
4. Ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? to help you understand the context and the main ideas.
5. What does it mean for your life? What does God want you to do?
  - a. Is there a **commandment** to obey?
  - b. Is there an **example** to follow?
  - c. Is there a **sin** to avoid?
  - d. Is there a **promise** to make your own?

 Get a notebook today to use in your devotional time. Use the method in the box above to study your Bible, writing down your thoughts in the notebook.

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Take the time that you need for your devotions. Don't try to hurry.
2. Give priority to your daily appointment with God. Try not to miss the appointment. If you skip a day, don't get discouraged but continue on faithfully day by day.
3. Try to read a chapter a day. At times it is better to read less in order to study it well. At times you may need to read more.
4. Mark your Bible, underlining key verses to be able to find them later.
5. Try to put key verses in your own words to understand them better.
6. If it is hard to concentrate, read or pray out loud, or pray standing up. It's better not to have your devotions lying down on the bed; you could fall asleep. Ask for God's power to be able to concentrate.
7. Get a notebook to write down the results of your Bible study, prayer requests, etc.

## Pray

Pray, referring back to the Bible passage studied. Respond to God, telling Him about your reaction to the passage. Include:

- ✓ Adoration and praise to God for who He is and what He does. The Psalms will help enrich your praise.
- ✓ Confession, when you become aware of all the impurities in your life.
- ✓ Thanksgiving for what God has given you.
- ✓ Prayer for personal needs and for the needs of others.

## Let music encourage you: Sing to the Lord or listen to Christian music

Music lifts your spirit and helps create an atmosphere of worship. Listen to, sing, or hum Christian music throughout the whole day, not just in your devotions (Ephesians 5:19). Build a library of good Christian music.

## Put what you have learned into practice

James 1:22 warns us to be "doers of the word, and not merely hearers." Reading the Bible without applying it to our lives is like looking in a mirror and going away without cleaning off the dirt that the mirror shows us. It doesn't make sense to read the Bible if we are not willing to follow what it says.

Note: This doesn't mean that we should stop reading the Bible when we feel rebellious. We should read it all the MORE during these times, asking God to change our hearts. Don't let spiritual enemies (see Step 5) keep you away from the Bible!

## Meditate and Memorize

Copy a verse from the passage you read onto a piece of paper or in a notebook so you can meditate on it during the day. Try to memorize it. In this way, God will help you to resist sin.

---

## REVIEW: A SIMPLE PLAN FOR YOUR DEVOTIONAL TIME

### 1. Prepare your heart

- Examine yourself and confess your sin.
- Ask God for understanding.

### 2. Study the Bible

- What impressed you the most?
- What is the main idea?
- What are some of the key words? What do they mean?
- What does it mean for your life?



### 4. Sing or listen to Christian music

The music will lift your spirit and will help you praise God. Good music moves us.

### 5. Apply what you have learned

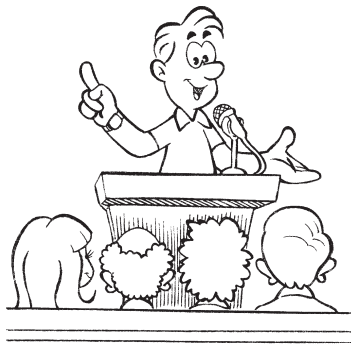
You have studied the Word. Now, what will you do today to put it into practice?

### 6. Meditate and Memorize

From the passage you read, choose a verse on which you can meditate, and memorize it. Write it down in a notebook or on a 3x5 card to carry with you during the day.

### 3. Pray to the Lord

- Talk with God about the passage studied.
- Worship God for who He is and what He does.
- Give God thanks for what He has done for you.
- Ask of God, using your list of requests.



## Step 9 My Church

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- \_\_\_\_\_ The church is only a building.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The church is the community of all true believers anywhere in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't need church as long as I keep reading the Bible at home and listen to Christian programs on radio or television.

### WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 *"I will build my church."* It was to be **His** church, not just another human organization, but something different than anything that had ever existed. Through the gospel, all peoples were to become heirs together, sharing the promises of salvation (Ephesians 3:6).

That church he promised exists today and continues to grow as the visible manifestation of Christ in the world. In one sense, the church is **universal**, but at the same time it has a **local** presence (Matthew 16:18, Acts 13:1).

### THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The universal church is the supernatural body of which Christ is the head. It is formed of all the people born again from the day of Pentecost until the day He comes for His church.

- To what is the church compared? 1 Corinthians 12:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who makes up this body (the church)? All **true** believers in Jesus Christ who have been regenerated by the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13) are part of the church. It has believers from different groups, denominations, and cultures. We are part of something big and special, a worldwide family that God is using to show his love and transform the world.
- What has God given to the members of the church? Romans 12:4-8  
\_\_\_\_\_ See the side column.
- Who is the head of the church? Ephesians 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Be careful to follow Christ, not a religious group or leader. Be wary of those who give the impression that their group is the only true church.
- Why does the church exist? Eph. 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
*"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).* Think of ways to glorify God today.
- What is the mission of the church? Matthew 28:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### THIS WEEK

To deepen your fellowship with the brothers and sisters of your church, start by inviting some of them to your house or out for coffee or a meal together.



### THINK ABOUT IT

God has given each believer a spiritual gift. Romans 12, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Corinthians 12 speak of the gifts. For example, some of the gifts mentioned are:

- Service
- Evangelism
- Pastoring
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Giving
- Faith
- Wisdom
- Showing mercy
- Leading (Administration)

Do you know which are your gifts? If the answer is no, then you could find out by:

- Praying.
- Taking advantage to serve in your church.
- As you serve, ask other believers what abilities they observe in you. Do they see any special gifts?



**THINK ABOUT IT**

Make a list of the excuses some believers use for not attending church (assembling).

---

---

---

---

---

What is the real reason why they don't attend? Hebrews 10:25

---

---

---

**THIS WEEK**

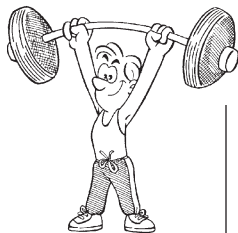
Make a list of the leaders of your church and pray every day this week for one of them.

**GROWING STRONGER**

**Read Romans 1-4**  
(read each chapter for two days in a row in order to understand it better).

**Memorize Hebrews 10:24-25**

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*



**THE LOCAL CHURCH**

The local church is a group of people who are born again, baptized, and organized in order to glorify God, edify one another, and proclaim the gospel.

- 7. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Does the Bible teach that believers in Christ should be part of a local church?  Yes  No

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can we "spur one another on toward love and good deeds?"

---

---

- 8. What other things did believers in the Jerusalem church do together?

Acts 2:42 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 9. In what ways could you help your local church?

Galatians 6:10 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 9:7 \_\_\_\_\_

In 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, the Bible sets requirements for church leaders. Read these passages. Although you may not be planning to be a leader yet, every Christian should aspire to have the characteristics mentioned in these verses.

- 10. What should our attitude be towards the leaders that God has put in our local church?

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_

- 11. What is one of the responsibilities of the church toward its members according to Galatians 6:1-2? \_\_\_\_\_

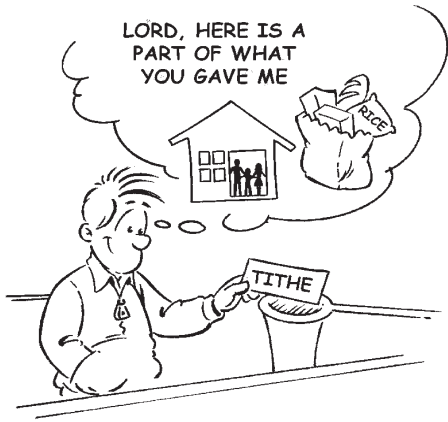
---

- 12. What attitude should you have when correcting a straying brother? v. 1-2

---

---

The church, since it is a family, has the responsibility to look out for the well-being of its people. There are times when discipline is necessary to preserve the testimony and purity of the church. It should be done in love to care for the Church and its people. Discipline is one of the things God uses to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds."



## Step 10 Stewardship

Answer TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)

- \_\_\_\_\_ There are more important things than a good salary and a comfortable life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Only those who can afford it are responsible to give to their church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Everything we have comes from God.

### MY ATTITUDE TOWARDS MATERIAL THINGS

1. According to Luke 12:15, why should I watch out for greed?

\_\_\_\_\_

If one's life does not consist of having things, then what is really important? Luke 12:31 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Why not trust in wealth for enjoyment and security? v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where do I get what I need to truly enjoy life? v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_
- How often do I express my gratitude to God? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Where shall a believer look for riches? v. 18-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- How long will these last? \_\_\_\_\_

5. The Bible says I'm an administrator, or steward, of the good things of God. What is the principle requirement to be a good steward? 1 Cor. 4:2

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What are some of the things God has given me to administer? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### MANAGING MY MONEY

Money is one of the things God has given me to administer. The Bible teaches that it is important to return to God a part of what he has given me. These are called offerings and tithes.



7. When should I give to God? 1 Cor. 16:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- This means it is important to support God's work on a regular basis, not sporadically or just when I hear about a special need. The first day of the week refers to Sunday.

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Read the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 17:8-16. What do you learn from this story?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you think it is really worth it to make sacrifices to support God's work? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What warning did Jesus give to those who would trust in their wealth for security and happiness? Luke 12:16-21

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## FIGURE IT OUT AND DECIDE

¿What is my weekly or monthly income?

\_\_\_\_\_

How much is 10% (tithe)?

\_\_\_\_\_

My church should be first on the list to receive my support because that is where I receive teaching and care. In addition there are other projects I can support like missions.

With God's help I purpose to support God's work with:

\_\_\_\_\_ each month.

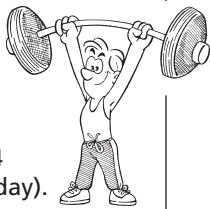
\_\_\_\_\_ each week.

## GROWING STRONGER

Read  
1 Corinthians 8-14  
(one chapter per day).

Memorize 2 Corinthians 9:6

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."*



8. Is it all right to give only if we have extra money? Yes  No

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What should we take into account when deciding how much to give?

1 Cor. 16:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Our giving is to be in proportion to our earnings. Those who receive more will give more. Those who receive less will give less.

10. In Old Testament times the tithe was a requirement. (Leviticus 27:30-32).

What is a tithe? \_\_\_\_\_

A tithe is the tenth part of anything, in other words 10%.

11. If in Old Testament times they gave 10% of their income to God, now that we are in Christ, shouldn't we give at least this much? Yes

No

## WHAT SHOULD MY ATTITUDE BE TOWARDS GIVING?

12. According to 2 Cor. 9:6, our offering is an investment in God's work.

Therefore we should give \_\_\_\_\_

Although the believers in Macedonia gave generous offerings to Paul, they sacrificed (2 Cor. 8:1-3). The responsibility and privilege to support God's work is not just for the wealthy.

13. According to 2 Cor. 9:7, we should give as we have \_\_\_\_\_ in our heart. This means it is important to plan ahead how we will give to God's work and not just do it on impulse.

14. According to 2 Cor. 9:7 we should give "not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, because God loves a \_\_\_\_\_"

15. What should we watch out for? Matthew 6:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How should we give? Matthew 6:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING

16. What do the following passages tell us about the blessing of giving to God with sacrificial generosity?

2 Cor. 9:6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:35 \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it more blessed to give than to receive? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Appendix 1

Cut on the lines. Carry these cards with you and memorize the verses

<p>Galatians 2:20</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 4</p> <p>"I have been crucified with Christ; and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."</p>	<p>Joshua 1:8</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 8</p> <p>"Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."</p>	<p>Proverbs 3:5-6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 13</p> <p>"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.."</p>
<p>1 John 1:9</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 3</p> <p>"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."</p>	<p>Philippians 4:6-7</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 7</p> <p>"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."</p>	<p>Philippians 2:3-4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 12</p> <p>"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others."</p>
<p>John 10:27-28</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 2</p> <p>"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me; I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; and no one can snatch them out of My hand."</p>	<p>2 Timothy 3:16-17</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 6</p> <p>"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."</p>	<p>Matthew 28:19</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 11</p> <p>"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."</p>
<p>Ephesians 2:8-9</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 1</p> <p>"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 12:13</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 5</p> <p>"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free -- we were all given the one Spirit to drink."</p>	<p>Hebrews 10:24-25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Step 9</p> <p>"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."</p>

## Appendix 2

Cut on the dotted line and fold in the center. You might want to glue it into your Bible

### WHO AM I IN CHRIST?

I am a new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17)  
I am a child of God. (John 1:12; Rom. 8:14-15; Gal. 3:26; 4:6)  
I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. (Col. 1:14)  
I am free forever from condemnation. (Rom. 8:1)  
I have been set free from the power of sin. (Rom. 6:1-6)  
I have the right to come without shame before the throne of God to find mercy in times of need. (Heb. 4:16)  
I am righteous in Christ, completely forgiven. (Rom. 5:1)  
I am a slave of righteousness. (Rom. 6:18)  
I am holy. (Eph. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1)  
I am the salt of the earth. (Matt. 5:13)  
I am the light of the world, bearer of the truth. (Matthew 5:14)  
I am Christ's friend. (John 15:15)  
I am chosen by Christ to bear His fruit. (John 15:16)  
I am made a servant or slave of God. (Rom. 6:22; Eph. 3:1; 4:1)  
I am a temple, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19)  
I have been bought with a price and therefore I belong to God. I am not my own master. I live for Christ. (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:14-15)  
I am a member of the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:30)  
I am reconciled with God. I am a minister of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:18-19)  
I was crucified with Christ, and I no longer live; Christ lives in me. (Gal. 2:20)  
I was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and without spot before Him. (Eph. 1:4)  
I am an heir of God, because I am His child. (Gal. 4:6-7)  
I am God's workmanship, born again in Christ to do His work. (Eph. 2:10)  
I am holy and righteous. (Eph. 4:24)  
I am a citizen of heaven. (Phil. 3:20; Eph. 2:6)  
I am a pilgrim in this world, in which I am living temporarily. (1 Pet. 2:11)  
I am a child of the light, not of the darkness. (1 Thess. 5:5)  
I have been rescued from the domain of Satan and transferred to the kingdom of Christ. (Col. 1:13)  
I am an enemy of the devil. (1 Pet. 5:8)  
I am born of God. The devil doesn't have authority to touch me. (1 John 5:18)  
Christ Himself dwells in me. (Col. 1:27)  
I am chosen of God, holy and beloved. (Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4)  
I have received very great and precious promises from God. (2 Pet. 1:4)  
I will be like Christ when He returns. (1 John 3:1-2)  
By the grace of God I am what I am. (1 Cor. 15:10)

Adapted from Victory Over the Darkness by Neil T. Anderson

### HOW SHOULD I CONFESS MY SIN?

*"If we claim to be without sin,  
we deceive ourselves  
and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

1 John 1:8-9

Confessing is not just saying, "I sinned."  
True confession requires several things:

- ✓ Be sincere.
- ✓ Be repentant (desiring to not commit that sin again).
- ✓ Be specific (telling God precisely what I did).
- ✓ Be quick to recognize my error. As soon as I realize that I have sinned, I should confess it. Otherwise, I am in danger of falling into more sin.
- ✓ Be humble by asking forgiveness of those people who were affected by my sin.
- ✓ Accept forgiveness. We should not continue to reproach ourselves for sins that we have already confessed. If God has forgiven us, we must accept His forgiveness, and believing, give Him thanks. Reject Satan's accusation that we can't be forgiven.

## Appendix 3

Cut on the dotted line and fold in the center. You might want to glue it into your Bible

### TWENTY "CANS" OF SUCCESS

Someone has said that success comes in cans and failure in cannots. Believing that you can succeed at Christian growth and maturity takes no more effort than believing that you cannot succeed. So why not believe that you can walk in faith and in the Spirit, that you can resist the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and that you can grow to maturity as a Christian. The following "Twenty Cans of Success," taken from God's Word, will lift you from the miry clay of the cannots to sit with Christ in the heavenlies:

1. Why should I say I can't when the Bible says I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Phil. 4:13)?
2. Why should I worry about my needs when I know that God will take care of all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ (Phil. 4:19)?
3. Why should I fear when the Bible says God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7)?
4. Why should I lack faith to live for Christ, when God has given me a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3)?
5. Why should I be weak when the Bible says that the Lord is the strength of my life and that I will display strength and take action because I know God (Psa. 27:1; Dan. 11:32)?
6. Why should I allow Satan control over my life when He that is in me is greater than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)?
7. Why should I accept defeat when the Bible says that God always leads me in victory (2 Cor. 2:14)?
8. Why should I lack wisdom when I know that Christ became wisdom to me from God, and God gives wisdom to me generously when I ask Him for it (1 Cor. 1:30; James 1:5)?
9. Why should I be depressed when I have hope and can recall to mind God's loving kindness, compassion, and faithfulness (Lam. 3:21-23)?
10. Why should I worry and be upset when I can cast all my anxieties on Christ who cares for me (1 Pet. 5:7)?

11. Why should I ever be in bondage knowing that there is freedom where the Spirit of the Lord is (Gal. 5:1)?
12. Why should I feel condemned when the Bible says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1)?
13. Why should I feel alone when Jesus said He is with me always and He will never leave me nor forsake me (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5)?
14. Why should I feel as if I'm cursed or have had luck when the Bible says that Christ rescued me from the curse of the law that I might receive His Spirit by faith (Gal. 3:13-14)?
15. Why should I be unhappy when I, like Paul, can learn to be content whatever the circumstances (Phil. 4:11)?
16. Why should I feel worthless when Christ became sin for me so that I might become the righteousness of God? (2 Cor. 5:21)?
17. Why should I feel helpless in the presence of others when I know that if God is for me, who can be against me (Rom. 8:31)?
18. Why should I be confused when God is the author of peace and He gives me knowledge through His Spirit who lives in me (1 Cor. 2:12; 14:33)?
19. Why should I feel like a failure when I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loved me (Rom. 8:37)?
20. Why should I let the pressures of life bother me when I can take courage knowing that Jesus has overcome the world and its problems (John 16:33)?

Adapted from Victory Over the Darkness by Neil Anderson, pp. 114-116.

## Appendix 4

Cut on the dotted line and fold in the center. You might want to glue it into your Bible

### A SIMPLE PLAN FOR YOUR DAILY DEVOTIONS

- 1. Prepare your heart**
  - Examine yourself and confess your sin.
  - Ask God for understanding.
- 2. Study the Bible**
  - What things caught your attention in this passage?
  - What is the main idea?
  - What are some of the key words? What do they mean?
  - Ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? to help you understand the context and the main ideas.
  - What does it mean for your life?
- 3. Pray to the Lord**
  - Talk with God about the passage studied.
  - Worship God for who He is.
  - Give God thanks for what He has done
  - Ask of God, using your list of requests.

- 4. Sing or listen to Christian music**

The music will lift your spirit and will help you praise God. Good music moves us.

- 5. Apply what you have learned**

What will you do today to put it into practice in your life?

- 6. Meditate and memorize**

From the passage you read, choose a verse on which you can meditate, and memorize it. Write it down in a notebook or on a 3x5 card to carry it with you during the day.

### BIBLE READING PLAN

Start to read the New Testament, reading one chapter a day until you finish it. We suggest you read John, Acts, 1 John and Romans first. When you finish reading one book, before starting another, read some Psalms and a chapter in Proverbs. See Appendix 5 for more details.

### PREPARING YOUR HEART

*Morning by morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. Psalm 5:3*

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24*

*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10*

*Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things in your law. Psalm 119:18*

*Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16*

### HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Dig into the passage using questions. Here are a few examples of the kinds of questions to ask as you read.

1. What impressed you most from this passage?
2. What is the main idea of the passage?
3. What are some of the key words? What do they mean?
4. Ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? to help you understand the context and the main ideas.
5. What does it mean for your life? What does God want you to do?
  - a. Is there a commandment to obey?
  - b. Is there an example to follow?
  - c. Is there a sin to avoid?
  - d. Is there a promise to make your own?





## Appendix 6

Cut on the dotted line and fold in the center. You might want to glue it into your Bible

### HOW TO PREPARE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Have you ever wondered how you could share your faith with a friend? Perhaps one of the best ways is to share your personal story, or testimony. The following guide will help you to organize your thoughts, preparing a testimony that is simple yet effective. Write it out on paper so that you can practice it. You might want to think about preparing a short version (3 min.) and a longer version.

Guide for preparing your personal testimony

1. "Before I received Christ..."  
How did you live and think before receiving Christ? Summarize, including both positive and negative aspects of your life without Christ. Make it interesting by mentioning specific things like your dreams, feelings, attitudes, character, habits, etc. Be truthful. Avoid exaggerations.
2. "How I received Christ..."  
Consider some of the following to include: How did you accept Christ? What brought you to this moment? Who helped you come to Christ? Where did you do it? What did you pray? How did you feel? How did God touch you?  
Include a key scripture that helped you understand the gospel. People should be able to understand the gospel from your testimony.
3. "After I received Christ..."  
What has happened since you accepted Christ? Mention several specific changes you have seen.  
Suggestions:
  1. Keep it simple. Use regular words, not "religious" vocabulary. Use words that everyone understands. Avoid unnecessary details (but include enough details to make it interesting).
  2. Keep it casual and conversational. Avoid preaching. Use appropriate humor to relax the atmosphere and reduce tension.
  3. Keep it interesting. Use human interest illustrations and concrete examples. Give clear descriptions when appropriate, so the listeners can visualize what you are describing.

### THE PLAN OF SALVATION

There are many ways to present the gospel. We can use any of them, but there are always some basic things that the person needs to understand in order to be saved. The following plan of salvation is based on "The Four Spiritual Laws."

1. **God loves you and has a plan for your life.**  
John 3:16 The love of God  
John 10:10b The plan of God for your life
2. **Man is a sinner and is separated from God.**  
Rom. 3:23 We are all sinners  
Rom. 6:23 The consequence of sin is spiritual death, separation from God  
Eph. 2:8-9 We cannot save ourselves
3. **Christ is the only provision for our salvation. He died in our place and rose again.**  
Rom. 5:8 Christ died in our place  
John 14:6 Christ is the only way  
1 Cor. 15:3-6 Christ rose again
4. **We must receive Christ as our Savior.**  
John 1:12 Receive Christ in order to be a child of God.  
Rev. 3:20 Christ is waiting for you to invite him in.  
Romans 10:9 By faith invite Him to come into your life.