


Steps to  
**Discipleship**  
**STUDY GUIDE**



Steps to  
**Discipleship**  
**STUDY GUIDE**

© Copyright 2009. Second Edition: This workbook is copyrighted by **The Master's Workshop Discipleship Center**, Paradise Seventh-day Adventist Church, and is produced in cooperation with the Stewardship Department, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Written permission is required for any reproduction of these workbook pages.

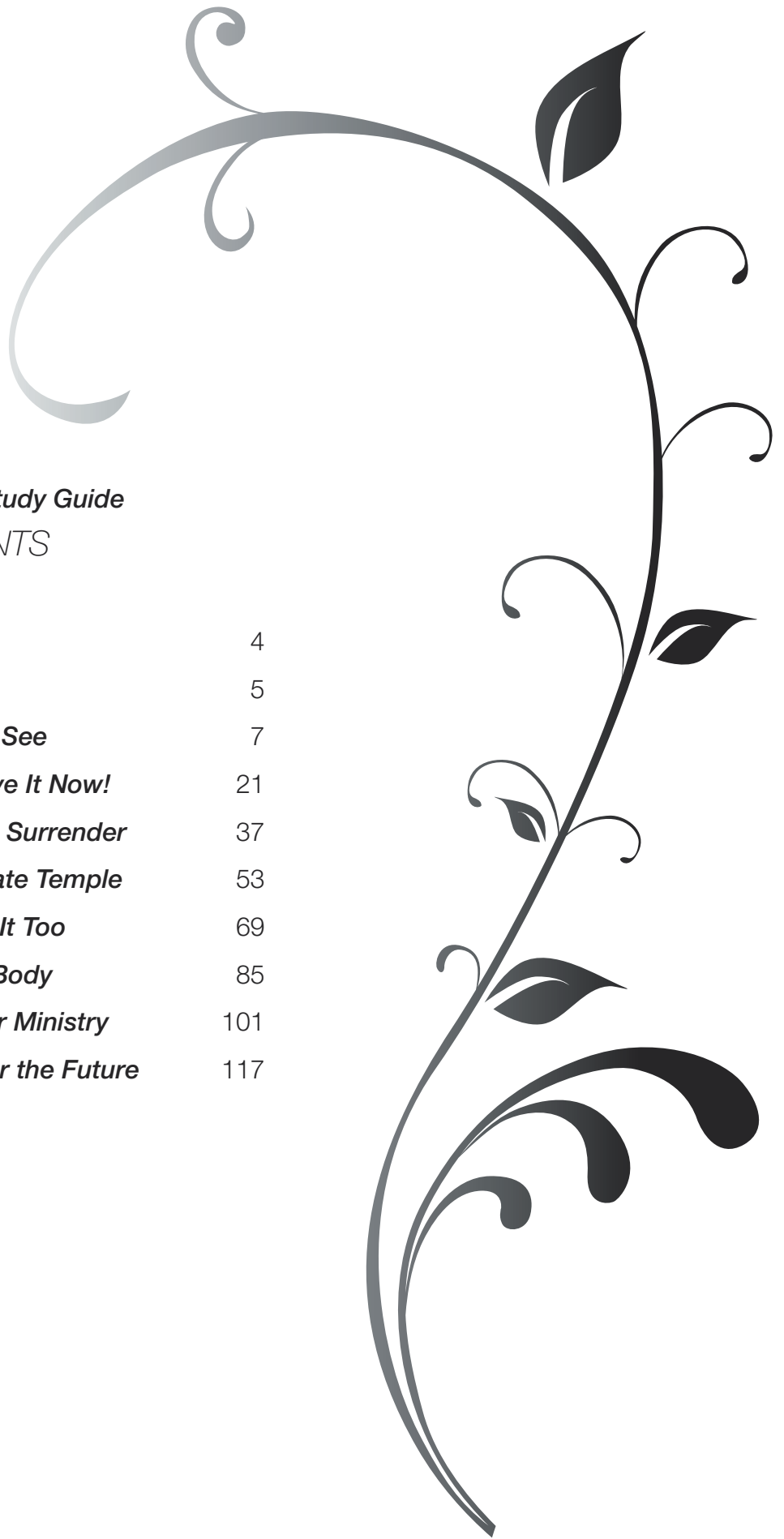
The Master's Workshop Discipleship Center  
P.O. Box 1266 · Paradise, CA 95967 · 530.877.4454  
[www.paradiseadventist.org](http://www.paradiseadventist.org)

Stewardship Department, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 · 301.680.6157  
[www.AdventistStewardship.com](http://www.AdventistStewardship.com)

***Steps to Discipleship Study Guide***

***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

INTRODUCTION	4
HELPFUL HINTS	5
WEEK 1 — <b><i>Try Him and See</i></b>	7
WEEK 2 — <b><i>You Can Have It Now!</i></b>	21
WEEK 3 — <b><i>It's All about Surrender</i></b>	37
WEEK 4 — <b><i>God's Ultimate Temple</i></b>	53
WEEK 5 — <b><i>You Can Do It Too</i></b>	69
WEEK 6 — <b><i>We Are the Body</i></b>	85
WEEK 7 — <b><i>Equipped for Ministry</i></b>	101
FOLLOW UP — <b><i>Plans for the Future</i></b>	117





## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Steps to Discipleship*. You are beginning a seven-week journey to seek a closer relationship with God. You have chosen this opportunity for spiritual growth and adventure. The next seven weeks are dedicated to an intentional and strategic process of seeking for a deeper and more meaningful Christian experience.

We are created for intimacy with God. The creation story highlights God's personal involvement in our creation. Adam and Eve were created in a world where an intimate relationship with God was the norm. God created them in His own image. He created them for friendship with Him. However, sin has distorted that picture and alienated us from God. We were born into a world of sin with a natural inclination to sin. And yet, we were also born with a hunger for God. We, also, were born for friendship with God. God's ultimate purpose for us is to know and enjoy Him.

God never gives up on His desire and search for an ongoing friendship with us. That search took Him to a cross on a lonely hill called Golgotha. Christ's death reminds us of just how precious we are to God. He is willing to go to any extreme in order to reach us. He states, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness" (Jeremiah 31:3, NIV). He also promises, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV).

Now we find ourselves wanting more in our relationship with God. We want to know Him better. We want to go deeper into His love. And we want to experience His presence in a greater way. So we have chosen to dedicate the next seven weeks to an intentional strategy of seeking more of God. We are committing 30 to 45 minutes a day to pray and study God's Word in a systematic study of biblical steps which will take us deeper into the discipleship process.

We invite you to explore living as Jesus' disciple. We invite you to open your life to God's presence in a greater way than ever before. We invite you to try God systematically for seven weeks and watch Him make a difference in your life. Pray that God will bless our journey together and that we will grow in our love for Him.

## HELPFULL HINTS

We are committed to seeking a deeper relationship with God. To do so, we have chosen to participate in the **Steps to Discipleship** strategy. During the next seven weeks we will spend daily quiet time with God and His Word. Here are a few hints to help us make the most of this program:

### ▷ SABBATH

---

Each week will begin with the Sabbath sermon. The topics will lead us into a deeper relationship with God as disciples. The daily study for that week will reaffirm and expand the sermon topic and help us integrate it into our lives. The first section of each week's study is an introduction to that week and a summary of one of the *Holy Habits* or spiritual disciplines which we will use as part of our daily quiet time. We will want to spend a few minutes on Sabbath **afternoon** reviewing this introductory section and preparing our minds for the week's study.

### ▷ TIME AND PLACE

---

We will gain the greatest benefit from this program as we choose a regular time and regular place for our daily study time. We need to set aside 30 to 45 minutes each day to spend in prayer, Bible study, and quiet reflection. It is best if we choose a time when we are fresh and relaxed and if we have the same time each day. Time in the early morning is often the best for our time alone with God. Things are often quieter and it helps us start the day with God. We need to choose a place that is calm and quiet where we can be at ease. It is also helpful if we have the same place for each day's study.

### ▷ PRAYER

---

Prayer is one of our primary tools for discipleship. It is important that we begin and end our time with God each day with prayer. It is a way in which we open our hearts and lives to God and connect with Him. The materials will include a model prayer or suggested prayer topic for beginning and ending each day. We will want to ask God to fulfill His promise that we will find Him when we seek for Him.

### ▷ BIBLE VERSION

---

We can choose to do our study in whatever version of the Bible is most meaningful and easy to understand for us. However, it will help us if we choose and remain consistent in our chosen Bible version for our daily study throughout our Steps to Discipleship study.

### ▷ MEMORY VERSES

---

Each week there will be two or three memory verses for us to memorize. The review process is built into the daily study. The materials will provide each verse in the *King James Version* and the *New International Version*. Choosing a Bible version which is easiest for us to understand and staying with the same version for all our memorization will help us. We will need to write out the verse and reference on a card or small piece of paper and carry it with us throughout the day. We need to repeat the verse several times throughout the day and

## HELPFULL HINTS

reflect on it and its meaning for our lives. We will then review the memory verse each day that it is listed in the **Study Guide**.

### ▷ HOLY HABITS

---

Throughout the next seven weeks we will explore different *Holy Habits* or spiritual disciplines. Along with biblical truth, they are tools for discipleship that help us open our lives to the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives. As we practice the different *Holy Habits* we will discover that we will enjoy some more than others. Some of these spiritual skills will come more easily than others. We may even feel a little awkward using a skill, but with practice these spiritual disciplines can become powerful friends helping us walk with God. We need to use them as often as possible and reflect on how they are helping us on our journey to know and walk with God.

### ▷ STUDY GUIDE ORGANIZATION

---

The **Study Guide** is organized into sections for each day of the week. Sabbath afternoon focuses on an introduction to the week and the **Holy Habit** which we will explore that week. Simply go to the study section for the appropriate day of the week and use that section to study, reflect, and respond to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you in your study and reflection.

### ▷ WRAP-UP

---

Each week's study ends with a wrap-up section. This is a time to reflect on the previous week and look forward to the next week. It will be helpful for you to take a few minutes each week on Friday night and reflect on the points brought out in this section.

### ▷ PERSONAL REFLECTION

---

Spend a few minutes reflecting on what you want to accomplish in your spiritual journey during the next seven weeks. List below at least three personal spiritual goals and ask God to help you reach them:

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

---

## ▷ INTRODUCTION

---

Scripture affirms the reality that God wants a relationship with us. He has promised that we will find Him when we seek Him (Jeremiah 29:11-13). So today we begin an intentional search for more of God. We want to explore and understand how God looks at us and what He thinks about us. We also want to begin to understand His love for us.

---

## ▷ HOLY HABIT—RELATIONAL BIBLE READING

---

**RELATIONAL BIBLE READING** is the first *Holy Habit* we will explore and put into practice. It is the spiritual discipline of systematic Bible reading for the purpose of knowing God.

The first step in a planned reading program is to learn the difference between informational and relational reading. Informational reading seeks to learn data, details, or abstract information. Relational reading seeks to know God better and to build the relationship with Him.

**RELATIONAL BIBLE READING** is based on two biblical principles:

- “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV, see also Deut. 4:29).
- “But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself” (John 12:32, NIV).

There are three key questions which help make Bible reading relational:

- What does the passage tell us about God?
- What does the passage tell us about ourselves and God?
- How does the passage help us walk with God?

---

## ▷ SUGGESTED PRAYER

---

*Dear Lord, I come to you seeking to grow in my walk with you. I commit myself to this seven week journey of seeking a closer and more intimate relationship with you. Thank you for loving me and accepting me in that love. I claim the promise that you will be with me and seek to open my life to you. I pray this and thank you for hearing my prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

▷ TODAY’S OBJECTIVE

---

Today we explore two basic principles about searching for God. He has promised that when we seek Him we will find Him. And Jesus told us that we would be drawn to Him when He is lifted up. So we want to put these two principles to work and focus on our search for God.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Loving Father, I come to you this morning seeking for more of you. Open my mind and my heart as I turn to your Word and reflect on your invitation to seek you. Send your Holy Spirit to help me find you as I study today. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

Below you will find the first of two memory verses for this week. Choose the version you want to use. (Feel free to choose a different version if your favorite is not included below.) Then write out the passage and reference on a card to carry with you throughout the day. Start out by repeating it several times now and at the close of your study time today. Try to be word perfect. Use the card to review the memory verse several times during the day and reflect on this passage and what it means to you.

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)—“The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.’”

Jeremiah 31:3 (KJV)—“The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, ‘Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.’”

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is now time to turn to the Bible and reflect on what God’s Word has for us today. We want to explore how to know Him better.

**READ JEREMIAH 29:11-13**—(Again choose a Bible version which is most meaningful to you.)

What are the key points in this passage that speak to your heart today?

---

---

What does this passage say about God and what He wants for you?

---

---



**READ JEREMIAH 31:3**—Imagine God speaking these words to you.

What does this passage tell you about God's love for you today? What picture of God comes to your mind as you read these words?

---

---

---

In what ways would you like God to draw you to Him today?

---

---

---

**READ JOHN 12:20-33**—Use your imagination to picture the scene described in this passage.

In what ways can you identify with the Greeks who wanted to see Jesus? Who can be the Philip and Andrew in your life to help you know Jesus?

---

---

---

**FOCUS ON VERSE 32.** In what ways do you want to see Jesus “lifted up” today?

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

Close your study time with prayer. You may want to pray something like this:

*Father in Heaven, I come to you today thanking you for your love that draws me to you. I seek to walk with you today. Help me to think about you and your love throughout this day. Send your Holy Spirit to guide every part of my life today. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our goal today is to explore what it means to hunger for God. We want to recognize the desire to know God which He placed within each one of us. This hunger helps us seek Him. The more we recognize this hunger, the more we will seek for God.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Almighty God, Something inside me draws me to you. I thank you for that as I come to seek and find you. Speak to me in your Word. Send the Holy Spirit to show me your will for me today. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Take out **your** card on which you wrote out yesterday's memory verse (Jeremiah 31:3), or go back to page 6 in this manual, and review what you began memorizing yesterday. Then reflect on what this passage says about you and your walk with God. You may want to write down some of these thoughts below:

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now it is time to explore what the Bible tells us about hungering for or wanting to know God.

**READ PSALM 63:1**—How does this passage compare with your desire to know God better?

---

---

---

List some of the ways in which you want to know God better:

---

---

---

**READ PSALM 34:8**—What picture does this passage create in your mind? In what ways would you like to “taste and see that the Lord is good?”

---

---

---

---

**READ MATTHEW 14:13-23**—Imagine what it would have been like to be present that day. What parts of this story speak to you?

---

---

---

---

Why do you think Jesus wanted to be alone? Why do you think He hungered for time with His Father?

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

You may want to close your study time with a prayer something like this:

*Heavenly Father, I hunger for more of you. Help me taste your goodness today. Help me see you in the circumstances around me. Take this day and fill it with your presence. I claim your promise to be with me. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today, we focus on Jesus' birth and identity. We want to discover what this part of Jesus' story tells us about how God seeks for us and how important we are to Him.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Father in Heaven, Help me learn from Jesus and His life. I open my heart and mind to you. Show me your love as I read your Word. Help me to know Jesus better. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today, we again review Jeremiah 31:3. Once again, review this verse from page 6, and reflect on how this passage helps you understand how God sees you. Make notes below on anything that stands out in your mind:

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now we turn to God's Word for today's study and reflection. We want to focus on the story of Jesus' birth and what the names given to Him mean.

**READ MATTHEW 1:18-25**—Use your imagination to think about what Joseph might have thought as the angel talked to Him. What would you have felt and thought if you had been Joseph?

---

---

---

**READ MATTHEW 2:1-12**—Imagine what it would have been like to have been there and watch the Wise Men or Magi come to see Jesus. What does their worship tell you about Jesus?

---

---

---

**READ LUKE 2:1-20**—Focus especially on verses 10-11. What do these verses point out about Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---

**GO BACK TO MATTHEW 1:21, 23**—How do the two names, “Jesus” and “Immanuel,” impact you?

---

---

---

---

---

What does the story of Jesus birth mean to you? What does it say to you about God’s desire to have a personal relationship with us?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

Close your study time with a prayer like this:

*Loving Father, Thank you for Jesus’ birth and for giving your Son to be my Savior. Help me to know the reality of “God with me.” Show me your love. Help me to open my life to your presence today. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our study focus for today is on how Jesus treated the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. We want to explore the impact Jesus had on her life and discover how God could do something similar in our lives.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Almighty God, Help me to see Jesus' compassion as I read and reflect on this story. Speak to my heart and surround me with your love. Teach me to worship you, and help me surrender to you. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

Today we start on a new verse to memorize, Psalm 34:8. Follow the same process from Sunday, and write the verse and reference on a card to help you review and reflect on this passage throughout the day.

Psalm 34:8 (NIV)—“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.”

Psalm 34:8 (KJV)—“O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We also need to review Sunday's verse (page 6) once again. By reviewing it several times over a number of days and weeks, we transfer the passage to our long term memory and further integrate it into our thinking and lives.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is now time to turn to the Bible and explore what God wants to teach us about how He reaches out to us.

**READ JOHN 4:1-9**—Have you ever felt like an outcast? What does this part of the story tell you about Jesus and the way He treats people? How do you think Jesus would relate to you?

---

---

---

---

**READ JOHN 4:10-14**—What does the “living water” Jesus talked about mean to you, and how would you like to experience it in your life?

---

---

---

**READ JOHN 4:15-26**—Are there times when you feel like God is getting too close to the issues in your life? What can you learn from this story that will help you be open to God?

---

---

---

What does it mean to worship God in spirit and truth? How can you apply this concept to your life?

---

---

---

**READ JOHN 4:28-30, AND 39-42**—Reflect on what the Samaritan woman shared with the people around her? What is the importance of a personal experience with God, and what implications does this have for your life?

---

---

---

Reflect on the memory verse for today, Psalm 34:8. How can we taste God’s goodness today?

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

Close your study time with a prayer like this one:

*Almighty God, Teach me to see myself as Jesus sees me. Help me to look beyond my sin to your love. Help me worship you in spirit and truth throughout this day. Use me to see others around me as Jesus sees me. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today, we will focus on why Jesus came to this earth. He is God's greatest initiative to reach out to us and draw us to Him. We will begin to explore His purpose in coming to save us.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*God in Heaven, Help me understand how much you love me. Open my heart and mind to the reality of your love and why Jesus came to live and die. Send your Holy Spirit to teach me today. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we review Psalm 34:8, the passage we began memorizing yesterday. Once again, use the card on which you have written this verse, and review and reflect on it throughout the day. What does this passage say to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now we turn to the Bible to study and reflect on what God wants to teach us **today**.

**READ JOHN 17:3**—This is part of Jesus' prayer. What does it teach you about why Jesus came? What is the source of our salvation?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**READ JOHN 18:28-37**—Use your imagination to picture the scene in Pilate’s judgment hall. Jesus was on trial. What does verse 37 tell you about why Jesus was there?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ GALATIANS 4:4-7**—Paul’s words clearly present the reason why God sent His Son. What does this passage say to you? What does it mean for you to know that you have the status and rights of a child of God?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

Close your study time with a prayer like the following:

*God of Love and Salvation, Jesus came because without Him we had no hope. Teach us your love, and help us to live this day with that love in our hearts and minds. Send your Spirit to make that love real to us that our hearts might be in tune with you. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today we focus on Jesus' invitation to discipleship. We will reflect on how He called the twelve to follow Him and explore on ways in which He invites us to follow and be with Him. A disciple is one who walks with, learns from, and lives in submission to a master in order to become like the master. Jesus calls us to discipleship.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*God of heaven and earth, Teach me that you want me to abide with you. Open my heart that I might know you and submit to you as Lord and God. Teach me to follow you and help me to experience the adventure of discipleship. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Once again it is time to review the memory verse from page 12—Psalm 34:8. Spend a few minutes repeating this passage and reflecting on how God wants us to experience His goodness.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

We now turn to Scripture to explore and reflect on the ways in which God calls us to follow Him.

**READ JOHN 1:35-46**—Note that Jesus' call to His disciples begins with the invitation to "Come ... and see" (verses 39, 46). How have you experienced God calling you to "Come and see?"

---

---

---

---

Notice that the next step in the call to discipleship is to "Follow me" (verse 43). In what ways can you choose to follow God? How is His Spirit inviting you?

---

---

---

---

**READ MARK 1:14-20**—Notice that once again Jesus invites the disciples to follow Him. Also notice that the invitation came in the context of every-day life activities. How is God calling you to follow Him and in what areas of your life is that invitation coming to you today?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ MARK 3:13-15**—Notice that the final step to full discipleship is the invitation to be with Jesus. God calls us to the intimacy of His presence. He wants us to be with Him. In what ways and in what areas of your life can you be with Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

Close your study time with prayer. You may want to include the following:

*Dear God, I want to respond to your invitation to follow and be with you. I choose to be your disciple. Teach me what it means to open my life to your Spirit. Help me live this day conscious of your presence and submitted to your guidance. Make this day one in which I learn to follow you more completely. Amen.*

During this week, we have explored God's invitation to know and walk with Him. He has promised that we will find Him when we search for Him with all our hearts. We have committed this time to that search. Spend a few minutes in quiet reflection.

How has God touched your life during this past week?

---

---

---

---

What new insights have you gained in your relationship with God?

---

---

---

---

What difficulties have you found in your daily time with God?

---

---

---

---

What things have helped you in your daily time with God?

---

---

---

---

What spiritual goals do you have for the next week?

---

---

---

---

 INTRODUCTION

---

It's good news! It's the gospel! And it is a battle ground. We fight over the meaning. We debate the theology. We argue over its implications. But we apply it only rarely. In the midst of battles which divide the church, we brawl over law and grace. We call each other names, form our exclusive clubs and isolate ourselves in our theological palaces, comforting each other that we are right.

Yet at the same time we often struggle with lives of quiet desperation—seeking to do what is right and hoping to someday find the peace Jesus promised. The average contemporary Christian has a brain full of information, but a head full of confusion and a heart full of pain.

The gospel has been debated theologically for centuries. And we are not exempt from those debates. While it is so profound we will study it for eternity, it is simple enough for a child to understand. While the gospel can be defined or stated in many different ways, with many different theological nuances, the simplest is the best:

**DEFINITION: THE GOSPEL IS THE GOOD NEWS THAT JESUS HAS SOLVED THE SIN PROBLEM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE! HE HAS DONE EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO SAVE US!**

In a day when the world seems to have lost hope, the gospel is still “good news.” The gospel still brings a new reality to lives desperately seeking understanding and hope. Where sin binds human hearts and lives, the gospel still has the power to shatter the shackles that chain us.

Paul states that we are “stewards of the mysteries of God” (1 Corinthians 4:1). However, simply knowing the concept of the gospel is not enough. Even the devil knows the theory. Being stewards of this mystery of the gospel means we must go beyond the words to understanding, accepting, and integrating this incredible “good news” into our daily lives.

The term “mystery” implies there is something about the gospel that transcends human understanding or explanation. We cannot know the fullness of God's love or the depths of His pain in saving us. We cannot comprehend the incredible wonder of heaven descending to earth—God made flesh. We can only accept it by faith. Yet, we can experience the reality of salvation. We can know eternal life the moment we believe (1 John 5:13).

How then can the gospel attain this power in our lives? How can we reach this experience? It all begins with accepting it ourselves—accepting by faith the reality of Christ dying for us and Christ loving us. So this week we will explore the gospel and how it makes a difference in our lives.

The experience of salvation is the starting point of the Christian walk. Without the assurance that God accepts us, forgives us, and saves us, everything we do will be done for the wrong reason. The security of God's love and forgiveness is the foundation for the disciple's daily journey.

### ▷ OBJECTIVES FOR THIS WEEK

---

As we study this week we want to accomplish the following objectives:

- Honestly face our sinfulness and need for salvation.
- Understand that salvation is a gift of God's grace.
- Accept and/or affirm our acceptance of salvation and rejoice in that salvation.
- Accept the new life that is ours in Christ when we accept Him as Savior.

### ▷ HOLY HABIT—PRAYER

---

Prayer is the *Holy Habit* or spiritual discipline we want to focus on for this week. Of course, prayer is a vital part of our daily devotional walk with God, but we want to explore this practice in order to understand it better and to become more intentional in our use of this powerful tool in our daily lives.

*Prayer at its highest is the meeting of a holy God with his child who hungers for holiness. It is a cleansed child, aching for clean values before the God who fills the hungry disciple in the first place. Prayer is good souls asking for good things—and the best of all good things is Jesus himself.*— Calvin Miller, *Into the Depths of God*, p. 111

Prayer is action. It means going to God. As sinful human beings, we have the opportunity of coming into the presence of the Holy God. Prayer means being open with God as we share ourselves with Him. It is being transparent and vulnerable with God—willing for Him to see and know us as we are. Prayer means sharing ourselves with God and allowing Him to share Himself with us.

Most of all, prayer is dialogue with God. It is a two-way communication in the intimacy of our relationship with Him. It is God who initiates this dialogue with us. As dialogue, it means we have the privilege of listening to Him as well as talking to Him. Thus **active** prayer has two dimensions—listening to and sharing with God.

*Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.*— Ellen White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 93

Prayer is a vital part of the **Steps to Discipleship** process. It is a primary tool in seeking God. So we will want to use prayer in two different ways:

We will use prayer as an integral part of the daily study. We begin and end each study session with prayer. We also invite you to pray throughout your study. Ask God to help you find a deeper relationship with Him.

We want to use prayer as part of our life throughout the day. Let's make a point of talking to God throughout the day about the details of our day.

▷ SUGGESTED PRAYER

---

Here is a suggested prayer guide for today:

*Dear Lord, Speak to my heart today. Help me to know you. Help me to trust you for my salvation and to accept by faith the assurance of your forgiveness and of eternal life. Lead me deeper into your love. Teach me to open my heart and life to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**LIST BELOW THREE PERSONAL GOALS FOR YOUR QUIET TIME WITH GOD FOR THIS WEEK:**

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

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective today is to face our sin and sinfulness honestly and openly. At the same time, we want to face this reality in the context of God's grace. We want to understand our problem, and we want to recognize God's solution.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Father in Heaven, I come to you as a sinner in need of your grace. Help me to be honest with myself and you. At the same time, help me accept your offer of forgiveness and mercy. Help me to understand how great your love for me really is. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

We start this week with memory verse #3. Once again, follow the same process from last week. Write the verse and reference on a card to help you review and reflect on this passage throughout the day.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)—“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.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)—“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We also need to review memory verse #2, from last Wednesday. That passage is Psalm 34:8. This ongoing review is designed to help us transfer the passage into our long term memory. It also helps us integrate this truth into our thinking and daily lives.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now it is time to open our Bibles and explore what God wants to teach us about our sin.

**READ THE STORY OF ZACCHAEUS IN LUKE 19:1-10.** What does this story tell you about how Jesus dealt with sinners? What would it be like for you to have Jesus come to your home today?

---

---

---

---

---



**READ ROMANS 3:23-24**—How do you see yourself as you read this passage?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:15**—If Paul saw himself as “chief of sinners,” how should we see ourselves? Why did Jesus come to this world?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 2:1-9**—What does this tell you about God’s love for you as a sinner? What is the basis of the salvation God offers to us?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Loving Father, You offer salvation to us as a free gift. I confess my sin and my need to you. I accept your forgiveness and affirm that my salvation is by grace alone. Teach me to live in the context of your grace. Help me to know your love. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

The purpose of our time today is to explore the reality of God's forgiveness. This is a topic we find throughout all of Scripture. We especially want to identify the condition for experiencing that forgiveness.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*God of Love and Forgiveness, Help me to understand how real your forgiveness is. I am confronted by my sin and guilt. My shame threatens to overwhelm my heart and my hope. I long to know that I am forgiven. Speak to my heart today. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We now want to review Ephesians 2:8-9, Memory verse #3 which we began memorizing yesterday. Use the card on which you wrote the verse. Review and reflect on this passage. What does it say to you today?

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Once again it is time to go to God's Word and learn what He has to teach us about forgiveness.

**READ PSALM 32:1-8**—What does this passage tell you about God's forgiveness?

---

---

---

What areas of your life do you want God to forgive?

---

---

---

**READ THE STORY OF THE PARALYZED MAN FOUND IN MARK 2:1-12.** Have you ever felt desperate for healing? What were the circumstances? Which would be more important to you, physical or spiritual healing? And why?

---

---

---

---

How do you think this man felt when Jesus told him his sins were forgiven?

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 JOHN 1:9 AND 1 JOHN 2:12**—What do these passages tell you about the basis of our forgiveness?

---

---

---

**READ PSALM 103:12; MICAH 7:19; AND HEBREWS 8:12**—What do these passages tell you about the extent of God's forgiveness?

---

---

---

(For additional study on this subject, see Isaiah 43:25; 44:21; 55:6-7; and Micah 7:19.)

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*God of Forgiveness, Thank you for your love and grace. I accept your forgiveness today and commit myself to live in the wonder of your love. Help me be open to your presence in my life today. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today's objective is to explore the basis of salvation and to identify the condition of our salvation. We want to understand what we need to do to be saved.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

You may want to begin your study today with a prayer like this one:

*Dear Loving Father, You have offered to save me. It seems almost too good to be true. Help me to understand what you offer and the condition of this salvation. Help me to accept your gift and to believe your promise. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We are reviewing Memory verse #3, Ephesians 2:8-9, once again today. Take a few minutes to review this verse and reflect on its impact on your life.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now it is time to open the Bible and study the incredible concept of salvation. Let's enjoy the wonder of God's grace.

**READ THE STORY OF JESUS MEETING WITH NICODEMUS IN JOHN 3:1-17.** What does this story tell you about why Jesus came to this world? What does it tell you about salvation? And why do you think verse 16 is one of the best known verses in the entire Bible?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ GALATIANS 4:4-5**—How does this passage by Paul parallel what Jesus said to Nicodemus? What insights do these verses bring to your understanding of salvation and your relationship with God?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ ROMANS 5:1-2 AND 6-8**—What do these verses tell us about our standing with God, and about His plan of salvation? When does salvation come to us?

---

---

---

---

---

**STUDY EPHESIANS 2:1-10**—What do these verses tell us about the basis of our salvation? What do they tell us about the extent of our salvation? What does it mean to be “God’s workmanship?”

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

Close your time with God today with a prayer like this one:

*Dear God of Love, I am amazed by your salvation. Help me to believe the simple truth that salvation really is a gift that I accept by faith. Help me to understand what it means to be saved by grace. I thank you for your love. I praise you for your grace. I rejoice in the salvation that is mine because I believe your promise. I pray this in the incredible name of Jesus, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

In today's study, we want to **understand** the reality of our assurance in Christ. We cannot overemphasize how important this assurance is to our daily living in Christ.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Father, I come to you today seeking to know you better. Help me to understand how great your love for me really is. Help me to understand the assurance that can be mine today. Help me to trust your promises and understand your grace. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

Today we begin learning memory verse #4. Once again we will write the verse on a card to help us remember and review it.

1 John 5:13 (NIV)—“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

1 John 5:13 (KJV)—“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life . . .”

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We also need to review memory verse #1, Jeremiah 31:3, and memory verse #3, Ephesians 2:8-9. Use your card to review and reflect on these passages.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now its time to explore the subject of assurance in God's Word. We want to have a solid foundation for our discipleship walk.

**READ THE STORY OF JESUS' TEMPTATIONS AS FOUND IN MATTHEW 4:1-11.** How did Jesus resist these temptations? What was the basis of His success in resisting sin?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ HEBREWS 2:18 AND 4:14-16**—What do these passages tell us about Jesus? And how do they give us confidence that He can help us?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ JOHN 5:24-29**—What do these verses tell us about what happens to us when we believe in Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 JOHN 5:11-13**—What does this passage tell us about the reality of our salvation? How can we know that we have eternal life?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Amazing Father and Loving Lord, I come to you today with wonder at your love. I am overwhelmed by the reality that salvation is mine. Help me to live in the reality of this amazing truth. Help me to remember that my sins are forgiven. Help me to explore and understand what it means to know this love today. I **thank** you for the assurance that is mine. In the wondrous name of Jesus. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our purpose today is to explore the cleansing from sin that is ours as we believe in and walk with Jesus. Let's revel in God's grace and rejoice in His love.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Almighty God and Loving Father, I come to you this morning eager to understand what you have for me today. Help me understand what you offer in cleansing as part of your gift of salvation. I want to stand before you clean and transformed. Help me see your love. Help me understand your Word. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we review memory verse #4, 1 John 5:13. Please take your card and review the verse. Then reflect on the impact of this promise in your life. What key points come to your mind as you review this verse?

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Once again, it is time to open the Bible and see what God has to say to our hearts today. We want to catch a greater vision of what God gives us in salvation.

**READ THE STORY OF THE LEPER IN MATTHEW 8:1-4.** Have you ever felt like an outcast, and why?

---

---

---

Have you ever felt "filthy" in God's presence, and why?

---

---

---

How do you think the leper felt when Jesus touched Him? What did it mean to him to be cleansed? What can it mean for you to be clean in Jesus' presence?

---

---

---



**READ ISAIAH 6:1-8**—How did God cleanse Isaiah? In what ways would you like for God to do something similar for you?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 JOHN 1:5-9**—In what ways can this passage apply to your life?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ AND REFLECT ON THE REALITY OF JEREMIAH 33:8**—What do these words mean to you today? How does it feel to know that God can cleanse us completely, and that He wants to do so?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Father of Love, I thank you today for the cleansing that is mine. You have forgiven me. You have saved me. And today I want to serve you with all my heart. Help me to live this day in the reality of the clean heart you have given me today. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today we explore the incredible reality that is ours in Christ. We are new creations—new creatures. We are no longer the same. We have met Jesus and we cannot be the same. He has promised us a new reality. Let's explore it together.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Lord, Help me to catch a vision of the reality that is mine in Jesus. Help me understand how He has changed me because I have come to Him and accepted the gift of salvation. Speak to my heart today. Open my mind to understand and believe. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we need to review memory verse #4, 1 John 5:13, once again. This ongoing review and reflection process helps us to grasp the reality of this passage and integrate it into our lives. How is the assurance of salvation changing your thinking and your feelings about yourself and your future?

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is now time to return to the Bible. We want to catch a new and greater vision of who and what we are in Jesus.

**READ THE STORY OF SAUL'S (PAUL'S) CONVERSION IN ACTS 9:1-19.** What was the essence of Paul's conversion? How was his life changed by accepting Jesus?

---

---

---

**READ JOHN 1:12**—What does John say is ours in Christ?

---

---

---

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-17**—What does it mean to you to be a “new creation” in Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ AND REFLECT ON JOHN 5:24-29**—What do Jesus’ words in this passage say to you about your new reality in Him?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6**—What does this passage tell you about your future? How would you like for God to work in your life as He continues to transform and change you?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Almighty God, Truly you have begun a wonderful work in my life. I thank you for the reality of forgiveness and salvation. Help me remember and affirm this truth each day. Help me accept by faith the reality that in Christ I am a new creature today. Help me live this day in the newness of life that is mine. Open my mind to your presence throughout this day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

We have spent this week exploring the reality of our salvation in Jesus Christ. We have studied what the Bible has to say about how God has given us the gift of salvation. We have also explored the assurance that is ours in Jesus when we confess our sins and believe in Him. Spend a few minutes in quiet reflection to wrap up the last seven days of study and reflection.

What difference has your daily quiet time with God made in your life this week?

---

---

---

---

How has salvation become more real to you during this week?

---

---

---

---

How do you deal with the distractions that come during your quiet time with God? How can you integrate those distractions into your prayer and study life?

---

---

---

---

How has the assurance of eternal life impacted your life and thinking during this week?

---

---

---

---

What spiritual goals would you like to have for the next week? How would you like God to work in your life during the next seven days?

---

---

---

---

▷ INTRODUCTION

---

Welcome to week three of the *Steps to Discipleship* spiritual growth strategy. By now we are experiencing some of the rewards of spending daily time with God and His Word. We are taking important steps into a deeper discipleship walk with God.

---

▷ EXPLORING LORDSHIP

---

Today, we begin to explore one of the most important aspects of the disciple's life. Choosing Jesus Christ as Savior begins our spiritual journey with Him. Choosing Him as Lord is the next major step in the spiritual journey. In fact, it is virtually inseparable from the choice to accept Him as Savior. When we believe in Jesus for our salvation, we are saying that we cannot save ourselves and that we are surrendering to Jesus. The natural extension of that surrender is to accept Jesus as Lord.

**DEFINITION: THE *MIRIAM WEBSTER ONLINE DICTIONARY* DEFINES LORD AS:**

**1 : ONE HAVING POWER AND AUTHORITY OVER OTHERS: 2 : A RULER BY HEREDITARY RIGHT OR PREEMINENCE TO WHOM SERVICE AND OBEDIENCE ARE DUE.**

For many years I thought lordship meant God says it—I do it. Not any more. Today I understand that Lordship is far more than trying to obey God. Focusing on obedience leads to a focus on personal effort rather than on God. And regardless of how hard we try, our obedience falls short of what God desires or expects.

Lordship means recognizing the reality of who God is in our lives. It means giving Jesus Christ the appropriate place in our thinking and living. It means allowing Him to be preeminent in every part of our lives. So lordship begins with Christ's identity as Creator, Redeemer, and as Sanctifier. In other words, it means letting God be God.

Christ as Creator (John 1:1-14) is the foundation or starting point for lordship. He is Owner of all. He has the power to control all. However, He limits that power to give room for us to use our freewill to choose to serve Him out of a willing heart responding in love.

As Redeemer, Jesus has moved us out of the slavery to sin (Romans 6:14-18) and into a life of obedience in submission to Him. He has freed us from the controlling power and dominion of sin. Through His death He has given us the freedom of choice. We can choose to serve Him, or we can choose to live in rebellion.

As Sanctifier, Christ transforms us and empowers us with His presence to enable us to obey. Through an intimate union with God, we are transformed and we begin a life of partnership with Him. His presence makes us holy, and His presence produces obedience in our lives. Obedience is impossible for us as sinful human beings separate from God. But as we grow in Him, obedience becomes the natural fruit of our relationship with Him.

Thus we come to the challenge of lordship. It is a choice of who will be in control in our lives. Will we seek to be in charge? Will we even try to do the right thing in our own strength? Or will we surrender to God's love, presence, and power? Will we live our lives in lonely frustration and rebellion, or will we choose partnership with the King? Will we allow **Jesus** to be Lord of our lives?

### ▷ OBJECTIVES FOR THIS WEEK

---

Our daily study and quiet time for this week will lead us into three primary objectives:

- To understand the lordship of Jesus Christ.
- To accept His lordship.
- To begin integrating His lordship into the way we live our daily lives.

### ▷ HOLY HABIT—HOLY RELEASE

---

There is a *Holy Habit* or spiritual discipline that works naturally along with our choice to accept Jesus as Lord. I call it *Holy Release*. It is the practice of conscious surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ in the details of our lives. It means choosing to trust God by releasing control to Him. It also means consciously choosing to rest in Him and not worry over the details of daily life.

Far too many of us carry huge burdens of care and worry that weigh us down and prevent us from enjoying the peace of God's presence. Jesus invites us to bring our burdens to Him (Matthew 11:28-30). He promises to give us rest. Our part in this process is to choose to release these burdens to Him. We can do so by consciously using the following steps:

- Remember who God is as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.
- Trust that God loves us and is willing and able to take care of the details of our lives (Philippians 4:13, 19).
- Come to God in response to His invitation and accept His presence (Matthew 11:28-30).
- Choose to rest in God by transferring our burdens to Him.
- Choose to make the search for God and His kingdom the first and most important aspect of our lives (Matthew 6:24-34).
- Choose to offer our daily lives as a lifestyle of worship to Him (Romans 12:1).

The practice of releasing or surrendering the issues of our lives to God's control transforms our attitudes and our **perspectives**. It gives God room to be Lord in our lives. It forces us to recognize our role in contrast to His. It helps us to focus on the things and activities that are appropriate for us while allowing God to be in control of the details of our lives.

This *Holy Release* is an ongoing process and practice. It is a matter of personal growth—learning to let God be God. And it is a process that will continue throughout our entire lives.

▷ **SUGGESTED PRAYER**

---

Here is a suggested sample prayer as we begin this week of study, reflection, and growth:

*Dear Heavenly Father, Help me to know your love. Help me see how interested you are in the details of my life. Teach me to trust you. Teach me to surrender control of every area of my life to you. Help me to release my burdens and worries to you. Let this week be a time in which I learn to rest in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**LIST BELOW THREE THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR JOURNEY WITH GOD THIS WEEK:**

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

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

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective today is to face the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord. We want to begin to explore the impact this can have in our lives. Understanding and accepting Jesus as Lord is the greatest challenge to the contemporary Christian life. We are not exempt from this challenge, and only as we surrender to Him as Lord can He change our lives.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Lord, I come to you today wrestling with the concept that you are Lord. I am used to being in control. Teach me to know you and trust you. Help me learn to know and accept you as Lord of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We start this week with memory verse #5. We want to follow the same process we have followed during the last two weeks of using a card to help us memorize and review this passage. We also want to reflect on this text throughout the day.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)—“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.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)—“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

We also want to review memory verses #2 (Psalm 34:8) and #4 (1 John 5:13). Once again, use your memory card to help you review these passages. Also spend a few minutes in quiet reflection as to how these passages can impact our lives.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is now time to explore what God wants to teach us in His Word. We want to begin the study of Jesus as Lord.

**READ THE STORY OF JESUS AND HIS TRANSFIGURATION IN MATTHEW 17:1-9.** Try to imagine that you were present when this story took place. How would you have reacted? What would you have thought about Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---



**READ JOHN 1:1-14 AND COLOSSIANS 1:13-20**—These passages present Jesus as the Creator. What implications does this have for how we live? How does this reality define our relationship with Him?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ ACTS 2:22-39**—Take special note of v. 36. What does it mean for Jesus to be made Lord and Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

How can our acceptance of the reality of Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives change the way we live?

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Loving Father, Help me to understand how much you want to be involved in my life. Help me to trust you and give you room in my life. Help me to be sensitive to the reality of your presence with me throughout this day. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective today is to explore further the lordship of Jesus Christ. We want to understand what His lordship is really like. For only as we know Him can we love Him.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear God of Love, Teach me to know Jesus as Lord. Teach me to know Him as the Lord who serves. Help me to see His beauty and understand His love. I want to trust you. I want to give you room to control my life. Yet I am afraid of losing control. So help me know you better so I can trust you more. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today, it is time to review Proverbs 3:5-6. Use your memory card and try to be word perfect. Review and reflect on this passage. What does it mean to “Trust in the Lord with all” our heart?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now it is time to delve deeper into God's Word and explore the meaning of Jesus as Lord and servant.

**READ THE STORY IN JOHN 13:1-17.** Try to picture the story as if you had been there. What would it have been like to have Jesus kneeling in front of you to wash your feet? What does this story tell us about His heart?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ LUKE 22:24-27**—In what ways does our desire to be first show up in our lives? What does Jesus' portrayal of Himself as a servant say to us about our seeking for position and power?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ MATTHEW 20:25-28**—How did Jesus manifest the true greatness He presented in this passage?

---

---

---

---

---

How does the fact that Jesus came to serve us impact on your thinking?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ COMMITMENT PRAYER

*Loving Lord, Teach me to understand that true greatness comes in serving others. Help me see that Jesus' example is the way He wants me to live. Help me to lose myself in you to such an extent that I'm able to serve others as Jesus did. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today, we want to understand just how much Jesus provides for us as Lord. We will discover that the only limit to His provision is our faith. We want to know Him better and trust Him more.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Almighty God, Help me to understand today how great your provision is. Help me understand the riches that are mine in Christ. Help me know the privilege that is mine to have Jesus as Lord of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we want to review our memory verse from Sunday—memory verse #5, Proverbs 3:5-6. Spend a few minutes reflecting on the areas of your life in which you are seeking God's direction. How do you want God to work in these areas?

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now we will go further in exploring what the Bible has to say about Jesus as Lord.

**READ THE STORY OF THE CENTURION IN LUKE 7:1-10.** This was a man who knew how to command. What does his faith in Jesus tell us about how he perceived Jesus? What does this story tell us about what Jesus can do in our lives?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ PHILIPPIANS 4:10-19.** What do verses 11 and 12 teach us about being satisfied with what God provides?

---

---

---

---

---

What does verse 13 teach us about what we can do in Christ? What are the specific areas of your life where you need this kind of power and strength?

---

---

---

---

---

How does verse 19 bring us confidence and courage? What are the specific needs you want God to supply in your life today?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Loving Father, Truly, you have loved me and blessed me in ways I can only begin to understand. Help me to accept and trust what I have studied today. Help me understand that I have all I need when I have Jesus. And help me to be open to your presence and power today. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective today is to make the lordship of Jesus Christ something very personal for our own lives. Jesus is Lord. This is a historical and biblical fact. But it has little meaning in our lives until we choose to let Him be Lord of every part of our lives.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Lord and God, Allowing you to be Lord of my life is not easy, for I am used to being in control. Teach me to trust you. Help me know you well enough to be willing to surrender to you. Help me know and trust your heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

Our memory verse for today is Matthew 11:28-30. Follow the process we have learned to write this passage on a card and begin to memorize these verses.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)—“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)—“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We also want to review memory verse #3, Ephesians 2:8-9, from last week. This ongoing review process helps us transfer the passage from our short-term to our long-term memory.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

We will now open our Bibles to explore and better understand what it means for Jesus to be “my Lord.”

**READ THE STORY OF THOMAS FOUND IN JOHN 20:24-29.** Have you ever felt like Thomas? In what ways have you been dissatisfied with a second-hand relationship with God? How would you like to experience God first-hand?

---

---

---

---

**READ MATTHEW 22:37**—What does this level of love mean to you? How can this take place in your life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 PETER 3:15**— In what ways can you make Jesus Lord of your life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ MATTHEW 7:21-23**—What do these verses tell you about Jesus being Lord of our lives?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear Lord, I am only beginning to understand what it means for you to be my Lord. Thank you for your patience. Help me grow in allowing you into my life. Help me truly know you as Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## ▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

Today, we explore more fully what it means for Jesus to be Lord. We also want to open more of our lives to Jesus as Lord.

## ▷ INVITATION PRAYER

*Dear God and Father, Teach me your love. Help me know I can trust you completely. Help me to surrender, for only as I die to self can you be the Lord of my life. I cannot do this on my own. I can only yield to your miraculous work. So work in me today and be my Lord. Amen.*

## ▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

Our verses for review today are numbers 5 and 6—the two verses for this week, Proverbs 3:5-6 and Matthew 11:28-30. Take a few minutes to reflect on how these passages can shape your life.

## ▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

Let's explore what God's Word has to say in shaping our understanding of how to let Jesus be Lord in our lives today.

**READ THE STORY OF LUKE 6:1-10.** How is Jesus being Lord of our lives different from simply following religious rules? What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord of the Sabbath? How is the Sabbath related to Jesus as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



**READ ROMANS 10:8-13**—What does it mean to confess that Jesus is Lord? Why is this part of the basis for our salvation?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3**—In what ways is the Holy Spirit involved in leading us to confess Jesus as Lord?

---

---

---

---

---

In what ways is God asking you to confess Him as Lord? In what areas of your life do you need to surrender and allow Him control?

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Loving Lord, There are areas of my life where you are still not Lord. Reveal them to me and help me surrender them to your love and power. Teach me to trust you enough to give you unlimited access and control. Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today's objective focuses on learning to integrate Christ's lordship into our lives. This is a continual process—not a one time act. And it must extend into every part of our lives.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Lord, Help me learn just how much you can do in my life. Help me see your presence and power today. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Our verse to review today is #6, Matthew 11:28-30. We started learning this verse on Wednesday. Today, we want to reflect on the areas of our lives that are a special burden to us. How can we bring them to Jesus?

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

We now want to go deeper in God's Word to explore how Jesus as Lord can make a difference in our lives.

**READ THE STORY OF MATTHEW 8:23-27. COMPARE THIS PASSAGE WITH PSALM 107:29.** What does it mean for Jesus to have this kind of power? Why was He able to sleep when the others were so worried?

---

---

---

---

---

What are the storms in your life that you would like Jesus to calm? How can you invite Him into these "storms?"

---

---

---

---

---

**READ COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**—How did you receive Jesus as Savior? How can you receive Him as Lord? What are the implications for living with Jesus as Lord?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ ROMANS 13:11-14**—What does it mean to clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ? What impact do you think this could have on your life?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:57**—This passage tells us that victory is ours in Jesus our Lord. In what areas of your life would you like to claim victory in Him?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*God of Love, Today I choose you as Lord. Teach me to grow in this journey. Open my eyes to your will and give me the courage to follow. Teach me to claim the reality that is mine in Jesus. Teach me to surrender and yield to your presence and love. In Jesus' name. Amen*

This week has been one of the most important weeks of the entire *Steps to Discipleship* process. The choice of Jesus as Lord is the turning point in the Christian life. Contemporary Christianity speaks a great deal about Jesus as Savior. However, it does not want to accept Him as Lord. This surrender to God's control is the key to successful discipleship. Spend the next few minutes reflecting on what the last few days have meant to your spiritual journey.

How has your daily time with God grown during the last week? What does it mean to you today?

---

---

---

---

How has the challenge of Jesus as Lord confronted you during this week?

---

---

---

---

What specific challenges to your discipleship walk have you experienced during these last seven days?

---

---

---

---

How is the choice to let Jesus be Lord of your life making a difference in how you choose to live each day?

---

---

---

---

How do you want God to work in your life during the coming week?

---

---

---

## ▷ INTRODUCTION

---

Last week we began our study of the concept of lordship. We learned that Jesus is Lord, and that surrender to Him is at the very starting point of discipleship. We reviewed the biblical concept that we must die daily—that spiritually, self has to yield to God's control on the issues of daily life.

This week we will go deeper into the concept of Jesus as Lord. We will discover that Scripture reveals something greater than simply obeying God. Instead, Bible writers present us with the incredible concept of spiritual partnership and intimacy with the indwelling Christ.

This intimacy began with creation; Adam and Eve were created for friendship with God. Adam began life in the cradle of God's arms, awakened by the kiss of life. Discovering God and his own identity in relationship with God were his first conscious thoughts. This capacity for intimacy with the Almighty continues today. In fact, we are born with the need for this intimacy. Only as we find that union with God will we find peace and satisfaction.

Lordship is the realization of that union with God for which we were born. Here, the very presence of God transforms our hearts. When Jesus promised "another Comforter," He also promised to return to us (John 14:18). The coming of the Comforter would bring the assurance of His presence: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you" (John 14:20). This indwelling presence of Christ is the essential core of the biblical concept of discipleship. Intimacy with God empowers our daily living.

### **ACCEPTING HIS PRESENCE WITHIN US, WE BECOME GOD'S ULTIMATE TEMPLE.**

Paul presents the promise "that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" (Ephesians 3:16-17, ESV). Paul concludes that, as a result of knowing the height and depth of God's love, we will be "filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:15-19). This is the scope of the promised intimacy with God—Christ bringing the fullness of God into our lives. Accepting His presence within us, we become God's ultimate temple.

While this relationship offers so very much, it also confronts us with far-reaching demands that are in direct contrast to the contemporary Christianity that has been assimilated by the world around us. This Christianity has lost its power, for it has abandoned its Source—the indwelling Christ. Instead of debating over issues of obedience or arguing about how to keep the Sabbath, we discover that our relationship with Jesus is something much more radical—a life of intimate union with Him. Each part of that life is transformed by His presence.

As we walk with God, discipleship moves from following from a distance to a journey with a friend. It moves from human attempts to obey and meet God's standard to the realization of Christ's transforming presence. It leads to the fulfillment of God's promise to work in us "both to will, and to do" (Philippians 2:13). He is Lord. You and I have the privilege of living out this experience in everyday life. How? By abiding in Him and allowing Him to abide in us. Thus, lordship moves from a theological expression to a living relationship with the King.

---

▷ OBJECTIVES FOR THIS WEEK

---

Our objectives for this week include the following:

- We want to understand the biblical reality that Christ wants to dwell in us.
- We want to understand how to accept Jesus as living within us.
- We want to explore the implications of an intimate union with God.

---

▷ HOLY HABIT—*PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD*

---

God has promised to be with us (Matthew 28:20). He said, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. . . . (Isaiah 43:2, NIV). The Psalmist portrays that there is no place we can go that God cannot find us (Psalm 139:7-10).

So God is with us at all times. However, we forget this reality and live our lives in our own strength and power. Too often we find ourselves spiritually isolated while surrounded by the fullness of God's presence. Our challenge is to learn to be consciously open to and spiritually accept the reality of His presence.

**PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD** is the art of consciously seeking to be alert to and aware of God's presence in our lives because:

- He has promised to be with us.
- It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring His presence to us.
- We can do things which will help us be more sensitive to the reality of His presence.

This *Holy Habit* of practicing God's presence has the power to transform our lives. Just imagine what it would be like to have God's presence with us at all times! How would things change in our relationships and behavior if we could visibly see God sitting or walking beside us? He really is here with us. We just have to train ourselves to be conscious or aware of His presence. When we do, our lives are transformed. We cannot dwell in His presence and remain the same.

God has invited us to come before the throne of grace or into His presence. The following pointers may help in practicing the presence of God:

- Use your imagination to picture God being with you in all you do.
- Make room for God in your daily life, physically, mentally, and in your time.

- Try to think of God at regular intervals throughout the day. Start with longer periods of time and move down to thinking of Him at least once each minute.
- Try to keep one part of your mind focused on or thinking of God at all times.
- Be conscious of the reality that you are in the presence of God at all times.

We can learn to live in God’s presence. In the meantime, a little practice will help.

▷ **SUGGESTED PRAYER**

---

Here is a suggested prayer as we begin this week of our journey with God in study, reflection, and growth:

*Dear Father of Love, Help me to be aware of your presence in my life. You have promised to be with us. I claim that promise and ask that you help me be aware of how you are involved in my life. Help me open my mind to the reality that you are here with me now. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

**LIST BELOW THREE OBJECTIVES FOR YOUR JOURNEY WITH GOD DURING THIS WEEK:**

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

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

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### ▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

We continue to explore the level of intimacy that God offers us in the discipleship journey. Very few of us really understand God's desire for us. We want to recognize what He offers and learn to enter into a deeper relationship with Him.

### ▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Loving Father, I come seeking to understand just how much of a relationship you offer to me. I want more of you. I want to know you better and love you more. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### ▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

This week we start with memory verse #7. Again we want to follow our process for memorizing and reviewing this verse with a card.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NIV)—“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (KJV)—“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”

### ▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Once again, we want to review memory verses from the last two weeks. Today we are reviewing memory verse #4 (1 John 5:13) and #6 (Matthew 11:28-30). Use the cards to help you review these verses and reflect on their application to your life.

### ▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is now time to turn to Scripture and explore God's promises to be with us, and what that can mean for us.

**READ MATTHEW 1:23**—Reflect on what the name Immanuel means to our relationship with God. Write the key points from your thoughts below:

---



---



---



---



**READ THE STORY OF MARY AND MARTHA IN LUKE 10:38-42.** Which are you more like, Mary or Martha? How does this affect your relationship with God?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EXODUS 25:8 AND COMPARE IT WITH 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20—**How does God's desire to dwell "with us" and to make our bodies His temple impact your thinking about your relationship with God?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ MATTHEW 28:18-20—**How does Jesus' promise to be with us affect your thinking about the challenges you face?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear Lord, Help me catch a vision of what you want for my life. Help me understand how I can be a temple for your Spirit. Teach me to open my life to your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

We continue looking at God's promises to be with us. We especially want to understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We want to see what Scripture tells us about the Holy Spirit bringing the presence of Christ into our lives.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Father in Heaven, Jesus promised to be with us. Help me to understand how that can be more real for me. Show me how to open my heart more fully to your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we need to review memory verse #7 from yesterday (Ezekiel 36:26-27). Spend a few minutes reflecting on what this promise means to you.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now open you Bible and spend a few minutes in reflection and growth as you read and study what God has for you today.

**READ THE STORY IN MATTHEW 14:13-33**—In what ways have you wanted to “step out of the boat” in your spiritual journey with God? How does your experience compare with Peter’s?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ JOHN 14:16-21**—What does Jesus promise of the Holy Spirit mean to you? What does verse 20 tell us about where God wants to be?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ COLOSSIANS 1:27**—How does Paul's promise of Christ being in us bring us hope? How does this compare with John 14:20 (see above)?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ GALATIANS 3:14**—What does this passage tell us about how we receive the Holy Spirit? What factors fight against you receiving the Holy Spirit?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear Father, Help me to understand the biblical truth that Christ wants to dwell in me. Help me open my life to your presence and give you room to work. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today we want to explore how God's presence brings strength and comfort into our lives. As we study more of what Scripture says about what God's presence can do in our lives, we will find comfort and strength.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Heavenly Father, You promised to be with us. Help me understand just what that can mean to me today. Help me experience your strength and comfort in my life today. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We have two verses to review today, memory verse #1 (Jeremiah 31:3) and verse #7 (Ezekiel 36:26-27). This extended review helps us memorize the passage. It also helps us make that passage and its truth part of our daily life. Spend a few minutes using your imagination to apply these verses to your life. How can the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life change the way you live today?

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

We now want to spend the next few minutes in quiet reflection and study as we turn to Scripture.

**READ THE STORY IN MARK 4:35-41.** Reflect on how Jesus can sleep so calmly in the midst of the storm. What areas of your life are stormy and how could Jesus' presence make a difference?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ THE STORY IN LUKE 7:11-17**—What does Jesus' compassion and power teach you about how He can make a difference in your life today?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7**—Take special note of the statement that God is near. How can His presence bring you contentment and peace?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ ISAIAH 43:1-2**—How can the assurance of God's presence help you face a crisis in your life? In what areas of your life would you like to experience God's presence today? After you have reflected on these questions, spend a few minutes claiming these promises of God's presence.

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

Finish your study with a prayer such as:

*Dear Lord, Your presence changes things in my life. Knowing that you care enough to be with me gives me strength for today. I claim these promises as mine today. Help me to believe and integrate them into this day. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### ▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today we want to explore the power that is available to us with God's presence. He promised that we would have power for every area of life. We want to understand how His power can change the way we live.

### ▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Loving Father, Help me to catch a vision of the power that is available to help me live with you today. I invite you to guide my study and help me understand more of what you give me to help me live each day. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### ▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

We start memorizing verse #8 today. Once again we will need to use the memory system we have been using during the last three weeks. Write the passage out on a card and carry that card with you to help you review and reflect on this passage throughout the day.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)—“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

2 Peter 1:3-4 (KJV)—“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

### ▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We also want to review memory verse #5 (Proverbs 3:5-6) from last week. Spend a few minutes reflecting on this passage and its implications for our lives today.

### ▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now it is time to open our Bibles and study. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thinking on this vital subject for today.

**READ THE STORY IN MARK 5:21-43.** Try to imagine what it would have been like to be there when the story happened. What details from this story speak to you, and why?

---



---

READ AND REFLECT ON TODAY'S MEMORY VERSE, 2 PETER 1:3-4. What limits exist to the power that God promises us in this passage?

---

---

---

---

---

How can the reality of this promise change your life today?

---

---

---

---

---

In what areas of your life do you want to claim this promise today?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ COMMITMENT PRAYER

*Loving God, I claim your presence and power in my life today. I am dependent upon you for everything in my life. Help me to trust you and believe that these promises are mine. Give me wisdom and strength to meet the issues that I will confront during this day. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective today is to explore one of the most powerful lordship concepts in all of Scripture—obedience is the result of God's presence in our lives. Because we love Him, we want to obey God. We have tried and failed many times. Today, we go deeper into one of the most incredible truths in all of Scripture.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear God, I want to walk with you. I want to learn to obey you more. Yet I struggle in areas of my life. Help me understand more of what you offer me. Help me believe that you can change my life. Give me faith to trust your power. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we want to review our two verses from this week, #7 (Ezekiel 36:26-27) and #8 (2 Peter 1:3-4). Once again, we will want to use our review card process.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now it is time to return to God's Word and explore more of what He offers us today.

**READ THE STORY OF THE RICH YOUNG RULER IN MATTHEW 19:16-26.** Try to put yourself into the story. Have you ever felt like you were doing all the right things, and there was still something missing from your life? What points from this story speak to your present situation?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EZEKIEL 36:26-27**—How does God promise to bring obedience into our lives? Where and how could this change your life?

---

---

---

---



**READ PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13**—How does this passage compare with Ezekiel 36:26-27 (see above)? What are the two specific promises in this passage that lead to an obedient life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 2:4-10**—What does this passage teach us about obedience or “good works?” How is this obedience an extension of the grace that saves us?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Lord of Love, Teach me to walk with you. Teach me to give you room to work in my life. Help me to accept the reality of your presence with me. Help me choose to obey and trust you to produce that obedience in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our purpose today is to understand and explore how God's presence helps us grow spiritually. The exciting discipleship journey with God means constant growth. It means each new day brings new insight and opportunity.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear God of Love, Take my study time today and open my mind to what you want to do in my life. Help me as I reflect on your Word. Send your Holy Spirit to guide me as I reflect on your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Our review text for today is memory verse #8 (2 Peter 1:3-4). Follow the review process we have established by now and spend a few minutes reflecting on this promise. How can this promise change your life?

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is now time to continue our exploration of biblical truth. We want to understand how God wants to change and transform us.

**READ GENESIS 32:1-28**—What does the story of Jacob teach us about our spiritual journey? In what ways are you tempted to try to solve problems yourself and wait to call on God only when nothing else works?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 3:16-19**—We have looked at this passage before and it has even more depths for us to explore. How can Christ “dwell in our hearts”?

---

---

---

What are the results of Christ being in us?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ GALATIANS 4:19**—What does it mean for Christ to be “formed within” us?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear God, I am amazed by the promises I have studied this week. Help me to realize that they are true—that you can do what your Word says. I invite you into my life and ask that you will change and transform me into your image. Help me to be like Jesus. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

This week we have gone deeper into the subject of Christ's Lordship. It is really an extension of our study last week. The choice of Jesus as Lord is the turning point in the Christian life. The choice to accept the indwelling Christ is the power of the Christian life. Far too often Christianity is something we do in living a certain lifestyle. Instead, Scripture teaches us that Christianity is really about intimacy with God. This intimacy is the level of a spiritual union in which Christ dwells within us. His presence transforms and empowers everything else we do. Spend the next few minutes reflecting on what this week's study can mean to our spiritual lives.

How has your daily time with God affected your life this week? What difference is it making in the way you live?

---

---

---

---

What have the promises of God's presence "with" and "in us" done for you this week?

---

---

---

Where have you experienced challenges to your discipleship during this past week?

---

---

---

How is allowing Jesus to dwell within you starting to impact your life?

---

---

---

How would you like to see God work in your life during the next week?

---

---

---

---

## ▷ INTRODUCTION

---

During the last four weeks we have explored together basic ingredients of the discipleship journey with God. By this time, we have reviewed and affirmed our assurance of salvation. We have accepted Jesus as Lord of our lives. And we have begun to understand the wondrous truth of the indwelling Christ. These are all foundational to our spiritual journey with God.

This week, we will explore an area that is just as critical to our ongoing spiritual growth. God calls us to share what we are experiencing with others around us. They need to see Jesus. We need to share Jesus. We will continue to grow only as we focus outwardly. If we do not share what Christ is doing for us, we become like a stagnant pool losing its freshness and vitality. Thus it is important that we understand just what it is that God asks of us.

All around us people are hungering to know God. He has given to us the awesome privilege of being part of the salvation process. When Jesus first invited His disciples to follow Him, He promised that they would become “fishers of men.” In other words, we are the tools God uses to reach people around us. It is our task to help others know Jesus just as we know Him.

The most powerful tool in the witnessing process is the story of what God has done for us. Our personal testimony of what Christ has done for us has the ability to be used by God to draw others to Him. It really is not as difficult as we have thought. We don’t have to be able to answer all the questions people may ask. We can simply say, “I don’t know the answer. But I will find an answer for you.” All we need to do is to simply tell our story. Our greatest witness is the story of what Jesus has done for us.

Because we have experienced salvation, we have something to tell. Because we have accepted Jesus as Lord, we can help someone else accept Him too. Because we are experiencing the presence of God, we can help someone else find God also. In other words, the source of our witnessing is simply sharing our personal experience. What power there is in that sharing! Jesus promised that the uplifted Christ would draw others to Him.

Pause and think for a few minutes. Who has God placed around you that needs to experience what you have found? Who are the family or friends around you who have never known Jesus? Who are the people around you who are spiritually hungering? Now stop and think again. What do you have to share? Is it some doctrine or is it a growing relationship with Jesus? How can you tell them what you have experienced?

We need to catch a vision of just how much we really do have to share. Christ is real in our lives. We are growing in Him. He is changing us—making us more like Him. Out of this experience, we can tell others the simple truth of what God has done for us.

## ▷ OBJECTIVES FOR THIS WEEK

---

This week’s objectives for our study include the following:

- To understand the power of witnessing.
- To recognize that we are each called to the ministry of sharing Jesus with others.

- To commit ourselves to share where and when God provides opportunity.
- To prayerfully identify those God brings to us to learn about Jesus.

### ▷ HOLY HABIT—SPIRITUAL JOURNALING

---

Throughout the last four weeks of this study, we have had opportunity to reflect and write our thoughts about different passages as well as our own spiritual journey. In a sense, we have already begun to use elements of the spiritual discipline or *Holy Habit* of spiritual journaling. Now we want to understand this skill better in order to be more intentional in its use.

Spiritual journaling is the practice of maintaining a spiritual diary. Its purpose is to provide regular and systematic reflection on our walk with God, and a record of that walk and reflection. It helps us in two ways:

1. Journaling provides systematic reflection on God and our relationship with Him. Writing down what God has done for us and our thoughts about our journey with Him helps strengthen that journey.
2. Journaling also provides a review of how God has worked in our lives. Later, as we read our reflections, we are reminded of just how much God really is doing in our lives.

While there is no single way to journal, there are some hints which might be helpful in using a journal:

- Use a journal notebook or a computer file. For some, the act of physically writing our thoughts down on paper is helpful. For others, a computer is easier.
- Reflect on key points from our devotional time. This can include new insights from Scripture, impressions from God, or expressions of gratitude and praise to God. It can also include Bible passages which have been especially meaningful and why.
- Reflect on how God is working in your lives. We can make notes on different ways in which we see God at work, and how He is changing our lives.
- Write out some of our prayers or record answered prayers. This can be a special source of strength later on when we come back and review the journal.
- Record special experiences with God or events that have a meaningful impact on our spiritual journey.

Spiritual journaling is one of the powerful tools that helps shape our lives to be more like Jesus. We need to try this skill for several weeks and see how it works for us. It is not necessary to do it every day, but it is helpful if we do it two to four times a week.

▷ SUGGESTED PRAYER

---

Here is a suggested prayer as we begin this week of our **Steps to Discipleship** study process:

*Dear Loving Father, I come to you today recognizing the wonder of your love and grace. You are changing my life, and I praise you for it. As I experience your power in my life, I recognize I need to share it with others. Yet I am afraid. I don't know where to start. So be with me. Give me courage and lead me to someone with whom you want me to share your love. Help me be aware of those around me who are ready to hear about you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**LIST BELOW THREE THINGS YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR DISCIPLESHIP WALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK:**

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

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

The purpose of our study today is to help us understand that people around us are spiritually hungry. They want to know God and are searching. That search is real, though it may not always be in the right place. God is working to meet them—usually through someone who has already experienced His grace.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear God, Help me to know you better today. Teach me your grace once again. Help me to be sensitive to those around me who hunger for You. Teach me to share what you have given me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

This week we start memorizing memory verse #9. Once again, we will need to follow the process for memorization which we have used during the last four weeks.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NIV)—"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (KJV)—"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We also want to review two verses today. The first is verse #2 (Psalm 34:8) and the second is #8 from last week (2 Peter 1:3-4). Use the cards to help you.

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now it is time to go back to our Bibles and explore what God has to say about helping people know Him.

**READ THE STORY OF CORNELIUS IN ACTS 10.** Notice the key points that stand out in this story for you:

---

---

---



**CONTINUE TO REFLECT ON THE STORY OF CORNELIUS.** What points from this story point out that Cornelius was searching for something more in his spiritual journey?

---

---

---

---

---

What does this story tell us about what our attitude toward others can be?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ LUKE 10:1-12**—Who has the responsibility of providing more workers in the spiritual harvest field? What is our role according to this passage?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear Lord, Help me understand that there are people all around me who are hungering to know God. Help me be sensitive to their needs. Give me courage; give me the words to share at the right time. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective for today is to understand the power of a life transformed by Jesus. We also want to see how Jesus worked with people who were hungry to know God.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Almighty God, You have touched my life in marvelous ways. I am experiencing your love and grace. Help me know how to extend them to others. Help me see that the greatest witness I can be is my own life touched by God. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we will review two memory verses, #6 (Matthew 11:28-30) from our third week, and #9 (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) from yesterday. Take a few minutes and reflect on these passages. What do they tell us about what God has done for us?

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Once more we go to Scripture to study and reflect. Let's ask God to guide our hearts and minds as we explore His Word.

**READ THE STORY OF JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN IN JOHN 4:1-42.** We want to look at this story again. What are the key points you notice about how Jesus worked with this woman?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**CONTINUE TO REFLECT ON THE STORY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN.** What triggered her hunger to know more?

---

---

---

**NOTICE VERSES 28-30**—What do you think drove her to go back to her village and tell her story?

---

---

---

**NOTICE VERSE 42**—What do you think led the villagers to believe?

---

---

---

**READ LUKE 12:8-9**—Why is it important that we acknowledge who God is in our lives, and that we share that information with others?

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear Lord, Help me see people around me the way Jesus did. Help me to be sensitive to their need. Help me know how to share what Christ has done for me? In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective today is to understand the power of the invitation to "Come and see." Each person must have a first-hand experience with God.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear God of Love, Help me understand that you are already at work in the lives of people around me. Help me know when and how to share your love. Lead me to those who are hungering to know you and teach me to share what you have done for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Our verse to review today is #9 (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Let's review it with our memory verse card. Reflect on why we are given the ministry of sharing Jesus with those around us:

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Scripture once again will guide our study as to how to share our faith with those around us.

**READ THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER IN MARK 4:1-20.** What are the key points from this parable that help us know how to witness? What is the role of the sower who spreads the seed? How does this compare to our role?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ THE STORY IN JOHN 1:35-50.** Who did Andrew and Philip invite to know Jesus? What was the power of their invitations?

---

---

---

---

---

Why do you think they wanted to invite someone else to know Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ JOHN 12:20-26**—What were the roles and responsibilities of Philip and Andrew in this story? What does the metaphor of the kernel of wheat tell us about what must happen to us? How would this impact our ability to share Jesus with those around us?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Father in Heaven, Teach me to trust you to do your part. Help me to know that my role is to share what I have experienced. It is your responsibility to make the seed grow. My responsibility is simply to cast it out or share it with those around me. Help me know how. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Understanding our task in witnessing, or telling what Jesus has done for us, is our objective for today. It really is about God and not about us. The real focus is on preaching Jesus Christ as Lord.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*God of Wonder and Grace, I come to you today aware of how blessed I am. You have saved me and invited me to share in the ministry of helping others find you. Teach me to focus on Jesus. Help me make Him real in my life. Help me understand that because I know you, I can share you with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

Today we start memorizing verse #10. By now, we are familiar with our method of memorization and review. Let's remember that it is important to reflect or meditate on the passage throughout the day. Our goal is to move beyond simply memorizing the passage. We want to make it part of our lives.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)—“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . .”

1 Peter 3:15 (KJV)—“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear . . .”

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we review memory verses #3 (Ephesians 2:8-9) from our second week, and #7 (Ezekiel 36:26-27). Spend a few minutes thinking about how these passages have helped us during the last several weeks:

---



---



---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is time to let God speak to our hearts and minds as we open His Word. We especially want to focus on the task that God has given us to do.

**READ MATTHEW 4:18-22 AND 28:18-20**—What do these verses tell us about our task as disciples of Jesus Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ AND REFLECT ON 1 PETER 3:15-16**—What is “the reason for the hope” we have? Is it information or what?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15**—What does this passage tell us about our task? What key points from these verses can help us as we work with others?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear Lord, Help me today to accept the task you have given me. Help me realize it is really more about you than about me. Teach me that the real power for witnessing is the story of Jesus and what He has done for me. Lead me to the person with whom you want me to share. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective for today is to go deeper in understanding the ministry that God has given to us. We want to see that this ministry is at the core of our identity as Christians.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Loving Father, Help me to experience the fullness of your love today. Help me know just how much you have given to me in Jesus Christ. Lead me to accept the privilege of ministry in your name and in partnership with you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Our verses for review today are #9 (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) and #10 (1 Peter 3:15). Spend a few minutes reflecting on what God has given us that is the foundation of what we have to share:

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is now time to open our Bibles and spend time in study and reflection on the real meaning of the ministry God has given us.

**READ ACTS 5:40-42**—What gave the apostles the strength to witness in the face of opposition and even abuse? What was the essence of their ministry?

---

---

---

---

---

---



**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21**—This passage is the clearest presentation of our identity and role as Christians when it comes to ministry. What key points from this passage speak to you?

---

---

---

---

---

Where does reconciliation begin? What do the phrases “ministry of reconciliation” and “message of reconciliation” mean to you?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2**—What does this passage tell us about sharing what we have received, and how far will that sharing go?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Loving God, You have reconciled me and brought me to your love. Help me have the courage to share that love with others. Teach me that I can share what I have experienced—that because I know you, I can help someone else know you too. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective for today is to explore the simplicity of and power for sharing. We want to realize that it is not about sharing information, but instead, it is about sharing what Christ has done for us.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Lord of Love, Help me remember just how much you have done for me. Teach me that because I know and love you, I can share you with someone around me today. Let your Word speak to my heart today. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Our memory verse for review today is #10 (1 Peter 3:15). Spend a few minutes reflecting on how you can “set Jesus apart as Lord” in your life today:

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is now time to go back to the Bible and explore the power and essence of witnessing.

**READ MARK 5:1-20**—Put yourself in the place of this man. How would you describe his experience in your own words? What did Jesus ask him to share with others? What gave his message power?

---

---

---

---

**READ THE STORY IN ACTS 8:26-40**—What lessons can we learn from this story? How far is God willing to go to help someone know Him? How far is God willing to go to help us minister for Him?

---

---

---

---

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23—What principles for witnessing can we gain from this passage?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

How can you relate to those around you so that you build a relationship where you can share what Jesus has done for you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ COMMITMENT PRAYER

*Dear Father in Heaven, Help me remember how much you have done for me. Help me know who around me needs to hear what you have done for me. Help me live in your presence today and give me the courage to share. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Our subject for this week has been the ministry of reconciliation—discovering that God calls us to share with others what we have experienced in our walk with Him. This is the natural result of what we have studied during the first four weeks. Our relationship with God is what gives us power to witness. Spend the next few minutes reflecting on what this week’s study can mean to our spiritual lives.

How has your daily time with God affected your life this week? What difference is it making in the way you live?

---

---

---

Where have you experienced challenges to your discipleship during this past week?

---

---

---

How is what God has done for you starting to impact your life?

---

---

---

Who has God placed in your life with whom you can share what Jesus has done for you?

---

---

---

How would you like to see God work in your life during the next week?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ INTRODUCTION

---

What does it mean to be part of the church—the Body of Christ? This is our focus for this week. Paul makes a very direct statement: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27). We want to understand more of what this means. How does it affect how we relate with each other within the church? How does it shape the way we think and act?

The concept of a corporate body who are God’s people first appears in the story of Israel in Egypt (Exodus 3:7). Throughout the story of Abraham, God promised that He would make them a great nation. Then He called them out of Egypt and delivered them miraculously and led them into the Promised Land. God claimed them as His people, fulfilling His promise to Abraham. It is important to note that their identity as God’s people was based on divine action and calling, not on their performance. God’s gracious act made them His people.

Paul presented an extended comparison between Christian believers and Israel in Romans 9-11. He stated very clearly, “It is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring” (Romans 9:8, NIV). Scripture makes a transition from being God’s people in the Old Testament to being the Church in the New Testament. The focus is directly on the spiritual connection rather than biological descent. The church becomes the “Body of Christ” through His divine act. It carries His name because of His calling rather than human choice.

Paul then made a transition to the implications for how we live. Because we are the “Body of Christ,” our behavior will be transformed by our new identity. Who we are in Christ has a direct impact on our choices and actions. In fact, throughout all His writings, this becomes the motivating point for the daily Christian life. Our identity as part of “the Body” and our connection to Christ as the head of that “Body” transform our performance.

Throughout this week, we will explore how our new identity in Christ changes the way we look at and deal with each other as Christians. Jesus stated, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35, NIV). We will treat each other differently because we are connected in Christ. We have a new identity as part of the “Body of Christ”—the Church.

This broad concept has serious implications for how we should think and behave. Our current culture emphasizes the “rights” of the individual. The biblical model of the church emphasizes the privilege and responsibility of being part of a greater entity—the Church. In a very real sense, when we become one with Christ, our identity changes. We are now part of His Body. We can no longer think of ourselves in isolation. Our perspective must change. We are a “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Part of that new creation is our connection to each other as part of the Body.

### ▷ OBJECTIVES FOR THIS WEEK

---

Our purpose for this week is to better understand what it means to be part of God's Church. Therefore we want to:

- Explore the meaning of the Church as the Body of Christ.
- Discover our new identity as members of the Body of Christ.
- Identify biblical ways of functioning as the Church.

### ▷ HOLY HABIT—MEDITATION

---

The *Holy Habit* we want to highlight today is meditation. This is a common term in our world today. It can mean several different things. For our study we want to focus on biblical meditation. In this context it means focusing our minds and hearts on God by quieting our minds and using our imagination to focus on God and His Word. It is not emptying our minds or focusing on some universal “nothingness.” Instead it is filling our minds with God and His Word.

**NARRATIVE MEDITATION** is the practice of purposefully controlling your imagination and focusing on a specific story from a consistent perspective in an attempt to experience as much of what happened in that story as possible.

The following points are helpful in narrative meditation:

- It is crucial that we control and guide the imagination. We never want to surrender our will or thought process to the imagination.
- Focus on a biblical story from the perspective of an observer or one of the story characters. Choose one of the characters and try to put yourself in that person's place.
- Using the imagination to envision what the Bible character experienced.

**WHAT IS IMPORTANT** is that we get in touch with the story and it becomes real to us.

**WHAT IS NOT IMPORTANT** is that we see or experience everything in a story in the same way as someone else.

**NOTE:** Your experience will be unique to you because of your own background and personality.

The imagination is the primary tool in meditation. It is the most creative part of our minds. God gave us this tool to allow us to go beyond the limits of the routine of everyday life. However, the imagination needs to be informed and controlled.

Here are some key points to help us in guiding our imaginations:

1. Use your will to focus your thoughts.
2. Let past experience and knowledge inform your imagination.
3. Let Scripture control or provide the boundaries for your imagination.

Here are some helpful steps to guide us in meditation:

1. Start with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide.
2. Read the story in the Bible and any background material you have.
3. Imagine you were present.
4. Try to see, hear, and feel the details.
5. Be true to the biblical facts.
6. Give yourself adequate time.
7. When finished with the meditation, pause to reflect on what you have experienced.
  - a. What new insights did you gain?
  - b. What feelings did you experience?
  - c. What new insights about God did you gain?
  - d. What can you apply to your life?

▷ **SUGGESTED PRAYER**

---

Here is the suggested prayer to help us begin this week's **Steps to Discipleship** study process:

*Dear Father in Heaven, I come to you recognizing my constant need for your presence in my life. I thank you for the many blessings you have given me. I especially thank you for the opportunity to be part of a spiritual family. Please help me understand what it means to be the Church as the Body of Christ. Help me learn to function as part of this Body. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**LIST BELOW WHAT YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR DISCIPLESHIP WALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ TODAY’S OBJECTIVE

---

Scripture uses several terms to describe the Church. The most common is the metaphor of the “Body of Christ.” We begin this week by studying what it means to be the Church.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Lord, Help me in my walk with you today. Open my mind that I might understand what it means to be part of your Church. Give me a vision of what you want us to become. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

Today we start learning memory verse #11. We will continue to follow the process we have been using for the last five weeks.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV)—“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”

1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)—“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We also want to review two verses today. The first is #4 (1 John 5:13) from week 2. The second is #10 from last week (1 Peter 3:15).

Choose one of the review verses and spend a few minutes in quiet reflection. What impressions come to your mind as you prayerfully think about this passage?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is time to open God's Word and reflect on what He has to say about His Church.

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9, 16-17**—What does it mean for you, as part of the church, to be God's temple? How can this make a difference in the way you will live today?

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 5:23-27**— Compare this passage with Ephesians 4:11-16. What do these passages tell you about God's goal for His Church?

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27**—Especially notice verse 27. What points can we learn from these verses about how to live as God's Church?

---

---

---

---

▷ COMMITMENT PRAYER

---

*Loving God, Help me understand what it means to be part of the "Body of Christ." Help me learn to function as part of this "Body." Help me to walk with you throughout this day. Make my life a reflection of your love and presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Understanding how we are connected to Christ as the Head of His Church and how the Church is built on Christ are the objectives of our study for today.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Heavenly Father, I open my heart to you today. I seek to know you better. I want to understand more of what it means to be part of your Church. Help me to see Jesus as the foundation of this Church. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We have two verses to review today, #8 (2 Peter 1:3-4) and our verse from yesterday #11 (1 Corinthians 3:16). Take a few minutes to review these two passages. Then reflect on them and make notes of how they can make a difference for your life today.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

We will now turn to the Bible to explore Christ's role in the Church. We especially want to understand the implications for how we function as a church.

**READ MATTHEW 16:13-19**—Why is Jesus' identity so important in this story? How is the confession that Jesus is the Christ the foundation for His Church?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What are the implications of the authority Jesus gives to His church in verse 19?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 1:17-23**—What does this passage tell us Paul wants for believers?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What does this passage tell us about Jesus and His relationship to the Church?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Almighty God and Father in Heaven, You have given us your Church. In fact, we are your Church. Thank you for the privilege of being part of the spiritual body of Christ. Help us live out the reality of our new identity in Christ. Help us submit to Jesus as Head of the Church. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today's objective is to understand how being part of God's Church connects us to each other. We want to begin to explore the implications for how we are to live as the Church.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Loving Father, Help me be open to your presence today. Help me realize how much you want to be involved in my life. Thank you for your Church. Help me to know how to live as part of the "Body of Christ." In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we want to review memory verse #5 (Proverbs 3:5-6) from week 3 and verse #11 (1 Corinthians 3:16) from this week. Pause and reflect on how the truths in these verses can make a difference in your life today.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Once again, it is time to open God's Word for study and reflection. Let's seek to make this study an ongoing dialogue with God in prayer as we study and reflect on the following passages.

**READ ACTS 2:41-47**—What points from this passage speak to your heart today? What can you apply to your personal thinking about how we can function as a church?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 2:11-22**—Focus especially on verses 19-22. What do these verses tell us about our relationships within the church?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 4:11-16**—What does this passage tell us about God’s vision for His Church? What implications does it have for us today?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ HEBREWS 10:24-25**—How can the points in these verses help guide us in our participation in church life?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear Lord and God, You have made me part of your Church. This can only be true as I stay connected to Christ, the Head of the Church. Help me walk with you throughout this day. Help me keep my mind focused on you throughout this day. Teach me to love others just as you love me. In Jesus’ name. Amen*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our focus for today is on pointers from Scripture that will help us function together as God's Church. We want to understand important principles for daily life in the Church.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*God of Love, Take my life today and make it a place where you dwell. Transform my day with your presence and power. Teach me from your Word what it means to be part of your Church. Help me to contribute to your Church and not just take. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

Today we begin learning memory verse #12. We will continue using the process we have for the last 5 weeks. Once again, write it out on a card you can take with you throughout the day.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)—“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:1-2 (KJV)—“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We also want to review memory verse #9 (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) from week 5. Spend a few minutes reflecting on the foundational points from this passage. What more does this tell you about your relationship with God, as well as His Church?

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Once more it is time to go to Scripture for our daily study and reflection. Ask God to give you insights as to how we can function as His Church.

**READ ROMANS 12:1-3 AND 9-18**—What key points do these verses teach us about relationships within the Church?

---

---

---

---

**READ MATTHEW 5:23-24 AND 18:15-18**—What do these passages teach us about dealing with problems within the Church? What would happen if we put these principles to work?

---

---

---

---

**READ GALATIANS 6:1-2**—What can we learn from this passage about dealing with people who are struggling?

---

---

---

---

Who do you know that is struggling spiritually? List them here and include them in your prayers. Think of ways in which you can walk beside them in love.

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Almighty God, Teach me today to reach out to the weak. Walk beside me and help me love those around me. Transform my day and life with your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective for today is to look at Jesus' specific counsel about serving one another. We want to become more like Jesus in the way we relate to others in God's Church.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Lord, This is your Church. Help me to understand more of what it means to be a part of this Church. Guide my study today. Teach me to love and serve as Jesus' did. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We are reviewing the two verses from this week, #11 (1 Corinthians 3:16) and verse #12 (Galatians 6:1-2). Spend a few minutes reflecting on additional points you have learned from these passages.

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

We want to open our minds to God's Word as we go deeper in our study and reflection for today.

**READ JOHN 13:1-17**—What does this story teach you about your role in the Church? How can Jesus' model shape your life and ministry?

---

---

---

---

---

---



**READ MARK 10:35-44**—Use your imagination to place yourself in this story. In what ways can you identify with James and John here?

---

---

---

---

---

What insights from verses 42-44 are especially meaningful to you, and why?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ LUKE 9:46-48**—How would you define true greatness within the family of God in light of this passage?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*God and Father of all, Transform my day with your presence. Teach me that true greatness comes in following Jesus in a life of service. Help me change the way I see others. Open my life and love others through me today. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

As members of God's Church, we are part of a larger body. We cannot live in isolation from those around us. Today's study takes us deeper in understanding our responsibility in working with others.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Almighty God, Teach me to live as Jesus lived. Help me to understand who I am as part of your Church. Help me learn what it means to submit. I know it will not be easy. So I ask for your help and divine strength. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we review memory verse #12 (Galatians 6:1-2). Spend a few minutes reflecting on how the points from this passage can become more a part of your life.

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is now time to open your Bible and explore a deeper dimension of your relationship with God and His Church. Ask God for special wisdom as you study the subject of today.

**READ 1 PETER 2:4-5 AND 9-10**—What do these verses teach you about who you are in Christ? What is your role in this process? What is God's role?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 5:15-21**—What do you think God wants you to learn from these verses?

---

---

---

---

**READ ROMANS 14:1, 7-8**—What can you learn from these verses? How could this change the way you relate with others in the Church?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ ROMANS 14:13-15, 19**—What are the implications of these verses for your life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Loving Lord, Help me to understand my responsibility in working with others. Help me submit my desires and preferences to the needs of others and to you as Lord. Walk with me through this day. Teach me with your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

This week's study has taken us into an area with which we are not very familiar. Our society focuses on our roles and rights as individuals. The biblical concept of the Church confronts us with a new identity—that we are part of the Body of Christ. Our relationship with God changes our relationships with the rest of His family. Spend the next few minutes reflecting on what this week's study can mean to our journey together.

How has your daily time with God affected your life this week? What difference is it making in the way you live?

---

---

---

---

Where have you experienced challenges to your discipleship during this past week?

---

---

---

---

How is what God has done for you starting to impact your life?

---

---

---

---

Who has God placed in your life as part of the church with whom you might have some difficulty? How can what Jesus has done for you change the way you think of them?

---

---

---

---

How would you like to see God work in your life during the next week?

---

---

---

---

▷ INTRODUCTION

---

We have spent the last six weeks seeking a closer walk with God. This week we will discover that when we walk with God we are immediately called to and equipped for ministry. Christian discipleship has both a vertical and horizontal focus. It never has a self-centered focus.

The inward focus of our relationship with God is really a vertical focus. We look to God to discover who we are. We seek to grow in our relationship with Him as well as our information about Him. A natural extension of that growth leads to an outward focus—our calling to ministry. This calling is part of our discipleship. Our continued growth with God is dependent upon our involvement in the ministry to which He calls us.

As we focus on those around us, we do so in the context of what is happening in our encounter with God. We discover opportunities to minister. We sense the urge to be involved in ministry. At the same time, it can be frightening. We wonder if we can do anything of value. We are afraid we are not able, or we think others are more talented.

Scripture describes the Christian as a functioning part of the “Body of Christ.” Within God’s Church the term “inactive Christian” is a contradiction—an oxymoron. The biblical truth is simple. God calls us to ministry. He equips us for ministry. And He empowers us for ministry. You and I are important parts of His Body.

Every member is a minister. Every member is a priest. We have direct access to God. We don’t have to go through another human being to find forgiveness and experience God’s grace. But that is not all that is involved in being a priest or minister. Priests never exist to serve themselves. They exist to minister to others.

Out of our personal walk with God, we are equipped to minister to others around us. The only questions are where and how? God even answers these questions. He places us just where He wants us so that we can be part of His process of building up His Church. He gives us spiritual gifts with which to minister. He then invites us to be involved in ministry. It is our responsibility to discover our gifts and put them to work.

Our gifts will be different. Each of us has a different role to play. But each of us is equally important and needed. Every part of the body has a unique function to fulfill. God has designed His Church with us in mind. Best of all, He empowers our gifts and ministry with His presence. His promise to be with us came in the context of His commission to “Go . . . and make disciples.”

---

▷ OBJECTIVES FOR THIS WEEK

---

Our objectives for this week are:

- To understand that every member is a minister.
- To understand the concept of spiritual gifts.
- To accept our calling to ministry.
- To begin exploring our calling to ministry and identifying our spiritual gifts for ministry.

---

▷ HOLY HABIT—SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

---

Throughout the last seven weeks we have been exploring different *Holy Habits* or spiritual disciplines. These spiritual skills help open our lives to God's presence. They become habits which give God room to transform us.

We began memorizing biblical verses with our very first week of this study. Now we want to explore the importance of this *Holy Habit* and a way of making it more effective.

Scripture memorization is one of the most powerful tools for shaping the mind. The Psalmist stated: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11, NIV). God's Word is powerful. It can change our lives. Memorizing Scripture is one of the key tools for putting that power to work.

Regularly memorizing biblical passages has a number of benefits for our spiritual journey. These include:

- Saturating the mind with God's Word.
- Providing more contact points for the Holy Spirit to work in our minds.
- Building new thought patterns in the brain. As we memorize Scripture, new thought patterns develop and grow.
- Connecting us with God. Memorized Scripture provides us with a solid foundation for our relationship with God.

Because of how the mind works, it is helpful to have a memorization system. The following pointers are part of a systematic way of memorizing Scripture:

- Choose a Bible version to use as your regular version for memorization in order to re-enforce the memory and avoid confusion. It is better if you stay with the same version for all your memorization.
- Select the passage you wish to memorize. Choose a verse that has a special meaning to you or that has helped you in your relationship with God.
- Write out the passage on a card and carry it with you. Repeat the passage several times throughout the day to memorize it.
- Seek to be word perfect each time you repeat the passage. This will help you in transferring the passage to your long-term memory.
- Meditate on the passage as a way to internalize it. This will help make memorizing easier, and it will help make it more meaningful to your daily life.
- Review the passage the next day, then two days later, a week after that, and finally two weeks later. This review process will transfer the passage to your long-term memory.
- Use the passage in your ministry. This re-enforces the memory process and makes the Bible passage useful in helping others.

Memorizing is more difficult for some of us than for others. However, as we persist, we will discover that with practice it will become easier. The results in transformed lives are well worth the effort. Our lives will be changed, and God will use us to help change others.

▷ SUGGESTED PRAYER

Here is a suggested prayer to help us start this week:

*Dear Loving Father, You have touched my life in special ways during the last six weeks. I continue seeking an even closer walk with you. Help me know you more. I open my heart to you. Help me understand more of what you have for me. Use me to touch someone else around me with your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**LIST BELOW WHAT YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THIS WEEK. CLAIM GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER TO HELP MAKE THIS HAPPEN.**

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our objective for today's study is to discover who we are within the "Body of Christ." We have an exciting new identity. We have a dynamic new role as vital parts of God's Church.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Lord, Help me with your presence throughout this day. Help me understand that you have a purpose for my life. Help me recognize who I am because of you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

Our memory verse for today is #13. We will again use the process we have used throughout the last six weeks.

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)—"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)—"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We continue our memory verse review process today with verse #6 (Matthew 11:28-30) and verse #12 (Galatians 6:1-2). Spend a few minutes reflecting on Matthew 11:28-30. How does being yoked with Christ shape your life today?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Once again it is time to go back to the Bible and explore what God has to say about us in our journey with Him.



**READ LUKE 10:1-17**—Reflect on this story of Jesus sending His disciples out to do ministry. Imagine that you were one of those disciples. What do you think your experience would have been? How would you have felt when you returned to Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 PETER 2:4-10**—Compare this passage with Exodus 19:6. What does it mean for us to be a “holy priesthood” or a “royal priesthood?” How can we as priests declare God’s praises?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20**—What does it mean to be God’s ambassador?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear God, Help me to recognize who I am in Christ. Help me to live this day to your honor and praise. Help me to understand that you have called me to active ministry just as truly as you did your other disciples long ago. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

We are called to ministry. Today we want to study Jesus' call to His first disciples to discover insights that will help us in our own ministries.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Loving Father, I come to you today to open my life to you. Teach me what it means to walk with you. Help me hear your call to ministry. Help me discover where you want me to minister today. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Our review of memory verses for today focus on verse #10 (1 Peter 3:15) and verse #13 from yesterday (1 Peter 2:9). Once again reflect on these passages. What insights do they give you as to your identity in Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Now it is time to turn to Scripture in order to understand our calling to ministry. Pray that God will give you a vision of what you can do in His name.

**READ MARK 3:13-15**—According to this passage, what reasons does this passage tell us Jesus had in appointing twelve disciples?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What does this passage in Mark 3:13-15 tell us about the importance of ministry as part of discipleship?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ LUKE 4:16-21**—What can we learn for our ministry from the focus of Jesus’ ministry?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ JOHN 14:1-14**—What does this passage tell us about ministry and its source? In what ways might we be able to “do even greater things” than Jesus did during His ministry?

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear Lord and Father, Help me to understand that I am called to ministry. Help me see someone around me today to whom I can minister in your name. Walk with me through this day and transform it with your presence. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our purpose today is to explore the fact that we are each gifted for ministry. God gives us spiritual gifts to be used in building up the “Body of Christ.”

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear God, Open my mind and heart today to hear your Word. Help me believe and understand that you have gifted me for ministry. Open my eyes that I might know how to serve you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we review memory verse #9 (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Spend a few minutes reviewing and reflecting on this passage. What can we learn about ministry from this text?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Scripture provides us room to grow with God. Let's open the Bible and explore our giftedness for ministry.

**READ ROMANS 12:1-8**—What do these verses tell us about ministry and how God equips us for ministry?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11**—What do these verses tell us about the purpose of our spiritual gifts and who determines what gifts we have?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-26**—What are the implications of this passage for our ministries?

---

---

---

---

---

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27-31**—Reflect on these verses and use them as a starting point for summarizing what you have learned today about your giftedness for ministry?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Dear Lord, You have gifted me for ministry. Yet I don't always know what my gifts are or how to use them. Give me wisdom to understand. Grant me strength to serve. Walk with me through this day and transform it with your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our purpose today is to better understand the spiritual gifts God gives to His Church. We want to explore the purpose of leadership gifts within the Body of Christ.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Loving God, You have called me to follow you as your disciple. Use this time to shape my heart. Draw me closer to you. Help me serve you during this day. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE

---

We have now come to memory verse #14 (Colossians 3:17). We will continue to use our memory and review process as we have during the last six weeks.

Colossians 3:17 (NIV)—“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17 (KJV)—“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

We also want to continue our review process with verse #7 (Ezekiel 36:26-27) and #13 from Monday (1 Peter 2:9).

Spend a few minutes reflecting on today's verse. How can this shape your life and ministry today?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

Once more it is time to open our Bibles. We want to study what the Scripture tells us about the role of leadership gifts within the “Body of Christ.”

**READ ACTS 6:1-7**—What does this story tell us about the need for different ministries and their function within the Church?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 4:7-16**—What do these verses tell us about the role of the pastor?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What is the purpose of the service given by God's people in using their gifts? What will be the results?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Almighty God, It is amazing to think that you want to use me in your Church. I am excited to think about the gifts you have given me for ministry. Help me identify and use them. Walk with me through this day. Help me be open to your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Today we want to identify the purpose for all of our ministries. They really come back to one ultimate focus—making disciples—people who are passionately in love with Jesus Christ.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear God, Help me to know your love more today. Help me to love you more today. Teach me to love others around me. Open my heart that I might know Jesus today in a deeper way than ever before. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Our memory verses for review today are verse #11 (1 Corinthians 3:16), and verse #14 (Colossians 3:17). Once again, spend a few minutes reflecting on these two passages. How can these concepts change your walk with God?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

It is time to open God's Word once again. We want to study and reflect on God's purpose for ministry.

**READ MATTHEW 24:1-14**—What do these verses tell us about the time in which we live? What does the last verse tell us?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**READ MATTHEW 28:16-20**—How important do you think Jesus' final words to His disciples are and why?

---

---

---

---

---

**NOTICE VERSES 18 AND 20.** What do these two verses tell us about the context of the gospel commission?

---

---

---

---

---

What do verses 18-20 tell us is the purpose of our call to ministry? What implications does this have for you?

---

---

---

---

---

▷ **COMMITMENT PRAYER**

*Loving Lord, Help me remember that you have shared your presence with me for the purpose of helping others know and walk with you. Thank you for the privilege of ministry and for the promise of your power. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

---

Our purpose today is to summarize our study of discipleship and ministry. We want to reflect on how God has fulfilled His promise that if we would seek Him, we would find Him.

▷ INVITATION PRAYER

---

*Dear Loving Father, The last seven weeks have been an exciting journey with you. Help me to realize that this is only a beginning. Help me to see that you want me to know you even better. Open my eyes today to the wonder of your love and what you want to do in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

▷ MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

---

Today we want to review memory verses #12 (Galatians 6:1-2) and #14 (Colossians 3:17). Once again, spend a few minutes reflecting on these two verses. How do they help you in your relationship with God and in your ministry?

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ BIBLE READING AND REFLECTION

---

We want to continue our daily habit of turning to God's Word for study and reflection:

**READ MATTHEW 12:15-21**—What do these verses tell us about Jesus and His ministry? What can we learn from this passage to help us in our own ministries?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READ EPHESIANS 3:14-21**—What can we learn from these verses about the foundation for any ministry?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What is the result of fully knowing the love of God? (See verse 19.)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What is God able to do for and through us? Who should get the glory?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

▷ COMMITMENT PRAYER

*Almighty God, We have come to the end of the **Steps to Discipleship** plan. Help me to know that this is not the end, but only the beginning. Help me to continue my daily time with you and your Word. Take my life. Help me walk with you as your disciple. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

This week's study has taken us into the topic of our call to ministry and the gifts which God gives us for that ministry. Each one of us is gifted and called to ministry. Each one of us is a vital part of God's Church. Spend the next few minutes reflecting on what this week's study can mean to our journey together.

How has your daily time with God affected you and your life over the last seven weeks? What difference is it making in the way you live?

---

---

---

---

Where have you experienced challenges in your discipleship walk during the past seven weeks?

---

---

---

---

How is "what God has done for you" starting to impact your life?

---

---

---

---

What gifts do you think God has given to you for ministry? What are some of the areas of special interest or concern that might be areas of potential ministry?

---

---

---

---

How would you like to see God work in your life during the next few weeks?

---

---

---

## ▷ INTRODUCTION

---

We have come to the end of our **Steps to Discipleship** plan. And yet, this is not the end. Instead, it is really only the beginning of a lifestyle. Seven weeks ago we accepted the challenge to dedicate 30-45 minutes a day in searching for a closer walk with God. He heard our prayers. Our time with Him has enriched our daily lives. Isn't it time to follow this with a serious commitment to a discipleship lifestyle of daily living with Jesus? If this seven week plan has made a difference in your life, why not make it a lifestyle?

There are four practical steps that will help you transition from a seven week process to a discipleship lifestyle in strengthening your relationship with Christ.

## ▷ REAFFIRM RELATIONSHIP

---

The **first** important step in this transition is to daily reaffirm your relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Three key factors will strengthen this reaffirmation:

- Daily choose to believe that Jesus is your Savior and that you have eternal life in Him.
- Daily choose to accept Jesus as Lord of your life, inviting Him to guide and control each area of your life.
- Daily choose to accept the reality of Jesus Christ dwelling in you by faith.

These three above choices were the focus of weeks 2-4 in our **Steps to Discipleship** process. It might be good to go back over the material in the participant's manual for those three weeks as a way to review and strengthen those choices.

## ▷ DAILY TIME WITH GOD

---

The **second** step in strengthening the transition to a discipleship lifestyle with Jesus is to continue the daily time with God in prayer and Bible study. This time with God is the primary source of your spiritual strength.

During the last seven weeks, you have developed the habit of daily time with God. This habit needs to be maintained and reinforced. If you do not set aside that daily time with God and build it into your schedule, you will lose the habit. Here are some practical suggestions for continuing this daily devotional time:

- Stick to your daily time with God. By now you have found that it is possible to have 30-45 minutes with God each day as part of your regular routine. Keep it up!
- Set personal goals for what you would like to accomplish or receive as a result of your daily devotional time. These can be as general or as detailed as you want to make them. Having a clear goal helps to reinforce the importance and value of your daily time with God. These goals can include knowledge, relationships, and areas of daily living.

- Go back through the *Steps to Discipleship* material. Several individuals have commented that they were unable to go as deeply into each subject as they wanted to. Going back through the same material again will help deepen your understanding of these subjects. You also do not need to try to cover everything in seven weeks. What is important is having the daily time with God in prayer and in His Word. It is OK if you need to spend more than one day on a daily section.
- Develop a plan for your daily time with God. Without a plan, that time can deteriorate and lose its focus. (You will find a suggested process for developing your daily devotional plan on pages 118-121 of this material.)
- Make an appointment to meet with God each day. If it is helpful, even write the time with God into your daily schedule or calendar.

Remember, the power of this process is in God and His Word. Our time with Him will reward us with the rich dividends of continuing transformation into His likeness.

### ▷ SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

---

The **third** practical step in helping transition to a discipleship lifestyle is to start sharing what you are receiving from God. Ask God to give you the courage to share. Then let it happen naturally. Here are some practical pointers:

- Write out a short testimony of what God is doing in your life. You may want to start with how the last seven weeks are making a difference in your relationship with Him. (See the suggested process for this personal testimony on pages 122-123 in this material.)
- Ask God to lead you to people around you who need to hear about Him. Give Him permission to bring them into your life. Remember, He is the One who will give you wisdom as to what to share and how to do it.
- Identify specific people around you who do not know God or who might need to grow in their relationships with Him. Make a list of these individuals and begin praying specifically for them. Give God permission to bring them to you.
- Share what God is doing for you. Remember, it is not your job to convert someone else. The Holy Spirit will do that in His time and place. But He wants to use you to lift up Jesus and make Him real. The best way to do that is through telling your personal story.

Sharing what God is doing in your life is a natural part of your spiritual growth process. I know it is scary. Trust God to help it happen in your life.

### ▷ PUT IT TO WORK

---

The **fourth** practical step in making the transition from a seven week process to a discipleship lifestyle is to get to work. Identify your spiritual gifts. Find your ministry. Put it to work in your life. Here are some ideas which might be helpful:

- Accept the fact that God has called you to ministry. This ministry is part of your reason for being where you are. Believe in your calling.
- Identify your spiritual gifts. Look for natural talents that coincide with your sense of God’s convictions and specific concerns He has placed on your mind. Talk this over with close friends around you. What potential do others see in you? Check with your pastor and take a Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Most important of all, make this an issue of prayer and listen to God. He will make your gifts clear. He never calls to ministry without equipping us for that ministry.
- Look for opportunities of ministry in your church and community. How can you serve God with the gifts and calling He has given you?
- Start using your spiritual gifts. Put them to work. Use them to God’s glory.

▷ DEVELOPING A PLAN

---

Having a personal plan for your devotional life is a powerful tool for bringing meaning into that devotional life. A plan simply serves as a map to guide you in your progress and growth. This personal plan needs to have the following elements:

- Clear goals or purpose. If you don’t know where you are going you will never get there.
- Specific time and place. Having the same time and place for your meeting with God helps make it easier to maintain a regular devotional life.
- Regular tools. Start with the *Holy Habits* which are easiest for you. Then expand to new skills and tools.

▷ DEVELOPING A PLAN

---

Here is a suggested worksheet to help you develop your devotional plan. Work through the questions and sections below to help you develop your plan.

**WRITE YOUR GOALS OR OBJECTIVES FOR YOUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE:**

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

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

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK 8

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Write down the best place and time for your daily time with God:

Place —

Daily Time —

List the *Holy Habits* or spiritual disciplines that are easiest and most meaningful to you:  
(During the last seven weeks we have explored the following *Holy Habits*: Relational Bible Reading, Prayer, Holy Release, Practicing the Presence, Journaling, Meditation, Scripture Memorization.)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Which *Holy Habits* would you like to integrate into you time with God during the next month?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What are your favorite sections of Scripture?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## WEEK 8

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

What new areas of Scripture would you like to explore? (If you are just starting your devotional life, begin with the Gospels in the New Testament and the Psalms in the Old Testament.)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What areas of your life need to grow in your discipleship walk with God?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What key Bible verses would you like memorize?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

USE THIS WORKSHEET TO HELP YOU PLAN OUT YOUR TIME WITH GOD FOR THE WEEK.

What would you like to accomplish in your devotional time during this next week?

---

---

---

---

---

What key passages or stories would you like to focus on during your time with God for this next week?

---

---

---

---

---

What *Holy Habits* do you want to use throughout this next week?

---

---

---

---

---

What areas of your life do you want to open to God's presence in a new way during this next week?

---

---

---

---

---

USE THIS WORKSHEET TO HELP YOU WORK THROUGH YOUR TIME WITH GOD FOR THE DAY.

Who or what are you praying for today?

---

---

---

What key biblical passage did you focus on during today's time with God?

---

---

---

How can the points in this passage apply to your life today?

---

---

---

What specific verse from today's study stands out in your mind as a verse to memorize? Write the verse out on a card and follow the process we have used in the **Steps to Discipleship** plan. Or what verse are you reviewing today?

---

---

---

Write down the days you will review this passage. Write these dates on the back of the memory verse card and use them to schedule your review process.

Next day review:

Review two days later:

Review one week later:

Review two weeks later:

What specific prayer do you have for your discipleship walk with God today?

---

---

---

## PREPARING TO SHARE

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

As we now know, sharing is a vital part of our discipleship walk. This form is designed to help you prepare for and plan your sharing.

**PREPARING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY**—Use the following questions to write out your personal testimony. Be as brief, simple, and concise as possible.

What was your life like before you met Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---

How did you come to know Jesus as your personal Savior?

---

---

---

---

---

How is your life changing as you walk with God?

---

---

---

---

---

What are you doing differently that helps you in your walk with God?

---

---

---

---

---

## PREPARING TO SHARE

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Who has God placed around you that does not know God or is hungering for a deeper walk with God?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When do you plan to start praying for each of these individuals?

\_\_\_\_\_

*Pray, asking God to give you courage to share and to open the door for you to share.*

*STEPS TO DISCIPLESHIP* BENEDICTION

MAY THE GOD OF LOVE WALK BESIDE YOU TODAY.

MAY JESUS, LORD OF LIFE, DWELL IN YOUR HEART TODAY.

MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKE YOUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD REAL TODAY.

MAY GOD'S LOVE TRANSFORM YOUR RELATIONSHIPS TODAY.

MAY YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS GROW TODAY.

MAY YOUR LIFE GROW WITH GOD TODAY.

**MEMORY VERSE #1**

---

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)—“The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: ìI have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”

Jeremiah 31:3 (KJV)—“The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, ìYea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

**MEMORY VERSE #2**

---

Psalms 34:8 (NIV)—“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.”

Psalms 34:8 (KJV)—“O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

**MEMORY VERSE #3**

---

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)—“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.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)—“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

**MEMORY VERSE #4**

---

1 John 5:13 (NIV)—“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

1 John 5:13 (KJV)—“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life ...”

**MEMORY VERSE #5**

---

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)—“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.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)—“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

**MEMORY VERSE #6**

---

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)—“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)—“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**MEMORY VERSE #7**

---

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NIV)—“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (KJV)—“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”

**MEMORY VERSE #8**

---

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)—“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

2 Peter 1:3-4 (KJV)—“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

**MEMORY VERSE #9**

---

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NIV)—“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (KJV)—“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”



**MEMORY VERSE #10**

---

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)—“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . .”

1 Peter 3:15 (KJV)—“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear . . .”

**MEMORY VERSE #11**

---

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV)—“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”

1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)—“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

**MEMORY VERSE #12**

---

Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)—“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:1-2 (KJV)—“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

**MEMORY VERSE #13**

---

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)—“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)—“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

**MEMORY VERSE #14**

---

Colossians 3:17 (NIV)—“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17 (KJV)—“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”