

Lifewell Church Basic Training

Lesson 1- I Must Believe.

Believe.

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it" (Ephesians 2:8-9, NLT).

According to John 6:28-29 (New Living Translation printed below), what do you need to do to perform good works for God?

"They replied, 'We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?' Jesus told them, 'This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent'" (John 6:28-29, NLT).

Answer here

According to Romans 10:9-10 (below), believing in Jesus involves us doing two things, one internal and one external.

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved" (Romans 10:9-10, NLT).

Fill in the blanks with answers from the Bible passage-

"_____ with your mouth that Jesus is Lord." <External>

"_____ in your heart that God raised him from the dead." <Internal>

If we do these two things, we are _____.

From faith to faith.

It is important to realize that living for Jesus is always done by faith. No matter how much we do, it is not our deeds that make us right with God. Only what Jesus did for us on the cross matters.

According to Romans 1:17, the Good News (also called the Gospel) tells us that God makes us right from start to finish.

*"This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. **This is accomplished from start to finish by faith.** As the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life'" (Romans 1:17, NLT).*

"This is accomplished from start to finish by _____."

1. Do you believe in Jesus Christ? (Believing in someone means more than believing in their existence. It means I trust that person and am loyal to that person.)

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YES NO

2. Do you believe that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and that Jesus is alive right now?

YES NO

Jesus said, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).

3. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is totally one with God as he claimed to be?

YES NO

“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Lord means God. Calling on his name means calling out to Jesus in prayer.

4. Have you called out to Jesus Christ to save you and become your God?

YES NO

When we call out to Jesus to save us, we need to open our hearts up to him. When we do that He sends the Holy Spirit to live inside us. That’s why I say I have “Jesus in my heart.”

“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12, NLT).

“Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him” (Ephesians 3:17, NLT).

5. Have you opened up your heart to believe in and accept Jesus?

YES NO

If you honestly answered YES to all five of the questions above, then the Bible says that you are saved. You are a child of God. You are going to heaven to be with God forever!

Read the following Scripture for confirmation.

*“And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life”***

(1st John 5:11-12, NLT).

If you have not believed, what would keep you from making the choice to believe right now?

If you haven’t prayed to ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart, pray this prayer out loud right now and really mean it with all of your heart:

JESUS CHRIST, I BELIEVE YOU ARE GOD’S SON. I BELIEVE YOU DIED ON THE

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CROSS AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE. I ADMIT THAT I HAVE SINNED. I NEED YOU TO FORGIVE ME AND SAVE ME. I GIVE YOU MY LIFE RIGHT NOW. COME INTO MY HEART. JESUS CHRIST, YOU ARE MY LORD AND GOD!.

Now use some of your own words and keep praying to God. Thank him for saving you.

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Lesson 2- I Must Turn Away From the Bad.

Sin.

Sin is the word that the Bible often uses to refer to the bad things we think and do. It means FAILURE.

"for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

According to the verse above, how many people have fallen short of God's glory?

Answer: _____

What's another way of saying that I fell short of something?

Answer: _____ .

A good way to imagine the meaning of the word "sin" from the New Testament is to imagine someone shooting at the bulls eye on a target... and missing the target entirely! Sin is missing the mark. Sin is failure.

Failure to have faith is sin.

"Everything that does not come from faith is sin" (Romans 14:23, NIV).

The first sin I need to overcome is doubt that Jesus Christ is exactly who he claimed to be in the Bible.

Is there anything the Bible says about Jesus that is hard for you to believe?

Answer: _____

_____ .

Next, I need to be willing to believe everything that the Bible teaches about right and wrong and apply that to my life.

Is there any Bible teaching about morality that is hard for you to accept?

Answer: _____

Repentance.

"From then on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near'" (Matthew 4:17).

In the Bible the word "repent" means to change your mind, or to have a change of heart. I must change my thinking. *Repent* also means turning away from my sins and toward God. I must change my ways. This is the first thing Jesus told everybody to do.

Turning Toward One Requires Turning Away from the Other.

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will

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be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money"
(Matthew 6:24, NLT).

Complete the sentence:

"No one can serve two _____."

Jesus used money as an example of something people serve besides God. What some other masters that people serve?

Answer: _____ .

Confession.

In order to turn away from sin, I must agree that it is wrong and admit this to God.

Once I confess, God will forgive me immediately and completely!

"If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness" (1 John 1:9, NLT).

Fill in the blanks:

"If we _____ our sins to him, he is faithful and just to
_____ us our sins and to _____ us from all _____"

What are some wrong things you need to confess and turn away from right now?

Answers: _____

Set Free From Sin.

Sin is slavery.

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin'"
(John 8:34, NLT).

When we turn our lives over to Jesus, he sets us free from slavery to sin!

"So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free" (John 8:36, NLT).

To look at it another way, I am running life's race. I have chosen to follow Jesus's pace. I must let go of the sin that entangles me and weighs me down.

*"...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. **We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus**, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith"* (Hebrews 12:1b-2a, NLT).

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How do we get rid of the “weight that slows us down, especially, “the sin that so easily trips us up”?

“We do this by keeping _____”

What are some habits or addictions you need Jesus to set you free from today?

Answers: _____

Prayer of repentance:

JESUS, I NEED YOUR HELP. I CANNOT DO THIS ON MY OWN. RIGHT NOW I WANT
TO TURN AWAY FROM THE WRONG THINGS I AM DOING. I CHOSE TO TURN
TOWARD YOU. HELP ME OVERCOME MY DOUBTS.

<Now, confess your sins and failures to Him in detail, and receive forgiveness.>
AMEN.

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Lesson 3- I Must Be Baptized

There are three Reasons why I need to be baptized.

1st Reason:

Jesus is Lord and He commanded it of all His followers.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20. ESV).

Jesus has been given “all _____ in heaven and on earth.”

When I believe in Jesus, I believe in him as my _____.

(Hint) “Whoever will call on the name of the **Lord** will be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Since Jesus is in charge of heaven and earth, and since I’ve given him control over my life, what am I supposed to do when he commands?

(Hint: 1 word with 4 letters beginning with “O”!) Answer: _____

A believer in Jesus is a student or follower of Jesus. Another word for this is “disciple.” Jesus told his first disciples to make more disciples. Fill in the blanks from the Bible verses in Matthew 28:18-20 (printed in italics at the top of this sheet)

“Go therefore and make _____ of all nations,

them in the name of the _____ and of the _____
and

of the _____ _____ ...”

So, a real Jesus follower will get _____ in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2nd reason:

Jesus was baptized.

“Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. ‘I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,’ he said, ‘so why are you coming to me?’

But Jesus said, ‘It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.’ So John agreed to baptize him”

(Matthew 3:13-15, NLT).

Jesus didn’t have sins to wash away in baptism (check Hebrews 4:15), so what His reason according to the Bible verses above?

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"It should be done, for we must carry out all that God

_____."

Jesus was baptized because it was the right thing to do. Why was it the right thing for him to do?

"After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great (Matthew 3:16-17, NLT).

First, it was right because it made his Father happy.

"This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great _____."

Second, it was right because God the Father chose baptism as a way to visibly identify Jesus as His own unique Son.

"...as Jesus came up out of the water, the _____ were opened

and he saw the _____ of _____ descending like a dove

and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said this is my dearly loved _____"

Since I follow Jesus, I need to go by his example and get _____ ,

because it is the _____ thing to do, and to

id _____

that I am a child of God. I now belong to the Heavenly Father.

I've now learned baptism is about IDENTIFICATION and OBEDIENCE.

IDENTIFICATION is about who I belong to.

Who do you belong to and why?

OBEDIENCE is about who I listen to.

Who do you listen to and why?

3rd reason:

Baptism helps me understand what Jesus has done inside me.

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Since God saves me by grace, what's the problem with doing whatever I want and getting forgiveness for it later if it's wrong?

"Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it" (Romans 6:1-2, NLT)?

So, I have _____ to sin, how can I continue to _____ in it?

Another Bible verse says it this way:

"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, NLT).

So, I have been _____ with Christ, and it is no longer I

who _____, but _____ lives in me.

How do I know if this has happened in me, especially since I still feel the same temptations trying to pull me back to the old life?

1. I will choose to believe what the Bible says because it is God's Word.
2. I will trust that when I prayed to give Jesus Christ control of my life, the Holy Spirit made me one with Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

THIS IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST IS EXACTLY WHAT THE SYMBOL OF BAPTISM TEACHES ME!

We Identify with Christ in baptism.

"...when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives" (Romans 6:3b-4, NLT).

Fill in the blanks from the verses you just read.

"... when we were _____ with Christ Jesus in _____"

"For we _____ and were _____ with Christ by baptism."

"And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the

Father, now we also may _____ new

_____."

Baptism is a symbol or a dramatic picture of what has happened to me in the inside when the Holy Spirit came into my life.

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When I am baptized, the preacher lowers me all the way down under the water and says, "buried with Christ in baptism."

What does that symbolize? _____

When I am baptized, the preacher raises me back up out of the water and says, "raised with Christ to live a new life."

What does this part symbolize? _____

Baptism is like a wedding ceremony

Does a beautiful wedding ensure that a marriage will stay together for years to come? Only the husband and wife's commitments to continue loving each other hold a marriage together.

If I do not have a real faith commitment to Christ, then what good is baptism?

Baptism is like a military uniform.

On the day a person signs the commitment papers to join a branch of military service, does that person look or act like they are in the military? YES NO

When I first start to believe in Jesus Christ, my friends and family won't know what's happened in my heart.

After a person signs a commitment for military service he or she will receive and start wearing something to be **identified** as a member of that branch of the military.

What do they wear? _____

In the same way, baptism is like a new Christian's uniform.

Baptism id-_____ someone as belonging to Christ.

So, what would keep you from being baptized? You may if you believe in Jesus Christ with all of your heart.

"Peter replied, 'Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:38, NLT).

If you have not yet been baptized the way the Bible teaches, go to the Pastor of this church and ask him what to do next.

Now, spend some time talking to God in prayer.

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Lesson 4- I Need to Pray Without Stopping.

1- “Never stop praying” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

1.1- Prayer is like breathing according to John Wesley.

1.1.1- What happens when you stop breathing? Answer: _____ .

1.1.2- So, according to this analogy, when we stop praying what happens to us?

Answer: _____ .

2- How can we pray continually?

2.1- We all talk to ourselves. Not out loud (usually), but in our minds and “under our breath.” It’s not crazy. Psychologists call this *subvocalization*.

2.1.1- I might give myself direction. “Stop here. Turn now. Shut off that light.”

2.1.2- I might give myself correction. “I need to turn in my homework earlier next time. I need to bend my knees more to catch that grounder. I shouldn’t have said that!”

2.1.3- I might offer myself encouragement or comfort. “You can do it. Try harder next time. Why are you so down? Everything will be okay.”

2.2- All we have to do is turn our subvocalization into prayer.

2.2.1- To do that I stop talking to myself and start talking to _____ !

2.2.1.1- It’s like the retractable roof at Cowboys stadium. We slide the roof open and let those thoughts and words flow up toward God.

3.1- Jesus didn’t encourage us to pray long prayers.

“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!”
(Matthew 6:7-8, NLT).

3.1.1- “They think their prayers are answered merely by _____ their words again and again.

3.1.2- “Don’t be like them, for your Father _____ exactly what you _____ even _____ you ask him!

3.1.2.1- So, prayer is not to inform God. He already knows everything!

3.1.2.2- And prayer is not to get God to do something for us. I can always trust that our good Father is taking care of us even before I talk to him about what I need.

3.1.3- Prayer is the most immediate and intimate way to get to know our Heavenly Father.

“The LORD is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth” (Psalm 145:18).

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3.1.3.1- “The LORD is _____ to all who call on him”

3.1.4- I don’t pray to change God. When I pray it changes me!

3.2- What should I pray about?

3.2.1 The Lord’s Prayer is our model.

*“Pray like this:
Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.
May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us today the food we need,
and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
And don’t let us yield to temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one”
(Matthew 5:9-13, NLT).*

3.2.2- Read the prayer again and list five things Jesus showed us to pray for/about.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

3.3- Who do I pray to? The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit?

3.3.1- Since God is three persons, but one God, it is acceptable to address prayer to and of the Three:

1. God the _____
2. God the _____
3. God the Holy _____

3.3.2- However, Jesus’ example is the one I should follow most often.

3.3.3- I should address my prayer as Jesus did in his model above.

3.3.3.1- What did Jesus call God? Heavenly _____.

3.3.3.2- Since I have Jesus as my Savior and Lord, I can address God as my Heavenly Father too!

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3.3.3.3- Because of my relationship to Jesus I may address God as my “Heavenly Father.”

**Therefore, I will speak to the Father in the name of His Son, Jesus,
and I will pray in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.**

3.4- Now, take some time for focused prayer. Get alone and pour out your heart to your loving Father.

“But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you” (Matthew 6:6, NLT).

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Lesson 5- I Need to Do Good.

1- Be Good.

1.1- Only God is good.

“Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: ‘Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?’ ‘Why do you call me good?’ Jesus asked him. “Only God is truly good””
(Luke 18:18-19, NLT).

1.2- Therefore, the only way to truly be good is to be connected to God. When I believe in Jesus Christ, he makes me good inside and out!

2- The Amazing Trade.

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV).

2.1- What did Jesus become for us? _____

2.2- In Jesus we become

2.3- That is an amazing trade! Jesus took my sins on himself and went to the cross with them. I get Jesus’ righteousness. That means God sees me as righteous and good, even before I’ve done anything good! Why? God only sees his Son in me.

3- Do Good.

3.1- As a believer in Jesus Christ I do good deeds because Jesus has made me good by faith. I do good on the outside because I’ve been made good on the inside.

“We are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10, ESV).

3.2- I am His _____ created in Christ Jesus for good

4- Follow the Leader.

4.1- When I believe **in** Jesus that doesn’t just mean I believe **that** he exists. No, if I really believe **in** Jesus, then I become his disciple. A disciple is a student, and as a student I need to learn from and follow my Teacher.

4.2- Jesus said the following words to people who believed in him:

“You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32, NLT).

If you are truly Jesus’ disciple, then what will you do?

Answer _____

4.3- Jesus warns us about people who only talk about believing, but won’t do anything about it.

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter”
(Matthew 7:21, NLT).

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4.3.1- “Only those who _____ the will of my Father in heaven will enter.”

4.3.2- Faith is believing something enough that I am willing to DO something about it.
“For kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power”
(1 Corinthians 4:20, NLT).

4.4- According to Jesus’ half-brother James, you cannot have faith without showing it.
“But I say, ‘How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.’ You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless”
(James 2:18b-20, NLT).

4.4.1- Fill in the blanks in the following sentence from the Bible passage you just read:

“Faith without _____ is _____.”

4.4.2- This kind of faith is not just believing THAT God exists or believing THAT Jesus is God’s Son.

4.4.2.1- “Even the _____ believe this, and they _____ in terror.”

4.4.3- When we believe IN someone it comes from the heart, not just the head.

4.4.3.1- Let’s use the President of the United States as an example. What is the difference between saying I believe that the current President exists and saying I believe IN this President?

Answer: _____.

4.4.4- How do you show that you have faith according to the Scripture above (James 2:18b-20)?

Answer _____.

5.1- Faith brings Christ’s goodness into me, so I do good because that is now my nature.

5.1.1- Jesus says that we are to show the world we believe in him by doing good.
“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father” (Matthew 5:14-16, NLT).

5.1.2- “Let your _____ shine out for all to see,
so that everyone will praise _____.”

5.2- What are some good deeds you can do this week to shine your light, so that people give praise to your Heavenly Father?

Answers: _____

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5.3- Spend some time talking to your good and loving Father. Ask Him to give you wisdom and understanding. Ask him to direct you to make right decisions. Now, try to be still and let Him move on your heart so that you'll know what to do next.

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Lesson 6- I Need to Learn from the Bible Daily.

1- The Bible is God's inspired message.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work"
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, NLT).

1.1- According to the passage above, the Bible (Scripture) is useful for at least five things. What are they?

1. _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

4. _____.

5. _____.

1.2- To hear from God I must listen to him speak through the Bible above all else.

1.2.1- God also speaks to my conscience and through creation (Romans 1:19-20).

1.2.2- However, I am imperfect and may mistake my own interpretation or feelings for God speaking.

1.2.3- Therefore, I need a solid understanding of who God is and what he is like. I can only get that by continual exposure to his truth, which is revealed in the Christian Bible.

1.3- The following quote from the Baptist Faith and Message (1963) is a good summary of the character and significance of the 66 books of the Holy Bible.

"The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

1.3.1- According to this statement, who was the Bible written by? _____.

1.3.2- According to this statement, the Bible has who for its author? _____.

1.3.3- Therefore, the Bible is God's Word written down by human beings, which makes it both a divine and human book.

1.3.4- "The Bible is a perfect _____ of divine instruction."

1.3.5- According to this statement what is the Bible a record of?

_____.

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1.3.6- “It has _____ without any mixture of _____, for its matter.”

1.3.7- “The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is _____.”

1.4- Jesus Christ is the main point of the entire Bible, so I need to look for him in it and interpret what I read from his perspective.

1.4.1- “*You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!*” (Jesus speaking in John 5:39, NLT)

1.4.2- According to Jesus words above, what do the Scriptures (Bible) point to?

Answer: _____.

1.4.3- Therefore, it is not the Bible that gives us eternal life, but the main person the Bible is about!

1.4.4- Who is the main person the Bible is about? _____.

1.5- Where do I start reading?

1.5.1- Since Jesus Christ is the main character in the Bible and the one who gives me eternal life, I should start reading his biographies, which are the Four Gospels.

1.5.1.1 Name the Four Gospels: _____

1.5.1.2- The first three (Matthew, Mark, Luke) are written from a similar perspective, and so I’ll find that they are a lot alike. We call them the Synoptic Gospels.

1.5.1.2.1- One option for reading then is: ***Start at Matthew and read straight through the Gospels and then continue through the rest of the New Testament in order.***

1.5.1.3- John is the Gospel where Jesus speaks the most. It is written by Jesus’ closest friend on earth (John the Beloved Disciple), and so it gives an intimate picture of the Savior.

1.5.1.3.1- Another option for reading is: ***Start with John, then go back and read Matthew, Mark and Luke, then continue reading the rest of the New Testament.***

1.5.1.3.2- This plan works well because Luke and Acts are both written by the same human author, Luke, and I would read one right after the other. The next book after John, is Acts.

1.6- I need to always pray for God to speak before I read.

1.6.1- If I was reading a book, and the author was sitting in the same room with me, what could I do if I came to a passage I didn’t understand?

Answer: _____.

1.6.2- The same Holy Spirit who inspired the writers of the Bible lives in my heart & mind!

“But people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.... But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ”

(1 Corinthians 2:14a & 16b, NLT).

1.6.3- “But people who aren’t _____ can’t receive these truths from God’s _____.”

1.6.4- “But we understand these things, for we have the mind of _____.”

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1.7- Choose a plan to read from above.

1.7.1 Now, decide on a regular time to read.

1.7.1.1- Some people read right before bedtime, others want to start their day out right and read when they wake up in the morning.

1.8- Pray right now. Ask God to fill you up with his Holy Spirit and give you direction and understanding into his Holy Bible as you read it in the future.

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Lesson 7. I Need to Become a Regular Participant in a Bible Teaching Church.

1- Jesus calls us out together.

1.1- The word for “church” in the New Testament actually means “the called out.”

1.2- The first disciples learned together.

“Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them”

(Matthew 5:1, NLT).

1.2.1- Matthew 5-7 is the record of Jesus basic teaching for his disciples. It is usually called the Sermon on the Mount.

1.2.2- Who gathered around Jesus to learn from him?

_____.

1.3- The first disciples served together.

“The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit.... When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!”

(Luke 10:1 & 17).

1.3.1- Notice, Jesus called 72 disciples *together*; then sent them out to prepare the towns he himself would visit. Remember, he had been teaching them *together* prior to this.

1.3.2- When the disciples went out to the places Jesus was sending them did anybody go alone?

YES NO

1.3.3- “...and sent them ahead in _____ to all the towns and places he planned to visit.”

1.4- The first disciples regularly gathered together for worship and fellowship after Christ’s resurrection.

“They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity”

(Acts 2:46, NLT).

2- I am not called out to follow Christ by myself.

2.1- I am commanded to encourage and meet with other believers regularly.

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near”

(Hebrews 10:24-25, NLT).

2.1.1- “Let us think of ways to _____ one another to acts of

_____ and _____ works.”

2.1.2- “And let us not _____ our meeting _____ as some people do...”

2.1.3- “...but let us _____ one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

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2.2- Therefore, I must realize that a church is not a building, it's a local community of believers, called out to worship and serve Jesus Christ.

3- What is the purpose of a church?

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer"
(Acts 2:42, NLT).

3.1- Name four things the believers did together in the passage above:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

3.2- There is one other very important thing that the New Testament believers did, starting with the first disciples who followed Jesus.

*"Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!'
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere"
"And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved"*
(Luke 5:10b & Acts 1:8a, 2:47b).

3.2.1- So, from the three short verses above what else were the early believers doing together?
Answer: _____

3.3- So, any church that follows the New Testament model should be doing what things?
Answer: _____

3.4- What a church should be doing is identical with what I'm supposed to be doing.

3.4.1- I need to learn about God by studying _____

3.4.2- I need to develop relationships with other _____

3.4.3- I need to be encouraged and be given opportunities to share what I have with other _____

3.4.4- I need to pray with and for other _____

3.4.5- I need to tell other _____ about Jesus Christ.

3.5- This is how I fulfill the most important commandment in the Bible: LOVE.

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“Jesus replied, ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

3.5.1- Love is not a feeling, it is doing what is best for other people.

3.5.3- Jesus made it even clearer when commanded us to love the way he loves.

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

(John 13:34-35, NLT).

3.5.2- Can I show love to other believers if I refuse to meet with them regularly?

3.6- Pray for God to point you to a community of believers to connect with this Sunday.

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Lesson 8. I Need to Share the Good News About Jesus.

1- The Gospel.

1.1- The word Gospel in the New Testament means good news.

1.2- What is The Gospel?

“I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said”
(1st Corinthians 15:3-4, NLT).

1.2.1- According to this earliest formulation of the Gospel, what is the good news?

1.2.2- “Christ _____ for our sins...”

1.2.3- “He was _____ ...”

1.2.4- “...and he was _____ from the dead on the _____ day, just as the Scriptures said.”

1.2.5- The passage continues to give evidence of Christ’s resurrection.

“He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him”
(1 Corinthians 15:5-9, NLT).

1.2.5.1- Like the Apostle Paul who wrote this passage, I was born at the wrong time to have seen the resurrected Jesus on that first Easter Sunday. However, I have seen him with the eyes of faith. “We walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7, NLT).

1.2.6- Therefore, I have a testimony to share. It is my personal experience with the Spirit of the resurrected Christ.

1.2.6.1- We could call this my God-story.

1.2.6.1.1- Interestingly, that is where the English word Gospel came from “God-spell” (ie “God-story.”).

1.3- Write some of your God-story below. What led you to believe in Jesus Christ?

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2- Jesus commands us to go.

2.1- The last thing Jesus commanded his disciples is most important.

“Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age’”

(Matthew 28:18-20, NLT).

2.1.1- What did Jesus command the disciples to go and do?

Answer: _____

2.1.2- What did Jesus command these disciples to teach the new disciples?

Answer: _____

2.1.3- Who would always be with the disciples as they went to make new disciples?

Answer: _____

3- Jesus will empower us to go.

3.1- We don't talk to people about Jesus in our own strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit!

“You are witnesses of all these things.

“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven....”

“...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere”

(Luke 24:48-49 & Acts 1:8, NLT).

3.1.1- “But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”

3.1.2- “And you will be my _____, telling people about me

_____.”

3.2- A witness is someone who testifies about what he/she has seen or experienced.

3.3- Who is Jesus to you? Write some testimony about your personal or spiritual experience with Jesus since you believed in him (even if that's only been a short time).

4- Now, you are a witness. Go out and tell about Jesus to everyone who will listen!

Lesson 9. I Need to Give the First and Best to God.

1. Giving the First and the Best.

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1.1. Everything belongs to God. He gave us life and all we own.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights...” (James 1:17, NIV).

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7, NIV).

1.2 In worship God’s people offer the first and the best back to him to acknowledge that He owns it all, and as a sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise.

1.2.1 The second born son of Adam and Eve was Abel. This man was well pleasing to God because he brought the first and best of his flocks as an offering. His brother Cain was not pleasing however...

“When it was time for harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift” (Genesis 4:3-5, NLT).

1.2.1.1 “Cain presented _____ of his crops as a gift to the LORD. Abel also brought a gift—the _____ of the _____ lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift.

1.2.1.2 Why did the LORD accept Abel and not Cain? _____

2. Tithing.

2.1 Tithing is the practice of giving the first and the best of everything back to God

2.1.1. The tithe is 10% So, if you make \$100, how much should you give if you are going to tithe? _____

2.2 Tithing is an ancient biblical practice dating back to the time before the Law was given to Moses.

2.2.1 Abraham is considered the father of faith. Abraham tithed to a priest named Melchizedek. See Genesis 14:17-20.

2.2.1.1 Melchizedek is called “priest of God Most High,” and in the New Testament book of Hebrews, this priest is like Jesus Christ.

1 This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against the kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. **2** Then Abraham took a tenth of all he had captured in battle and gave it to Melchizedek. The name Melchizedek means “king of justice,” and king of Salem means “king of peace.” **3** There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors—no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God” (Hebrews 9:1-3, NLT).

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2.2.1.1.1 “He remains a priest forever, resembling _____.

2.2.1.2 When I tithe to support the Body of Christ (another name for the church), I am following a tradition going all the way back to _____, who is the father of faith.

2.2.2 The Law required the Israelites to tithe, reinforcing the ancient truth that the tithe belongs to God.

“Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s; it is holy to the LORD” (Leviticus 27:30).

2.2.2.1 The tithe belongs to _____.

2.2.2.2 The tithe was used to take care of the priests and the temple.

“To the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting” (Numbers 18:21).

2.2.2.2.1 “behold, I have given all the _____ in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their _____ which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting.”

2.2.2.2.2 The tithe belongs to _____ who uses it to take care of _____.

2.2.3 The prophet Malachi preached many years after Abraham and long after the giving of the Law. This prophet called the people robbers for failing to give the tithe.

“Should a person rob God? But you are robbing me.
“You ask, ‘How have we robbed you?’
“You have robbed me in your offerings and the tenth of your crops.
So a curse is on you, because the whole nation has robbed me.
(Malachi 3:8-9, NCV).

2.2.3.1 “You have _____ me in your offerings and the _____ of your crops. So a _____ is on you, because the whole nation has _____ me.

2.2.3.2 The people are instructed to bring the tithe into the storehouse. The storehouse was the temple.

“Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn so there will be food in my house” (Malachi 3:10a).

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2.2.3.2.1 Bring to the _____ a _____ tenth of what you _____ so there will be food in my _____.

2.2.3.2.2 The storehouse today is Christ's church. The tithe supplies the financial needs of the church.

2.2.3.1 Malachi related God's amazing promise to those who will consistently bring in ten percent of their income.

“Test me in this, says the LORD All-Powerful, I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need” (Malachi 3:10b).

2.2.3.1.1 _____ me in this says the LORD _____, I will open the windows of heaven for you and _____ out all the _____ you need.

3. Giving Above and Beyond.

3.1 In the New Testament we are still guided by the tithe, but many people are reported to give far more than 10 percent.

3.1.1 The widow's offering.

“Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ‘I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on’” (Mark 12:42-44, NLT).

3.1.1.1 I tell you the truth, this _____ widow has given _____ than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given _____ she had to live on.

3.1.2 The first believers share everything.

“All the believers were together and shared everything. They would sell their land and the things they owned and then divide the money and give it to anyone who needed it” (Acts 2:44-45).

3.1.2.1 All the _____ were together and shared _____.

4. Give Cheerfully.

4.1 The attitude of the giver is as important as the gift.

“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully’” (2 Corinthians 9:7, NLT).

4.1.1 You must each decide in your _____ how much to give. And don't give

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_____ or in response to _____. For God loves a person who gives _____.

5. Give more and God will give you more.

5.1 The Law of Reciprocity: You reap what you sow, and you reap how much you sow.

“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop” (2 Corinthians 9:6, NLT).

5.1.1 If you give much, then you will likely receive little or much? _____

5.2 God will provide for you so that you can be a blessing to others.

“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others” (2 Corinthians 9:8, NLT).

5.2.1 And God will _____ provide all you need. Then you will _____ have _____ you need and _____ left over to _____ with others.

6. Your response.

6.1 Will you begin to tithe from your income? _____

6.2 Can you give willingly and from a cheerful heart? _____

6.3 Will you have faith that God will bless you financially because of your faithful giving? _____.

6.4 Start today. Pray about what to give and give it to your church now.

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Lesson 10. I Need to Be Filled With the Holy Spirit.

1. The Promise of the Holy Spirit.

1.1 Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth” (John 14:16-17a, NLT).

1.1.1 “...he will give you another _____, who will _____ leave you. He is the _____, who leads into all _____.”

1.2 Jesus said the Holy Spirit had been with the disciples, but soon after his ascension back into heaven the Spirit would come and remain inside the disciples.

1.2.1 “The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you” (John 14:17b, NLT).

1.2.1.2 “But you _____ him, because he lives _____ you now and later will be _____ you.”

2. The Holy Spirit and Truth.

2.1 The Holy Spirit is called the “Spirit of Truth” because he guides us into the truth.

2.1.1 “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard” (John 16:13, NLT).

2.1.1.1 “When the Spirit of _____ comes, he will _____ you into all _____.”

2.2 When we learn the Bible, the Holy Spirit is our primary teacher.

2.2.1 “But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true...” (1st John 2:27a, NLT).

2.2.1.1 “For the Spirit _____ you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is _____.”

3. Ask and Wait for the Holy Spirit.

3.1 Ask for the Holy Spirit to come inside and fill you.

3.1.1 “So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

3.1.2 “how much more will your heavenly Father _____ the Holy Spirit

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to those who _____ him.”

3.2 Ask and then wait for the Holy Spirit to fill you up.

3.2.1 Jesus said, “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven” (Luke 24:49, NLT).

3.2.1.1 “And now I will _____ the Holy Spirit, just as my Father
_____ . But _____ here in the city until the

Holy Spirit comes and _____ you with _____ from
heaven.”

3.2.2 Ask and keep on asking, until you are filled!

3.2.2.1 “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened” (Luke 11:9-10, NLT).

3.2.2.2 “And so I tell you, _____ on _____, and you
will receive what you ask for.”

4. The Power of the Holy Spirit.

4.1 The Holy Spirit first filled believers in Jesus on the Day of Pentecost.

4.1.1 “On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability” (Acts 2:1-4, NLT).

4.1.2 “And everyone present was _____ with the Holy Spirit...”

4.2 The disciples went from being filled with fear to being full of boldness.

4.2.1 “The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13, NLT).

5. Be Filled With the Holy Spirit Daily.

5.1 Once the Holy Spirit comes inside, we must submit to him and let him fill us up daily.

5.1.1 “Don’t get drunk... be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

5.1.2 Alcohol gives a temporary high that may ruin people’s lives. The Holy Spirit brings a high that changes me for the good!

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6. The Fruit of the Spirit is the Proof of His Presence.

6.1 Ask yourself if you have the following qualities in your life.

6.1.1 “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23, NLT).

7. Now, ask the Father to fill you up with the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus Christ. And keep asking...