



FUEL

**A CALL TO
FOLLOW**
LEARNING AND LIVING



A CALL TO FOLLOW

LEARNING AND LIVING

Written by Seth Buckley, Randy Fields, Tan Flippin, Kristin Gaddis, & Kevin Hall
Lifeway Press
Nashville Tennessee

Edited by Joseph McMurry and Ryan Jackson

Graphic Design by Ryan Jackson

Produced for Carmel Baptist Church.

Commentary is from the ESV Study Bible

ISBN 0-6330-7370-9

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COUNTING THE COST: LEARNING AND LIVING THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP		
Week 1	What's the Cost?	004
BEING ACCOUNTABLE: LEARNING AND LIVING ACCOUNTABLE RELATIONSHIPS		
Week 2	There is No "I" in Team	019
MANAGING YOUR TIME: LEARNING AND LIVING SETTING PRIORITIES		
Week 3	What's Really Important?	033
STUDYING SCRIPTURE: LEARNING AND LIVING DIGGING INTO SCRIPTURE		
Week 4	Finding Value in Bible Study	047
FINDING STRENGTH: LEARNING AND LIVING REACHING UP IN PRAYER		
Week 5	More Than a Ritual	061
LOOKING TOWARD ETERNITY: LEARNING AND LIVING MAKING ETERNAL INVESTMENTS		
Week 6	Making Eternal Investments	076
KNOWING YOUR SHEPHERD: LEARNING AND LIVING FOLLOWING MY GUIDE		
Week 7	Following My Guide	090
REFLECTING CHRIST: LEARNING AND LIVING CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER		
Week 8	Real Life Character	104
FINISHING STRONG: LEARNING AND LIVING WITH EYES ON THE PRIZE		
Week 9	Keeping a Steady Pace	119
LOOKING BACK		133
MY TESTIMONY		134

Getting Started

You are about to begin a great journey. When you came to Christ, your eternal destiny changed. Once you were bound for eternal separation from God in Hell. When you placed your faith in Christ, He became your Savior. His Holy Spirit came into your life to seal your salvation. You are now destined to spend eternity with Christ in Heaven.

This study begins with the assumption that you know Jesus as your Savior and that you acknowledge Him to be Lord of your life. It is possible that some would take part in this study having never placed their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have not accepted Him as your Savior and Lord, now is a good time to do so. Ask God to speak to you as you read the following Scriptures.

Romans 3:23	All have sinned.
Romans 6:23	Eternal life is a free gift of God.
Romans 5:8	Jesus loved us and paid our sin debt.
Romans 10:9-10	Confess Jesus as Lord and believe God raised Him from the dead.
Romans 10:13	Ask God to save you and He will

You will probably have questions; find your parent(s), a pastor, your student leader, or a Christian friend and discuss your questions with them. Then pray a prayer like this: *God, thanks for loving me enough to send Jesus to die for me. I know that I have sinned and that Jesus died and was raised to give me complete and eternal life. Please forgive me of my sins, come into my life and take control. I offer myself to You. Thank You God for giving me new life. In Jesus name, Amen.*

Be sure to let your parents, pastor, Christian friend, or leader know about your decision.

Many Christians seem to believe that once they have trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior, there is nothing left to do but wait for heaven. Nothing could be further from the truth. God calls Christians into an incredible life of discipleship. What is a disciple? A disciple is a follower of Christ in learning and living.

Matthew 4 tells of Jesus calling His first disciples, Simon and Andrew. The two brothers were fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. When Jesus came upon them, they were casting their net into the sea. Jesus told them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." That is His call for you today. First, He calls you to follow Him. How do you do that? Read on. Second, He plans for you to invest your life in the lives of others ... and He will show you how.

WEEK

1

The Cost of Discipleship

MATTHEW

4:18-22

GETTING THE MOST

If you are going to get the most out of this study, it will cost you. What does it cost? Add the missing words to see a few things you will need to do.

- 1) Bring your _____ and this _____ _____ with you each week.
- 2) Make it a _____ to _____ _____ with God.
- 3) Spend time in _____ _____ every day.
- 4) _____ a verse of Scripture each week.
- 5) Build relationships with others by _____ _____, and spending time with your _____ _____ each week.

As a follower of Christ you have chosen to make a relationship with Christ more than just a religious activity. Make the time you spend in this study about much more than just checking off a to-do list.

WHAT'S THE COST?

When Jesus called His disciples He began with a couple of unlikely candidates, fishermen named Simon, Andrew, James and John. You can read about their encounter with Jesus in Matthew.

Read Matthew 4:18-22.

List below the things it cost Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow Jesus.

JESUS' CALL TO BE A DISCIPLE IS NEVER EASY.

Read Matthew 16:24-25.

According to these verses, what are three things He expects of a disciple?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

THE PRICE TAG HAS CLEARLY BEEN LABELED.

1) Deny Yourself

There are things that you are going to have to give up to follow Jesus. Some of those things will require sacrifice. Living like Jesus isn't always easy; it takes hard work!

What does it mean to "deny yourself"?

What are some examples of selfish ambitions, behaviors, attitudes and desires?

Identify the patterns of your selfishness. Name three selfish things you do on a regular basis.

1)

2)

3)

What is the attraction of these things and what do you think they will get for you?

What do they actually gain for you?

2) Take Up Your Cross

Justin is a high school student who is totally devoted to basketball. He loves the game. Justin practices hard. Sometimes he runs until he feels like his heart will explode. He does drills again and again. Even though he is dedicated, he might not get to play in the game. Most of Justin's friends hang out together after school. He misses time with his friends, but he never misses basketball practice. Justin sacrifices a lot to play basketball.

Compare your commitment to following Jesus to Justin's commitment to basketball?

What does it mean to "take up your cross"?

What is your reaction to Jesus telling you that you have to take your cross and follow him?

The disciples knew what crosses were. The cross was an instrument of execution and was one of the most violent and horrible inventions of evil men. Jesus told His disciples that they would have to put to death their own desires, their own plans, their own hopes so that they could instead make His desires their own.

There may be things that are getting in the way of you truly enjoying your relationship with God. They may not be bad things, but if they are not God's agenda for you, it's time to leave them behind.

What things in your life do you need to give up in order to follow Jesus?

What is the reason for the self-sacrifice?

IN ORDER FOR US TO BE OUR BEST IN THE FUTURE IT WILL COST US PART OF WHO WE ARE
RIGHT NOW.

Read Hebrews 12:2-3

JESUS' COMMITMENT TO OBEY THE FATHER OUTWEIGHED HIS DESIRE FOR COMFORT. SO HE WENT TO THE CROSS...HE ISN'T ASKING US TO DO ANYTHING HE HASN'T ALREADY DONE TO A FAR HIGHER DEGREE THAN WE WILL EVER DO. -DAVID NASSER

Read Philippians 2:5-11

Read John 8:50

What is our motive to live in such a way that is so different from the world?

3) Follow

Following Christ is hard work. You are accountable for your spiritual growth and lifestyle. If you want to know where Jesus is leading you, you will have to invest time in listening. That means being responsible for your personal Bible study, prayer, Scripture memory, and worship.

What does it look like to be personally responsible for your Bible study, prayer, scripture memory and worship?

Why is this important?

Most of all it means being obedient to what He tells you—no dragging your feet, belly-aching, or groaning. As you build your relationship with Jesus, little by little, He will prune away things in your life to draw you closer to Him.

Read John 15:1-2.

Living like Jesus is not something we can attain from listening to a sermon, attending a worship service, going to church camp, or being a part of a discipleship study like this one. All those things are certainly good, but they are simply things designed to help us live a life for God; they are not the answers by themselves. The real work comes from allowing pruning in our lives to create something beautiful—someone who looks like Jesus.

“WHEN CHRIST CALLS A MAN, HE BIDS HIM COME AND DIE.” –DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

List areas in your life that you need to let God prune away (cut out) so you can grow closer to Him.

KEEPING AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

The benefits of a life of obedience are not just here and now. There will come a day that all of us will stand before Jesus to give an account for our lives, and believers will be richly rewarded for everything we have done to honor Christ. The cost is great but the eternal rewards are worth it.

Read Matthew 16:26-27

Satan is not gentle in constantly trying to deceive us. We cannot be gentle in dealing with him in any way.

You may feel alone, but you are never alone as a believer in Christ. Jesus endured it all. He was tempted. He faced hardship. He sweated. He bled. Yet, He endured.

Read Deuteronomy 31:6.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE WEIGHT AND THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS
AND TO KNOW THAT THE REWARD IN CHRIST ALONE IS ENOUGH.

Describe the benefits of denying yourself and taking up your cross to follow Jesus.

Is the reward worth the price to you?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Don't know

Why or why not?

NOW WHAT?

Years ago, a young, uneducated man in Chicago named Dwight Moody heard a preacher challenge his audience: “The world has yet to see what God will do through one man whose heart is completely His.”

How would you respond to that preacher’s statement?

Moody responded instantly, “Lord, I want to be that man!” Over the course of the next few decades, God used Moody to lead thousands of people to Christ, to begin a Bible college, and to launch a missions movement that eventually sent over 30,000 young men and women to parts of the globe that had never heard of Jesus or had even seen a foreigner. Moody was committed to his heart being the sole and complete property of Jesus Christ. God poured out His Spirit on him.

How does knowing how God used Moody, who was young and uneducated, change your perspective of how God can use you?

GOING DEEPER

Being a disciple is costly. Jesus said that we would have to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. Simon, Andrew, James and John had to let go of their boat, their families, and their home to follow Christ.

How is the call to follow Jesus as we have studied today different than the one that you may have experienced?

Place something on the table that represents what God is telling you let go of, in order to grow closer to Him. If you don’t have something with you then write it here in your book.

What is it that you are laying down in order to follow Christ better today?

Pray for each other and hold each other accountable.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

1) List your priorities—The things you want to make sure happen this week, such as spending time with God, meeting with your accountability partner, spending time with your family, encouraging a friend, or confronting someone with a concern.

2) List Essentials—These are the things you have to accomplish this week. Such as preparing for tests at school, fulfilling job requirements, home responsibilities, and church activities.

Priorities

Essentials

Day 1 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 2 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 3 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 4 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 5 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 6 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 7 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

CHARACTER TRAIT STUDY

RESPONSIBILITY—THE ACT OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR ONESELF AND ONE’S ACTIONS. IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN, IT MEANS ULTIMATELY BEING ACCOUNTABLE FOR ONE’S OWN SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND LIFESTYLE.

What evidence of a sense of responsibility is in your life right now?

How can you begin to practice this character trait?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

John 3:30

Do you struggle to memorize Scripture? God really does answer prayer. Ask Him to help you memorize Scripture. Make it your goal to memorize the verse each week. Don’t give up! You can do it!

To help you memorize a verse, write it out on a small card. Carry the card with you and read it two or three times a day. You also may wish to write it out several times on a piece of paper. Practice saying the verse to someone from memory throughout the week.

BIBLE STUDY

Each week, you will have the opportunity to do some personal study about the tools discussed in your discipleship group. Don’t rush through this study time, but allow God to speak to you as you read and learn.

This week, set aside daily time to spend with Jesus. How do you do that? Here are some simple suggestions. Look up the Scripture references and fill in the blanks.

- 1) Mark 1:35—Try to spend time with God first thing in the _____.
- 2) Matthew 14:23—_____ before you read the passage, asking God to speak to you through it.
- 3) Luke 2:52—Look for ways you need to _____ to be more Christlike.
- 4) Luke 2:46—Write any _____ you have about the passage so you can ask your leader or another Christian.

Use the material on the next pages for time alone with God this week. You may discover that you have more questions after reading the Scripture than you have answers for. That’s OK! Write down your questions and ask your leader about them later.

REAP

DAY

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

1

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What does this verse say you are now that you are a Christian?

What old ways or habits are you still hanging onto in your new life in Christ?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

1 JOHN 5:3

DAY

2

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What does this verse mean that His commands are not burdensome?

How are you showing God that you love Him? If not, why?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

3

1 PETER 1:13-16

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What will you do if you are holy? What will you not do?

In what areas of your life do you need to work on being holy?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

4

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What thoughts would indicate you consider others better than yourself?

How can you be "one in spirit and purpose" with the church?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

5

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What things need to be put behind you so that you will not be hindered from moving ahead in your Christian life?

What specific things can you do “press on”?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you’ve spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

6

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How do you do something “in the name of the Lord Jesus”?

Which is harder for you to do in Jesus’ name—word or deed? Why?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you’ve spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

7

JOHN 10:1-21

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How has Satan been like a thief in your life?

How have you experienced the full life Jesus brings?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

WEEK

2

Accountable Relationships

ECCLESIASTES

4:9-12

THERE IS NO "I" IN TEAM

The letters that make up the word *team* can also be used to form an acronym to encourage athletes to discover the role teammates play.

Take a moment and create an acronym that describes what a team can do together.

T
E
A
M

What qualities make up a great team?

In 2001, Tom Brady, quarterback for the Super Bowl-winning New England Patriots passed for a total of 2,843 yards. Impressive, huh? However, Steve McNair, quarterback for the Tennessee Titans passed for 3,350 yards, far surpassing Brady. Yet the Titans didn't even make the playoffs. How can this be? A team needs more than a good quarterback to be champions. Even though gifted individuals are on a team, when team members work together, have common goals, and have the same attitude as their coach, the entire team is at its best.

List the teams of which you are a member in the space below.

Consider how your discipleship group could function as a team in the space below.

What do you think the quote, "There are no 'lone-ranger' Christians," means?

ONE IN HEART

Do Christians always work together as a team? Not always. Building relationships in which we are accountable to each other takes effort. Philippians 2:1-5 describes qualities that should characterize relationships between Christians. Without these qualities, there can be no true accountability between believers.

Read Philippians 2:1-5

- 1) Accountable relationships begin with the _____ of _____.
- 2) Christians must be able to _____ those who hold them accountable.
- 3) Holding someone accountable means being willing to make _____.

DEVELOPING ACCOUNTABLE RELATIONSHIPS

Let's say that your discipleship group scores a 10 on everything we have talked about so far. You truly love each other in the love of Christ. You can trust each other with anything. You are even willing to make sacrifices for each other. So, what do you do? When you meet with your accountability partner, what is supposed to happen? Every accountability relationship will be as unique as the individuals involved. The longer you have walked together, holding each other accountable, the more personal your relationship will be. Still, here are a few general guidelines for accountability partners.

1. Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

There is absolutely nothing you can do that has more power than prayer. Pray aloud with each other and for each other. It will do your heart good to hear your partner lift you up in prayer. Pray often. When someone says, "Will you pray for me about...", the right response is, "Yes, let's do that right now."

2. Be willing to bust the power of secrets (James 5:16).

Secret sin and secret practices give Satan a lot of power over you. Be honest about your sin and ask your accountability partner to pray for you.

3. Ask hard questions (Galatians 3:1-5).

If your partner asks you to pray for his short temper, actually pray about it. Then next day ask him, "How did you do at controlling your temper yesterday?" Then, keep asking him about it. If you know that your partner has committed to memorizing a verse a week, ask her how it's going. Don't ask with the motive of catching someone in a fault. Ask because you care enough to ask and show them that you want them to succeed.

4. Speak words of encouragement (Hebrews 10:24-25).

It is easy to feel like a failure. Be a constant source of encouragement to your accountability partner. Don't flatter your partner with lies, but be quick to point out things they do well. Tell your partner at least five things they are doing well for every one thing you suggest they need to work on.

5. Confront with love and humility (Galatians 6:1).

If your partner is doing something that you know is sin, you need to confront him or her. However, begin by searching your own heart. Then ask yourself: Am I really concerned about him? Do I truly want her best? Have I put to death my spiritual pride? Then confront your accountability partner with honesty, but speak every word with love.

Even though you are learning about the above guidelines in relation to accountability partners, these guidelines should be applied to all of our Christian relationships.

Write three specific ways you can put these concepts into practice in your relationships with other Christians.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Redwood trees, found primarily in California, are in clusters because their root systems are webbed together below the ground to draw strength from one another. This makes them able to grow as high as they do (taller than a football field is long) and to resist weather that might destroy them.

Read Luke 10:1-3

What would be a practical reason Jesus sent the seventy out two-by-two?

Write or illustrate an example of how you can experience accountability and the difference it can make on a daily basis. If you choose to illustrate the concept of the difference accountability can make on a daily basis, label your illustration. (For example: Drawing of redwoods labeled "friends," redwood roots webbed together labeled "friends strengthening each other against outside forces," redwood bark labeled "Bible is a believer's shield.")

QUALITIES OF AN ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER

- 1) The individual needs to be a growing Christian.
- 2) Someone of your own gender.
- 3) Willing to hold you accountable to Christian standards on a weekly basis.
- 4) Encouraging and trustworthy.
- 5) Realistic and optimistic
- 6) Committed to your success.

NOW WHAT?

Billy Graham exemplifies responsible awareness, faithfulness, and integrity in a sinful world. Early in his ministry Graham decided he would remain faithful to his wife and demonstrate integrity in his relationships. He chose never to eat a meal with a woman who wasn't a family member without a third person present. He chose never to let a woman in his hotel room for any reason, even if that person was a coworker. He chose to have aides enter a room first to make certain that no one was already there when he arrived. Other Christian leaders have fallen into sin, however, because of his early decisions, Graham is known for his faithfulness and integrity.

A life of integrity and Christlikeness begins with a plan to guard yourself against anything that would hurt your witness as a Christian. You'll only be successful if you surround yourself with those who share a common goal to be more like Christ.

Write about what you need to be on your guard about in your Christian walk. Be specific and honest here with your struggle and how you can defend the temptation. Begin writing a plan of responsible awareness, faithfulness, and integrity for your life.

GOING DEEPER

If you do not have an accountability partner, seek wisdom from God to find the right person to ask to be your accountability partner.

How does this lesson change your perspective on the importance of accountability?

Make a plan to have an accountability partner.

Who will you meet with?

When will you meet?

What do you need to be held accountable about?

Plan a parent supervised action-adventure activity that causes you and your accountability partner to dependent each other. (Example: parent supervised rock climbing) How did you depend on each other throughout the activity?

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

1) List your priorities—The things you want to make sure happen this week, such as spending time with God, meeting with your accountability partner, spending time with your family, encouraging a friend, or confronting someone with a concern.

2) List Essentials—These are the things you have to accomplish this week. Such as preparing for tests at school, fulfilling job requirements, home responsibilities, and church activities.

Priorities

Essentials

Day 1 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 2 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 3 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 4 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 5 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 6 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 7 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

CHARACTER TRAIT STUDY

FAITHFULNESS—BEING STEADFAST, TRUSTWORTHY, AND TRUTHFUL. ALWAYS SEEKING TO PLEASE GOD.

One way you can develop faithfulness to God is to know what He wants you to do. Learn what He wants you to do through a daily time alone with Him. Write two ways you can practice this character trait.

1)

2)

Are you a faithful friend? List three ways you can be a more faithful friend.

1)

2)

3)

List three ways you are faithful in your Christian Walk. How could you improve?

1)

2)

3)

MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

To help you memorize the passage this week, write it on a stick-on label and put it on your school notebook. Each time you pick up the notebook, repeat the verses again. Practice saying it to your accountability partner from memory this week.

REAP

DAY

GALATIANS 6:1-5

1

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What are the dangers listed in this passage?

How could an accountability partner help you to avoid these dangers?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

2

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What can you do to help a friend to keep from stumbling?

How do you struggle with considering yourself better than others?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

3

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Who does this passage say your closest friends should be?

What relationships need to change because of this truth?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

4

ACTS 2:42-47

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What was the benefit of such a close bond between the believers?

What would it look like in your life to have such a sharing community?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

5

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How can an accountability partner help you find a way of escape?

What are some ways you have been helped by a Christian friend?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

6

MATTHEW 18:19-20

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Why did Jesus emphasize He is present with two or more?

How could this verse affect the way that you pray?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

7

EPHESIANS 5:15-21

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How can Christian friends help you make the most of every moment?

Why did Paul emphasize believers singing together?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

WEEK

3

Setting Priorities

MATTHEW

6:25-34

WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

Setting priorities is what this week's study is all about. This may take a little thought. So don't rush through it.

List the five things that are your top priorities in life.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Your top five priorities might change from time to time as your life changes. However, for the most part, what you make a priority in your life, as a teenager will be what you make prioritize from now on.

List the top five things that occupy your time.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT?

Jesus was big on priorities.

Read Matthew 6:19-21

According to these verses in what kinds of things did Jesus say not to invest your time?

Give a few modern-day examples of what you think He was talking about.

In what did Jesus tell people to invest their lives?

Give a few modern-day examples of what you think He was talking about.

Take a look at the following list of things to which you could devote your life. Mark them either "E" for earthly or "H" for heavenly.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning the Scriptures | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fashion | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship of God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making money | <input type="checkbox"/> Going to school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics |

How will you establish what is most important in your life?

CONSIDER THE SPARROWS

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Why did Jesus say that you don't have to worry about what you eat, or what you drink, or what you wear?

How does the Bible describe the way the lilies of the field are dressed?

What does the Bible tell you to do instead of seeking after all those things that you need?

You need friends. You need times to relax and be entertained. You need to have people who love you. You need a family. You need clothes to wear and food to eat. Right now your family provides for many of those things. You will still need these things later, which probably means that you will need a job. It just makes sense that if you need these things, you will do your best to obtain them.

Jesus turned human reason upside down. Instead of seeking those things that you need, Jesus said to seek His kingdom. Get this: When you seek His kingdom (desire to know, love and obey Him), not only do you get this incredible relationship with God, but Jesus said that all of those things that you need are added as well.

IT REALLY COMES DOWN TO A MATTER OF TRUST THAT HE WILL PROVIDE FOR YOUR NEEDS.

IS GOD YOUR FIRST PRIORITY?

Would you agree or disagree with the following statement? God should be your number one priority.

___ Agree ___ Disagree ___ Don't Know

Most Christians would agree that this is a true statement, but it really isn't. In other words, Jesus should not just be one of your priorities. He should be the Lord of your whole life. He is the One that should determine your priorities.

Read Galatians 2:20.

As a Christian, your life should so be focused on Christ that you determine everything you do by His plans and purposes.

GOD SHOULD NOT BE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY;
HE SHOULD BE LORD OF EACH ONE OF YOUR PRIORITIES!

With all that in mind, go back to your original list of priorities. Would you like to change any of them? If so, make your new list here:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

LIVING YOUR PRIORITIES

Read Matthew 16:24-25

Jesus told us to count the cost before we determine to follow Him. You will never have the time to do anything unless you make the time.

It is important to begin planning out your week with the things that are most important. Let's be real though. There are things that you have to do each week. Leave room for the essentials, but don't begin with the essentials. Yes, studying for a test is important, but what is most important? Once you have the most important things planned, add the essential things. Finally, plan some leisure time. Leave some time open to spend with friends or to work on a favorite hobby.

Living your priorities is not easy. Some people or activities will try to plan your time for you. However, no one else will plan your schedule according to the priorities God has for your life. If you want to live for God, you will have to plan it that way yourself. Refer to your priority calendar often during the week.

NOW WHAT?

Missionary William Carey once said, "Attempt great things for God. Expect great things from God." To attempt great things for God we need to get to know Him first! In other words, we need to spend time with Him before we do anything else. Take a look at the example of Jesus.

Read Matthew 14:13, 23.

There were always so many people who wanted to see Jesus. There were always people who wanted His help. You might think that the godly thing to do would have been to hang with hurting people all the time and try to meet as many needs as He could. And yet, that isn't what Jesus did. He pulled away from time to time and got alone with God. After these moments He was able to do the impossible.

When we spend time with God, He is better able to equip us to live a life that is exciting, challenging, and victorious! What we do with our time shows what is important to us. Our priorities should dictate how we spend our time.

GOING DEEPER

How would you rate your time with God?

___ Vibrant and growing ___ Okay, but nothing to shout about ___ Pretty much nothing there

List the things that are weighing you down right now.

How do your priorities affect how much you feel weighed down or connected to God?

How are your life priorities eternally significant?

What will you change?

How will you change it?

Now that you have refocused your priorities, how will you make sure that your eyes are fixed on Jesus?

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

1) List your priorities—The things you want to make sure happen this week, such as spending time with God, meeting with your accountability partner, spending time with your family, encouraging a friend, or confronting someone with a concern.

2) List Essentials—These are the things you have to accomplish this week. Such as preparing for tests at school, fulfilling job requirements, home responsibilities, and church activities.

Priorities

Essentials

Day 1 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 2 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 3 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 4 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 5 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 6 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 7 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

CHARACTER TRAIT STUDY

SELF-CONTROL—THE ABILITY TO CONTROL ONE’S IMPULSES, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS OF THOUGHT LIFE, WORDS YOU SAY, RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX, AND HOW YOU SPEND YOUR TIME.

Read Galatians 5:22-23

The Apostle Paul identifies self-control as a fruit of the Spirit. You can develop the Spirit’s fruit in your life by practicing obedience to God, prayer, and staying in His Word. When you want to do something other than God’s will, be obedient to the Spirit. That’s the start of self-control.

List three ways self-control will help you to spend your time on priorities in the approaching week?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK.

Hebrews 12:1

Write each word of the verse on a different index card. Lay them out on the floor in front of you. Then, turn them over as you recite each word. See how many you can turn over and still be able to say the verse.

REAP

DAY

1

GALATIANS 6:7-10

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What are some “seeds” that you have been planting this past year?

How can you avoid getting weary of doing good?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you’ve spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

2

HEBREWS 10:24-25

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Why is it important for us to meet with other Christians on a regular basis?

Who are you encouraging this week? How?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

3

MATTHEW 7:24-27

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What foundation have you been building on?

What do you need to do differently to prepare for the storms of life?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

4

MATTHEW 14:23

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Why did Jesus get away from the crowd?

What can you do this week to follow Jesus' example?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

5

MATTHEW 6:24

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What evidence is there in your life that you are serving Christ?

What in your life sometimes pulls you away from Christ?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

6

HEBREWS 12:1-3

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What hinders you from fully living for Christ?

How can you shed that hindrance?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

7

MATTHEW 6:33

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What do you treat as if it were more important than Christ?

How can you seek God's kingdom first?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

WEEK

4

Digging Into Scripture

2 TIMOTHY

2:15

FINDING VALUE IN BIBLE STUDY

"I JUST DON'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF THE BIBLE," –EVERY TEENAGER EVER

Why is it that some people draw such meaning and hope from the Bible while other people see it as useless for their lives?

Christians sometimes struggle to experience real meaning from Scripture. The Bible is not just an old book about God; it's a Book that was uniquely inspired by God. It is the very breath of God.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:14.

According to this verse, how does someone understand something that comes from God?

Read 2 Peter 3:15-16.

Studying the Bible is about allowing God's Spirit to reveal truth to you. It is not a matter of personal opinion. We must come to Scripture unbiased and let the Spirit reveal its truth. If we twist any of the letters, we distort the meaning and that will result in destruction.

Read John 14:26.

Who did Jesus say God would send to you?

What did Jesus say this Person would do for you?

The key is to allow the Holy Spirit to be your guide as you discover the truths of God. He will apply the truth of God to the specific situations of your life.

How can you experience the truths of Scripture through the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

There is no magic formula. But if the Holy Spirit is not your teacher, the Bible will always seem dry and will not seem to make any true difference in your life.

TIPS FOR STUDYING GOD'S WORD

1) _____ before reading God's Word.

Ask God to teach you from His Word. He longs to help you live out the godly principles of Scripture. If you ask Him, He will teach you.

2) _____ and _____ the Scripture passage slowly.

Read Acts 17:11-12

What strikes you about the Bereans?

When was the last time you eagerly read the Bible?

What was the reason for your eagerness?

3) Pay attention to the _____ of Scripture.

There is an old joke about a man who was looking for guidance from the Bible. He opened his Bible, put his finger on a verse and read, "Judas went out and hanged himself." He was not sure that was the direction he was looking for, so he tried again. This time he read, "Go ye and do likewise." A little fearful, he tried one more time: "What you do, do quickly."

Reading verses out of context can be dangerous if we want to know truth. Don't read a verse in isolation. It is important to understand the thoughts that lead up to a statement, and the thoughts that follow it in order to better describe the meaning of a passage.

4) Ask what does this verse or statement _____ ?

For example, if you want to better understand Exodus 20:12, you will have to find out what the Bible means by the word "honor" means in this scripture.

You also may need to understand the customs during the time in which the Bible was written. For example, John 13:1-17 talks about Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. That might seem kind of strange unless you understand that washing the feet of guests before a meal was an important tradition. Who usually washed the feet? The leader of the group? Never! That was the job of a servant.

How do you discover those answers? It may not be as difficult as you think. As you read, write down questions that you have about words, sayings, or events. Then, either ask a leader about them or look them up in a Bible dictionary or commentary. Your Bible might even contain notes that will answer some of your questions.

Read 2 Timothy 2:15.

What does it mean to “correctly handle the word of truth”?

5) Ask how can I _____ this truth in my life?

Bible study is about more than knowing what John 10:10 says. Bible study means allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you how you can apply the teaching in your life. As you read a passage of Scripture, ask yourself:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise I can claim?
- Is there a warning I can use?
- What can I learn about the character of God from this passage?

Make sure to ask the Holy Spirit how the passage you are studying applies to your life, then listen to His answer.

6) _____ what the Word says.

Read James 1:22.

In the old movies about the Knights of the Round Table, a knight would lay his sword before the king. By doing this he was saying, “I am at your disposal. I will fight for you to the death, tell me where to go and what to do.” Most of us want God to tell us what He wants us to do, then we will decide whether or not we will do it.

He is looking for Christians who will lay their swords before His throne. When you see God’s direction for you in His Word, the only appropriate response is to pick up your sword and do exactly what God has told you to do.

Right now, studying the Bible may seem difficult. It may seem easier just to wait until you get to your discipleship community and let the leader tell you what the Bible means. Don’t do it. Spend some time digging into the Word for yourself. As you spend time in the Word, you will find that the Holy Spirit guides you into a greater relationship with God. You will find that approaching God’s Word seems less confusing the more time you spend in it.

NOW WHAT?

Read Mark 4:1-20

According to Jesus, what was the seed in His story?

Describe each type of soil.

First:

Second:

Third:

Fourth:

Describe a person who responds to the Word of God like each kind of soil.

First:

Second:

Third:

Fourth:

GOING DEEPER

Which type of soil best describes the condition of your heart?

Impenetrable Full of Rocks Full of Thorns Fertile

If you want God's Word to take root in your life and grow, you will need to cultivate the soil. Seek to have the kind of openness to God that allows His Word to take deep root in you. Each week you should memorize a verse of Scripture. That is really the best way to allow Scripture to take root in your life. As you read, study, memorize, and hear the Word of God, allow the Spirit to change your life with the message.

How will you change your Bible study habits after this lesson?

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

1) List your priorities—The things you want to make sure happen this week, such as spending time with God, meeting with your accountability partner, spending time with your family, encouraging a friend, or confronting someone with a concern.

2) List Essentials—These are the things you have to accomplish this week. Such as preparing for tests at school, fulfilling job requirements, home responsibilities, and church activities.

Priorities

Essentials

Day 1 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 2 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 3 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 4 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 5 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 6 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 7 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

CHARACTER TRAIT STUDY

JOY—THE ABILITY TO HAVE PEACE IN EVERY SITUATION. JOY DIFFERS FROM HAPPINESS IN THAT HAPPINESS IS DEPENDENT UPON CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE JOY CAN BE PRESENT IN ANY SITUATION BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST.

Read James 1:2-4

Many people associate happiness with joy. While happiness is based on the circumstances that surround us, we can have real joy in our lives through God's presence. One of the most significant ways of living in God's presence—and having real joy—is by being grounded in His Word. This can only happen by making the Bible a vital part of our lives.

List three ways you can make the Bible a vital part of your life on an ongoing basis as a result of today's study.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Someone once said that there are three keys to successful Scripture memory. The principles are review, review, and review.

If you only read the verse a couple of times, when someone asks you to quote the verse a week later, you probably won't be able to come up with a single phrase. Spend a little time every day going over all of your verses. Review, review, and review again.

Check out the app store on your favorite electronic device. There are quite a few apps that can help you memorize scripture.

REAP

DAY

1

COLOSSIANS 3:16

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How can you let the Word of Christ “dwell in you richly”?

How does the Word of Christ relate to singing songs?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you’ve spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

2

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What is the promise of this verse?

What makes the promises of Scripture reliable?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

3

JOHN 8:31-32

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How can you know the truth?

How do you think the truth sets you free?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

4

JAMES 1:22

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Would you describe yourself as a doer of the Word or just a hearer? Why?

How could you become more of a doer?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

5

2 PETER 1:20-21

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How did the writers of Scripture write?

Respond to the claim that the Bible is the writing of flawed humans.

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

6

ROMANS 10:17

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How can people be saved?

Who do you need to be sharing the Lord with?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

7

PSALM 119:15-16

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What are some ways you can have a high regard for God's Word?

How can you guard against neglecting Scripture?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

WEEK

5

Reaching Up In Prayer

1 THESSALONIANS
5:17

MORE THAN A RITUAL

Beth and Jackie were the best of friends. Before school each day they would meet at the cafeteria, get something to drink, and talk nonstop until the bell rang for first period. Beth was an only child and loved hearing stories about Jackie's big family. Jackie couldn't wait to hear about the conversations that Beth had each night with her boyfriend, Caleb. Beth and Jackie loved their time together and loved sharing their lives with each other.

Lindsey and Jillian also claimed to be best friends, but they got tired of each other pretty fast. Lindsey loved to talk about the boys she liked, but Jillian usually was jealous of Lindsey's popularity, and wouldn't listen to her. Jillian didn't tell Lindsey much of what was going on in her life. Her family life was a mess; her parents were talking about divorce ... yelling about it, actually. She just didn't think Lindsey would care.

What is the difference in these two friendships?

The best friendships are the ones filled with trust. It is a wonderful thing to be able to share your life with someone else—the good times and the bad times. Friends like that can be pretty hard to find.

When did you come to the point of realizing that God cares for you and wants to interact with you?

He is always there to listen. He speaks too, though it is different than speaking to another person. See if you can complete the following sentence:

Prayer is about a _____ with God, and not just about a _____ made to God.

If a non-Christian friend asks you why you pray, what would your response be?

If that same friend wanted to know how to pray, what would you say?

Describe when you came to the point that your relationship with God needed to be more intimate than your best "earthly" friendship.

FIVE KINDS OF PRAYER

1) _____ (Read Exodus 15:1-8)

This kind of prayer expresses the greatness of who God is. When you pray this kind of prayer to God, you tell Him who He is to you and what His attributes are.

PRaise IS USED BECAUSE IT IS ADORATION OF WHO GOD IS—HIS CHARACTER, HIS ATTRIBUTES, AND HIS PERSON.

Write down as many attributes of God as you can.

Spend a few minutes in prayer as a group praising God with all the attributes that you have just written.

2) _____ (Read Psalm 107:1-9)

This prayer is a reflection of the things with which God has blessed you. God is the source of everything you have. It is because of God that you have been blessed with so many things. Acknowledge God for all that you have and thank Him for your blessings.

What are some ways God has blessed you?

Spend a few minutes in prayer as a group thanking God for all the ways that He has blessed you.

Thanksgiving is used because it is our gratitude acknowledging who God is and acknowledging that everything we have is from God. As you continue this study, make it a habit to thank God for the things that you have.

3) _____ (Read Psalm 51:1-17)

This prayer involves recognizing God's holiness and our unworthiness. When going to God in prayer, ask Him to reveal to you the sin in your life. When that sin has been shown to you, agree with God that you committed it. Then ask God to forgive you for committing that sin against Him and to cleanse you from it.

Read Proverbs 28:13

What does this verse say about a person who conceals their sin?

Are there sins that you haven't confessed to God? If so, write a word or two that reminds you of that sin below.

Read 1 John 1:9

What does this verse say about what happens to a person who is willing to confess their sin?

Spend a few minutes in prayer as a group, confessing to God ways that you may have sinned.

This is a time when you must be honest with God and with yourself. Do your best not to repeat the sin you have just confessed. Let Jesus—not sin—be the controlling guide of your life.

4) _____ (Read John 17:6-19)

God answers our prayers when we earnestly pray for others. When we are weak, the prayer of a fellow Christian can enable us to gain wisdom, knowledge, and strength we need to carry on.

Write the names of two or three others that you know need your prayers. Beside their names, write a concern they have that you can pray for.

1)

2)

3)

Spend a few minutes in prayer as a group interceding for others and their needs.

Consider planning a prayer time each day to intercede on behalf of the people you listed in the three blanks above.

5) _____ (Read 1 Samuel 1:9-17)

God wants us to be honest with Him and share our heart with Him. God is pleased to hear our personal requests. He delights when we realize that we need Him.

Read Psalm 37:4.

He desires to fulfill our requests when we ask according to His will. We can be thankful that God's wisdom is greater than ours—even when it comes to what we want and pray for ourselves.

What are some things you need God to do in your life? These may be material things like food or clothing, emotional things like strong friendships, or spiritual things like a closer walk with God. List a few of your requests below.

Spend a few minutes in prayer and petition God for your own needs.

God never turns a deaf ear to your prayer requests; your petitions. However, He will not grant your every request. When God answers prayer, He answers it according to His will and His complete understanding of us and of the situation we are in.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Read Nehemiah 1:5-11

Which kind of prayer is Nehemiah praying?

Every prayer may not include all five kinds of prayers, but many prayers will include more than one aspect.

NOW WHAT?

"PRAYER IS EXHALING THE SPIRIT OF MAN AND INHALING THE SPIRIT OF GOD."
—EDWIN KEITH

Being a Christian is more than your ticket to heaven when you die—it is a wonderful relationship with God starting here on earth. You relate to God through prayer. He wants you to share with Him everything that's going on in your life.

Jesus was in constant prayer with His Father. He placed so much importance on prayer that He showed us how we should pray. He didn't want prayer to be complicated.

Read Matthew 6:5-15.

Point out the five kinds of prayer in the model prayer.

There may come a time in your life when you won't know how to pray or what exactly to pray for. When you do pray, your heart may be so burdened that you don't know exactly what to say to God. Don't get frustrated and stop praying, but instead, be honest with God and tell Him you don't know what words to pray. God knows that there are times when we won't know how to pray about something.

Read Romans 8:26-27.

Who is our Helper when we don't know the words to pray? How does He pray for us?

GOING DEEPER

What kinds of prayers are easy for you?

Which kinds of prayers are harder for you?

How can you listen well to hear God's reply?

How will you change the way that you pray after this lesson?

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

1) List your priorities—The things you want to make sure happen this week, such as spending time with God, meeting with your accountability partner, spending time with your family, encouraging a friend, or confronting someone with a concern.

2) List Essentials—These are the things you have to accomplish this week. Such as preparing for tests at school, fulfilling job requirements, home responsibilities, and church activities.

Priorities

Essentials

Day 1 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 2 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 3 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 4 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 5 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 6 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 7 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

CHARACTER TRAIT STUDY

PATIENCE – HAVING THE ABILITY TO WAIT FOR SOMETHING WITHOUT COMPLAINING. PATIENCE IS IMPORTANT WHEN YOU PRAY. EVEN THROUGH IT IS NATURAL FOR OUR HUMAN NATURE TO WANT WHAT WE ASK FOR AS SOON AS WE ASK IT, GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS AT A TIME AND IN A WAY THAT IS BEST FOR US.

You may have heard the caution, “Never pray for patience”. Often people say this because they know that patience is best learned from difficult situations or trials. Patience is not something you learn in a hurry! People with character have patience because they do not react with complaining or inappropriate, hasty behavior.

THE KEY TO DEVELOPING PATIENCE IS STRIVING TO BE AWARE OF GOD’S WILL FOR YOU, TO WAIT ON HIS LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE IN THE SITUATIONS OR TRIALS YOU FACE.

List circumstances or people that you need help with being patient.

Pray about ways you can practice patience in these areas that may come up this week.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

John 15:7

When you are trying to memorize a verse, it often helps to break it into simple phrases. Today’s verse will seem much easier when you think of it as a four simple phrases rather than one long verse. Memorize one phrase. Then memorize the second and add it to the first. Continue until you have whole verse memorized.

Write out each phrase below.

Phrase 1:

Phrase 2:

Phrase 3:

Phrase 4:

REAP

DAY

1

MATTHEW 6:5-6

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What warning did Jesus give about our prayers?

What is the right attitude for prayer? How can you have that attitude?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

2

MATTHEW 6:7-8

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What warning did Jesus give in this verse concerning our prayers?

If the key isn't a lot of words, how should you approach God?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

3

JOHN 15:7-8

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What is the promise of these verses?

What condition is placed on the promise?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

PSALM 54

DAY

4

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Can you identify with the writer? When have you felt that way?

How do you go to God when things are tough?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

5

1 JOHN 1:8-10

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What is necessary for us to receive forgiveness for our sins?

What sins do you need to confess to God now?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

6

MATTHEW 26:36-46

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Why did Jesus want His disciples to pray with him?

How can prayer keep a person from falling into temptation?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

7

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-20

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What did Paul mean by praying without ceasing?

How can you practice that in your own life?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

WEEK

6

Making Eternal Investments

MATTHEW

6:19-21

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

What are some ways in which people invest their time, money and efforts?

Years ago, Lottie Moon was a missionary who served in China. She grew to love the people of China. Though she missed her family and friends in the United States, she invested her life in serving the people of China. During the Chinese revolution, food became scarce. Lottie continued to receive support from people in the U.S., and had just enough to live on. However, Lottie would not keep the food for herself. She took whatever she had and gave it to the poor and to children who had nothing to eat. Lottie's body became so depleted that she died on her trip back to the U.S. Lottie Moon invested everything she had in ministering to other people.

Why did you think Lottie treated the people of China as her brothers and sisters?

I DO NOT BELIEVE ONE CAN SETTLE HOW MUCH WE OUGHT TO GIVE.
I AM AFRAID THE ONLY SAFE RULE IS TO GIVE MORE THAN WE CAN SPARE.
—C.S. LEWIS

DEFINING ETERNAL INVESTMENTS

Millions of dollars are invested in the stock market each weekday. If someone puts money into a company, that company then has money they can use to hire employees and develop products. Those employees use the money they make and invest it in other companies by buying food, cars, and houses. Those companies then have money to hire employees and pay them a salary. In a sense, our whole economy is built on people making investments in companies.

Making eternal investments is similar. When you invest in another person for the kingdom of God, they come to understand the love of God. Their lives can be changed for eternity. Then, they can invest in ministry. You became a Christian because someone made an investment in your life. Now you can invest in others, and as a result, God's kingdom grows.

Before going any further in this session, how are you investing your life right now?

You may say, "I'm not really investing my life in anything. I'm just trying to get by." Sometimes it feels like all you can do is make it through another day. Still, Jesus talked about the importance of investing our lives. One of His parables may be the best example of investing.

Read Matthew 25:14-30

The wealthy guy in this story is an illustration of God. He has equipped His people with money, talents and abilities that He wants them to invest. He also expects a return on His investment.

What has God given you that He expects you to be investing for Him?

What would it require to put those things God has given you to use?

What return do you think God is expecting from what He has given you?

God certainly can give people the financial ability to help others, but God has invested so much more in us than cash. You may have great musical ability, a truly caring heart, or the ability to see truth in any situation.

Regardless of what God has given, you have three choices regarding what to do with it:

- 1) Bury it and do nothing with it.
- 2) Invest it in earthly purposes.
- 3) Invest it in eternal purposes.

REAL LIFE INVESTMENTS

Read the following scenarios and write how the individuals could make an eternal investment.

A) John is a great athlete. He was the captain of the freshman football team and was guaranteed a starting place on the varsity team as a sophomore. How can he use his leadership position as an eternal investment?

B) Sarah is great at math. How can a math whiz make do something that matters eternally?

C) Drew just started playing guitar and really wants to get better at it. How can he make an eternal investment now?

D) Emily's family went through a divorce last year. She knows how painful it can be for other teenagers. What kind of eternal investment could she make?

E) Sophie loves fashion. She really has a sense for what helps others look their best. How could she use her abilities for something that matters eternally?

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTING ETERNALLY

Read Philippians 2:3-4

How can you remember to put others' needs ahead of your own?

Read Matthew 9:35-38.

How can you pay attention to the needs of people around you?

Read Matthew 6:1-4.

How can you minister to others without drawing attention to yourself?

Read Matthew 5:43-46.

How can you genuinely love others, especially your enemy?

Read Matthew 6:19-21

How does our treasure reveal the condition of our hearts?

OUR BUYING HABITS AND SOCIAL DECISIONS FAR TOO OFTEN SHOW LITTLE CONCERN FOR ANYTHING THAT HAS ETERNAL VALUE.

Read Matthew 28:19-20

How is following through with the Great Commission an eternal investment?

NOW WHAT?

THE MOST IMPORTANT ETERNAL INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE
IS TO LEAD SOMEONE TO CHRIST.

Read Romans 1:16.

Who have you told lately about what God is doing in your life?

How do you bring up the topic of Christ with your friends?

If you live your faith, others will notice, and they will come to you when they are looking for something genuine.

IF YOUR FAITH SEEMS FAKE OR ONLY LIVED OUT WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT,
THEY WON'T BE INTERESTED.

GOING DEEPER

Who do you know what needs you to make the eternal investment of introducing them to Christ?

What can you do this week to begin discussing Christ with your friends?

Turn to the end of this book and write out your personal salvation experience.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

1) List your priorities—The things you want to make sure happen this week, such as spending time with God, meeting with your accountability partner, spending time with your family, encouraging a friend, or confronting someone with a concern.

2) List Essentials—These are the things you have to accomplish this week. Such as preparing for tests at school, fulfilling job requirements, home responsibilities, and church activities.

Priorities

Essentials

Day 1 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 2 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 3 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 4 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 5 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 6 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 7 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

CHARACTER TRAIT STUDY

HUMBLENESS – REALIZING YOUR POSITION IN RELATION TO JESUS. WE MUST REALIZE THAT HE IS EVERYTHING AND THAT WE ARE NOTHING WITHOUT HIM.

Read Proverbs 18:12.

Being humble doesn't mean being weak; rather it shows your trust in God. Humbleness is more of Jesus and less of yourself.

Read Philippians 2:3.

Pride and arrogance often get in the way of our humbleness. Develop an attitude of humility by becoming more Christlike in the way you think of yourself and the way you treat others. Consider in all situations what Jesus would do before you act or talk.

What is a current situation in your life that would benefit from an attitude of humility?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Romans 1:16

There is something about music that makes things easier to remember. That's why you can still remember jingles you heard when you were six years old.

Try putting your Scripture memory verses to music and singing them. You don't have to be a great musician. Just pick a tune like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"—anything that seems to fit. Then, practice singing your verse to that tune.

REAP

DAY

ACTS 20:22-24

1

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What impresses you about Paul's testimony in these verses?

How can you follow Paul's example?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

LUKE 9:1-6

DAY

2

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What authority did Jesus give His disciples when He sent them out?

Why did He limit what they could take with them?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

ROMANS 1:16

3

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

When have you acted like you were ashamed of the Gospel?

How can you be bold in presenting the Gospel?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

4

JAMES 1:27

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How did James describe true religion?

Why did James focus on the ministry to the helpless?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

5

1 TIMOTHY 4:12-16

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

In what kind of ministry did Paul tell Timothy to be involved?

What ministry has God given you? How can you persevere in it?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

6

HEBREWS 11:1

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

According to this definition, do you have real faith? Why or why not?

What difference does faith make in making eternal investments?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

7

LUKE 2:52

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

In what ways are you growing?

How are you more effective at ministry than you were a year ago?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

WEEK

7

Following My Guide

JOHN

10:1-18

DRIVING BLIND

Imagine you are playing an auto racing video game. You control how fast and the direction your car goes. The game track has the same obstacles you would encounter on a real track. If you hit an oil slick too fast, your car spins out of control. If you take a turn too sharply, you will end up in the wall. The thing that really makes the game difficult is that you can only see the road right in front of you. You have to react quickly, because you are blind to what's ahead. Your reactions have to be quick to get a qualifying time, and your moves have to be nearly perfect to win the race with the simulated cars. Most players improve their scores by racing the same track until they know what's coming. Then, they can anticipate the turns and obstacles.

In a way, that's what it is like to live the Christian life. You can only see what is just ahead. You don't know what obstacles you will face in the next day or the next hour. The amazing thing is we have a guide, one who knows the road. The Holy Spirit is willing to guide us through the turns and obstacles. Our choice is to listen to Him, or to keep driving blind.

Can you think of a specific situation when you felt you were in a battle of spiritual warfare?

THE VOICE OF THE ENEMY

Satan continues to use the same arsenal of weapons against those he attacks. Stories often sound like this:

- A pregnant girl might say that she and her boyfriend really were in love.
- A guy in rehab might explain that his first joint seemed like harmless fun; his friends and even his parents smoked.
- A guy who hurts people by his words might explain that he was just telling the truth and if people can't handle it, that's their problem.

Read Romans 5:12.

Why do people think of immoral activity as a personal choice instead a sin against God?

Read John 8:44.

What did Jesus say about the devil?

HUMANITY IS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE, WHETHER THEY ARE AWARE OF IT OR NOT.

Read Ephesians 6:10-12.

We have a spiritual enemy. According to Jesus, Satan is a liar and the father of lies. Satan seeks to deceive people in a way that only he can. People who do not know the truth of God are easily led to believe that whatever feels good at the moment must be good. Even believers can be misled by Satan's lies.

Read John 10:10.

What is Satan's purpose?

What is Satan trying to steal from you? If you will allow him, he will steal your joy. Satan will steal your purity. Satan will steal reputation. Satan will do anything he can to ruin you.

When you became a Christian, Satan lost you for eternity. He cannot take away your salvation. When you accepted Christ as your Savior, it was forever!

THE VOICE OF TRUTH

Read John 10:1-21.

What are the characteristics of the "Good Shepherd"?

If Satan is always trying to deceive us, how do we know how to hear the right voice?

What is Jesus's purpose in our lives?

God wants you to experience an abundant life. He has set you free from bondage and wants you to live a life free from the ugliness of sin that Satan desires for you.

Read Luke 4:1-13.

How did Jesus defend Himself from Satan's temptation?

Read Matthew 26:41.

What advice did Jesus give His disciples about overcoming temptation?

If you let your guard down by not seeking God consistently, you are likely to give Satan a foothold in some area of your life.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, the people in the United States, the most powerful nation in the world, were not concerned about terrorism. Though the government knew that there was always a possibility that something could happen, no real action was taken for protection from terrorists. It took the tragedy of a terrorist group using commercial airliners to thousands of United States citizens, to realize that we need develop preventative measures against the threat of terrorism.

Our government realized that we must always be on guard. It is even more important for us to be on guard against Satan, for he too has come to steal, kill, and destroy.

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9.

Satan often attacks Christians in subtle ways. How do your media choices affect your ability to hear the right voice?

How are you watching and praying to guard against Satan's attacks?

COMMON TEMPTATIONS

Committing scripture to memory is one the best ways to battle against temptation and the voice of the enemy. Jesus modeled it for us when He was tempted. Below is a list of common temptations along with scriptures to help you to victory.

Acting in Anger (Ephesians 4:26)

Arguments (Titus 3:9)

Cheating (Proverbs 20:17)

Dishonesty (Psalm 34:13)

Fighting (Proverbs 17:14)

Gossiping (Proverbs 16:28)

Hurtful Language (Ephesians 4:29)

Laziness (Proverbs 6:9-11)

Lust (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

Lying (Proverbs 11:3)

Neglecting Church (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Off-color Humor (Ephesians 5:3-4)

Pornography (Job 31:1)

Profanity (1 Timothy 4:12)

Rage (Colossians 3:8)

Rebellion (Romans 13:1-2)

Resentment (Colossians 3:13)

Selfishness (Philippians 2:3)

Sex (1 Corinthians 6:18)

Stealing (Ephesians 4:28)

Alcohol (Proverbs 20:1)

Violence (Proverbs 11:17)

NOW WHAT?

A soldier needs equipment to fight in a physical war. To fight a spiritual war, you need spiritual weapons. God has provided exactly what you need.

Read Ephesians 6:13-18.

Identify the different pieces of armor in the left column of the chart. Write how each of these pieces can be used to fight a spiritual battle.

<u>Armor</u>	<u>What is it?</u>	<u>How is it useful?</u>
1) Helmet	Salvation	<i>Knowing that you are saved by Christ eternally.</i>
2) Belt	Truth	
3) Breastplate	Righteousness	
4) Boots	Peace	
5) Shield	Faith	
6) Sword	Word of God	

God desires for you to walk with Him. He has given you what you need to do it. Will you fail? At times, yes. When you do, ask for His forgiveness and get back in the battle. Don't become a casualty of spiritual war. Put on the full armor of God and stay in the battle.

GOING DEEPER

When and how does Satan most often tempt you?

What are common temptations that you battle?

How do you overcome temptation in those moments?

Who is holding you accountable when it comes to those temptations?

How will you make a better effort to listen only for the voice of truth?

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

1) List your priorities—The things you want to make sure happen this week, such as spending time with God, meeting with your accountability partner, spending time with your family, encouraging a friend, or confronting someone with a concern.

2) List Essentials—These are the things you have to accomplish this week. Such as preparing for tests at school, fulfilling job requirements, home responsibilities, and church activities.

Priorities

Essentials

Day 1 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 2 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 3 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 4 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 5 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 6 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 7 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

CHARACTER TRAIT STUDY

SINGLE-MINDEDNESS – GIVING CLOSE ATTENTION TO CHRIST, HIS COMMANDS, HIS PERSON, AND HIS WAYS. FOCUSING ON CHRIST AND NOT BEING LED AWAY BY OUR EVIL DESIRES OR OVERCOME WITH SATAN'S SCHEMES.

The Mind of Christ, Youth Edition by T. W. Hunt and Claude King, states that one of our spiritual problems is becoming distracted from Christ. We are led astray because our minds are bombarded with so many distractions. Single-mindedness is the trait that means we are focused on Christ.

As a Christian, you can direct and control your attention with focus on Christ. Develop this character trait by ridding your life of trivial things that demand your attention. It could mean not answering your phone or responding to text messages when you are in the middle of your quiet time. Don't allow "time with God" to be limited to a structured few moments, Instead, deliberately focus your mind on Jesus as often as possibly during the day.

What can you do to better focus on your relationship with Christ?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Ephesians 6:12

Remember that Scripture is your sword. It is your weapon to defend yourself against the attacks of Satan. As you work on memorizing your verse this week, picture yourself sharpening your sword.

REAP

DAY

1

EPHESIANS 6:10-12

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Which weapon is the only offensive weapon?

Describe ways you can use the Word of God as a weapon in your life.

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

LUKE 4:1-13

DAY

2

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How does Satan most often come to tempt you?

What Scripture verse has been most helpful to you in defeating Satan?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

3

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What promise does this verse give about temptation?

Why do Christians often fail to escape temptation?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

4

JOHN 10:1-10

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

According to this passage, how do the sheep know where to go?

What helps you hear God clearly instead of being distracted?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

5

PSALM 119:105-112

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How are you allowing God's Word to be a light for your path?

What Scriptures has God been using in your life lately? Why?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

6

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What is necessary for us to do for God to bring healing to our land?

Why focus on what God's people (instead of the ungodly) should do?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

7

LUKE 6:46-49

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What kind of foundation is your life built on?

What evidence is there that shows your life is built on God?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

WEEK

8

Christlike Character

PSALM

26:1-7

REAL LIFE CHARACTER

Write your definition of character below.

Describe one of your best friends.

When we know someone well, we start to trust his or her character. Many teenagers say that their friends have to be people they can trust. They wouldn't consider someone as a friend if he or she were untrustworthy. It is important to have reliable character.

Check out the three situations below. Circle words or phrases that indicate the kind of character the person in the story has.

SITUATION 1

Lucas could be best described as two-faced. When his parents or the parents of any of his friends are around he is kind, humble, and displays excellent manners. However, when adults are not around and it's just Lucas and his friends, he is prideful, hateful, and cocky.

SITUATION 2

Haley is one of the most active teenagers in the youth group. She loves to read the Bible, knows a lot about Scripture, and goes on all the youth trips. When she sings in church, she gets praised for her ability. However, Haley has no self-control when it comes to boys. She doesn't show it to those that see her everyday, but just ask her last two boyfriends. They would say that she pressured them to go further in their relationship than she should have. Her last boyfriend quit coming to the youth group because she wouldn't stop. He did not want to be part of a youth group that has leaders like Haley. She appears to be one thing at church but quite another on a date.

SITUATION 3

When Jon is working at his part-time job, no one works harder than he does. His boss even made him "Employee of the Month" because he thought that Jon was an excellent employee who cared about doing the job right. If you asked those who knew Jon's work habits best, his coworkers, you would hear the same story: that Jon works hard.

What do you think about these people?

Are they people of godly character? Why or why not?

Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8.

What does Paul tell Timothy to train to be?

How is training for godliness like physical training?

Think about being in God's gym. There are no weight benches, but there are difficult circumstances that you must overcome. An example of a difficult circumstance in God's gym could be your sister. She is constantly doing things that make you angry. You know how to yell at her, but what you haven't learned to do is to respond to her with patience and love. So, each day you try a little harder to be patient with her. Each day, you try a little harder to smile instead of scream when she smears your mom's lipstick on your favorite shirt. Little by little, you become a picture of Christ to your sister. You become someone she can look up to.

Paul was pretty specific about ways you can develop godly character.

Read 1 Timothy 4:9-16.

Where did Paul say that we get the power for having a godly character?

Did Paul think it was OK for young people to lack Christian character?

Yes No

What did Paul tell Timothy to be devoted to?

How did Paul tell Timothy to apply himself to these things?

What did Paul tell Timothy would be the result of his perseverance?

Building a godly character does not come from human effort. It is the result of a dependence on God. However, that does not mean that there is no work involved. A Christian has to be devoted fully to God's Word and to right living while seeking God's direction.

Compare these two stories:

SITUATION 1

Barry was a Christian, but you wouldn't have known it if you saw him at school. His Christian life had so many holes in it. His language was as bad as anyone's in the school. His relationships with girls were full of compromise and sin. He often felt twinges of guilt and sometimes tried to clean up his act. On one such occasion, he talked to his friend Scott about coming to church with him. Scott laughed. "You go to church?" he asked.

SITUATION 2

Sydney tried to share with her friend Amber about Christ. Amber was totally disinterested. "Look, Sydney," Amber told her, "I know that you are really serious about your religion. It's just not for me." Sydney nodded, feeling a little disappointed. "Would you mind if I pray for God to show Himself to you?" Sydney asked. Amber looked at her for a long time. Finally, she said, "Do whatever you want." As time passed by Sydney continued to pray for Amber and looked for ways to be kind and generous to her. Several months later, Amber asked Sydney if she could go to church with her. "God means so much to you, He's got to be real," she told Sydney.

Though the circumstances may not be the same, who are you more like?

___ Sydney ___ Barry

What are some changes you could make to better demonstrate Christlike character?

CHARACTER IS NOT AN INSTANT OR EASY THING TO DEVELOP. IT TAKES DILIGENCE TO CHANGE SINFUL HABITS AND BEHAVIORS SO THAT THEY ALIGN WITH JESUS' CHARACTER.

The early Christ followers originally were called "Christians" by the non-Christians. The word literally meant "little Christs." They were actually making fun of the believers. The believers took the name as a badge of honor.

A person's actions demonstrate what is happening in their heart. How does the condition of your heart affect your character?

You could definitely say that Jesus was a man of integrity. He possessed all of the positive character traits we could ever desire.

Read Hebrews 4:15.

Explain how this verse gives followers of Jesus the confidence to face difficult circumstances.

Read each of the Scripture passages listed below. Describe how Jesus demonstrated godly character in the way He responded to each situation.

- 1) Luke 4:1-13
- 2) Luke 19:1-10
- 3) Luke 20:20-26
- 4) Luke 22:47-53

Jesus never cracked in pressure situations. He never let popular opinion keep him from doing the right thing. His character was whole; He had perfect integrity.

Character is important. The goal of this discipleship series is to help you be more like Christ, and to imitate His character. For this reason, a Character Trait Study has been included in each week of this study.

Review the Character Trait Study in each session. In the space below, explain how you have been challenged to develop and apply these character traits throughout the series.

- 1) Responsibility –
- 2) Faithfulness –
- 3) Self-Control –
- 4) Joy –
- 5) Patience –
- 6) Humbleness –
- 7) Single-Mindedness –

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.

**WE WILL NEVER BE PERFECT AS JESUS WAS, BUT DON'T SET YOUR SIGHTS LOWER.
STRIVE TO BE THE PERSON OF INTEGRITY THAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO BE.**

NOW WHAT?

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1 to follow his example as he followed the example of Christ. Are you so much a picture of the character of Christ that others could follow you as you follow Christ?

There are many traits that the Bible directs Christians to have. Even though this is not an exhaustive list, rate yourself on how well your life exhibits each trait. 1 being the least like you and 10 being the most like you:

Caring	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cheerful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Compassionate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Confident	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cooperative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Courageous	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Dependable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Diligent	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fair	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Forgiving	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Generous	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Helpful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Honest	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Joyful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kind	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Loyal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Modest	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Optimistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Patient	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Persistent	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Reliable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Respectful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Responsible	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Self-controlled	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Thoughtful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Trustworthy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

GOING DEEPER

Choose two or three traits that you need to work on. In the space below, begin to devise a plan for developing those traits to a greater extent in your life.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

1) List your priorities—The things you want to make sure happen this week, such as spending time with God, meeting with your accountability partner, spending time with your family, encouraging a friend, or confronting someone with a concern.

2) List Essentials—These are the things you have to accomplish this week. Such as preparing for tests at school, fulfilling job requirements, home responsibilities, and church activities.

Priorities

Essentials

Day 1 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 2 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 3 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 4 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 5 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 6 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 7 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

CHARACTER TRAIT STUDY

INTEGRITY – A GENERAL TERM USED FOR MANY CHRISTLIKE CHARACTERISTICS; IT MEANS HAVING THE QUALITY OF WHOLENESS AND HONESTY. WHEN SOMEONE HAS INTEGRITY, IT MEANS WHAT THEY DO WHEN PEOPLE ARE WATCHING THEM IS THE SAME THING THEY DO WHEN NO ONE IS AROUND.

In what circumstances do you find yourself tempted to act differently, or “be somebody else”?

In the space below, write a prayer asking God to give you strength to live with godly character in every situation.

MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK

Galatians 5:22-23

As a believer in Christ the Holy Spirit indwells you. The Holy Spirit helps you live out the qualities listed in this scripture. A great way to memorize this particular passage is by asking God to help you live out each one of the fruits of the Spirit.

Example: **Love** – God, I ask You to fill me with a deep love for You. Help me to love my family. Show me how to love others that I come in contact with each day.

Write down a short prayer for each of the fruits of the Spirit.

REAP

DAY

1

ROMANS 8:28

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

When has God caused good to come out of a bad situation?

How can you trust God in bad situations?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

2

PSALM 139:13-16

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What does this verse indicate about how well God knows us?

How should this affect our attitude toward God?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

3

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What does the cross of Christ mean for your life?

Whom do you know who sees the cross as foolishness? Pray for them.

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

4

PROVERBS 4:1-9

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What are some of the benefits of wisdom?

How can these benefits be applied to your life?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

5

ECCLESIASTES 3:9-12

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What do you think about when considering eternity?

What does it mean that God "has made everything beautiful in its time"?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

6

PSALM 26:1-7

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What words in this passage describe a life of integrity?

What are the areas in your life that you are not walking with integrity?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

7

MATTHEW 12:30

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How are do your actions indicate that you are for God or against God?

What does it mean to be a gather and a scatter?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

WEEK

9

**Eyes
On
The
Prize**

1 CORINTHIANS

9:24-27

DECIDING TO RUN

The call to follow Christ required the disciples to change their identity. They had to decide to no longer be who they were before. That required a tremendous amount of sacrifice and courage. They chose to abandon everything. They didn't just try to modify their behavior. They allowed Christ to change their hearts.

Read John 6:1-2.

Why did the people gather around Jesus?

Read John 6:10-12.

What did Jesus do?

Read John 6:24-26.

Why did they go find Jesus?

Read John 6:35.

What did Jesus mean when He said this?

Read John 6:66-69.

What were the two different responses from the disciples?

1)

2)

The truth of the Gospel requires each of us to make a choice about Jesus and how to live, and the magnitude of this decision matters eternally.

Read 2 Peter 3:8-9.

What does this passage communicate about the character of God and what He desires?

Read 2 Peter 3:10-14.

It is important to understand that God's judgment will not be delayed forever. Therefore, how should we live?

The Day of Judgment will come. What can believers look forward to?

KEEPING A STEADY PACE

Far too many people read a book, go on a retreat, and make changes, only to slip back into their previous patterns within a few days or weeks. If we simply try to change our behaviors on our own, we will quickly find ourselves back in our old behaviors and routines.

Read 1 John 2:15-17.

Since the world is passing away along with its desires, why would you try to satisfy them?

What worldly desires distract you?

SATAN TRIES TO LURE EVERYONE INTO THINKING THAT THE WORLD HAS SOMETHING BETTER TO OFFER APART FROM CHRIST.

Read Galatians 5:16-25.

How can you choose to live by the Spirit?

How does walking in the Spirit keep you from gratifying the desires of the flesh?

Human desires are a part of God's creation and are not inherently evil, but how do they become twisted?

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

What must remove from our lives in order to run the race well?

What would cause you to want to give up living for Jesus?

How does looking to Jesus help?

Read Philippians 2:12-13.

As believers work hard at living responsible Christian lives, they can rejoice because God's empowering presence enables them to do so.

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

Why is it important to finish strong?

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

With what did Paul compare his walk?

Paul already knew what his reward was. Why was that important?

Read Colossians 3:1-17

How does this passage encourage you to finish strong?

We know what God expects from us. In order to finish the race that is marked out for us we must maintain a proper focus on Christ, get rid of sinful behaviors, and live in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord.

We all need perseverance to finish our lives with excellence amidst spiritual warfare. Just like a runner, we must stick to our proper training and encourage each other to make it to the finish line.

NOW WHAT?

“BEING A CHRISTIAN IS MORE THAN JUST AN INSTANTANEOUS CONVERSION;
IT IS LIKE A DAILY PROCESS WHEREBY YOU GROW TO BE MORE AND MORE LIKE CHRIST.”

–BILLY GRAHAM

Despite the obstacles you encounter, keep your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. God has called you to run. Run in such a way that He will get to say, “well done my good and faithful servant”.

What do you need to do in order to continue a steady pace and rhythm in your walk with Christ?

GOING DEEPER

How are you going to respond when you face adversity and suffering?

What weighs you down? What sins easily entangle you?

How do we find the balance between our effort to run the race and God’s power working through us?

How can you encourage other believers to stay strong in their faith?

Who needs your encouragement to continue to pursue Christ?

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

1) List your priorities—The things you want to make sure happen this week, such as spending time with God, meeting with your accountability partner, spending time with your family, encouraging a friend, or confronting someone with a concern.

2) List Essentials—These are the things you have to accomplish this week. Such as preparing for tests at school, fulfilling job requirements, home responsibilities, and church activities.

Priorities

Essentials

Day 1 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 2 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 3 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 4 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 5 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 6 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Day 7 - Morning

Afternoon

Evening

CHARACTER TRAIT STUDY

PERSEVERANCE – CONTINUED EFFORT TO DO OR ACHIEVE SOMETHING DESPITE DIFFICULTIES, FAILURE, OR OPPOSITION

Read 2 Peter 1:5-9.

The progression of qualities in this passage is not a legalistic code. Rather, they characterize a heart that is transformed by the Holy Spirit. The encouragement is to live a new life in the power and promises of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Specify three areas of your Christian walk in which you need to persevere.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK

John 15:9-10

Memorizing Scripture is easy to do one verse at a time. Most Christians struggle to memorize Scripture because they see so much that they need to do and try to do it all at once.

In this study, you have committed nine passages to memory. That is great, but don't let that be the end. Continue memorizing one verse a week and review those you have already memorized. You will be surprised how quickly your knowledge of Scripture will grow.

REAP

DAY

1

ROMANS 5:3-5

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What does suffering produce?

How does perseverance produce character?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

2

JAMES 1:2-4

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How can you consider it joy when going through trials and difficulties?

How does persevering through trials and difficulties make you mature?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

3

ROMANS 12:12

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Why is it hard to be patient during difficult times?

How can you be constant in prayer?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

GALATIANS 6:9

DAY

4

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

What makes you become weary?

How do you overcome being weary?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

5

PSALM 27:14

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

When have you had to wait on God?

How do you let your heart take courage in the Lord?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

6

1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-3

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Who encourages you in your faith?

Write a prayer thanking God for them.

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

REAP

DAY

7

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

READ

Spend time reading the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

How do the things that you set your mind on help you or hinder you in your walk with Christ?

How does the example set by other Christian leaders matter to you?

ASK

How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

PRAY

Talk with God about the passage and your application. Ask Him to change your heart and life based on the time you've spent in His Word.

LOOKING BACK

How do you feel now that you have completed this study?

So now you are thinking, okay, now that I've completed this study, I know everything I need to know now, right?

Discipleship isn't about completing a study. It is about a lifestyle of learning and living as you follow Jesus throughout your lifetime. What you have learned throughout this study will become more important to your Christian life in the months, even years, to come. Think about some of the major concepts that you have learned and lived out.

- Knowledge that looking and acting like Jesus will cost you something.
- Knowledge that changing your life comes about as a result of your relationship with Jesus.
- Friends to encourage you and hold you accountable.
- Understanding the importance of putting God first as you plan and prioritize your time.
- Understanding the importance of Scripture in your knowledge of Jesus and His will for you.
- Knowledge that different types of prayer help you and those for whom you pray.
- Ability to use your Christian ministry to help others and make an eternal investment.
- Knowledge of how to write and share your testimony.
- Realization that you are in a battle and knowledge of how to identify Satan's subtle attacks.
- Ability to identify and develop character traits to help you become more like Jesus.

Wow! That's a lot! Now it's time to continue to live out what you have learned in this study.

PERSONAL SALVATION EXPERIENCE

Read Acts 20:22-24.

Like Paul, the best way to testify about Christ is to share the difference Christ has made in your life. Write out your personal testimony by answering the following questions.

What was your life like before you accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord?

What actually happened when you accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord?

What has your life been like since you accepted Jesus as your Savior?

What would life be like if you hadn't chosen to follow Jesus?



FUEL STUDENT MINISTRY
CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH
www.carmelstudents.org
www.carmelbaptist.org