



Introduction

What is Decision to Discipleship?

DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP is a year-long experience in learning and practicing the life seen in Jesus Christ. Its six eight-week phases are designed to help you develop a *dynamic Christian Lifestyle*.

Discipleship is defined as a lifestyle of practical faith in Jesus Christ and willing obedience to his commands. It is a life of love and good works which aims in all things to glorify God and to help others also to become disciples and witnesses. Jesus said the greatest commandments were, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength," and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mk. 12:30-31). "If you love me, you will do what I command" (Jn. 14:15). "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did" (1 Jn. 2:6). "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). "And the things which you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Tim. 2:2).

Why a Discipleship Program?

Many Christians either are not growing or have no effective ministry for Christ. Many of us find we need help especially in setting priorities, living a life of worship, experiencing true Christian fellowship, developing personal disciplines, discovering spiritual gifts, witnessing to others, and managing resources of time and money. These needs are more critical today than in the past because of the pressure-packed world we live in. We all need help in

developing a truly Christian lifestyle, and we recognize that none of us has enough discipline to achieve this alone. We must help each other!

Discipleship can't be programmed. But a discipleship program such as this can provide the framework in which discipleship becomes a reality.

Objectives

Decision to Discipleship aims to raise up a corps of committed disciples who:

1. know and understand the Bible and have memorized key portions of it;
2. are Spirit-filled and Spirit-led;
3. have developed a lifestyle of obedience to the Word of God;
4. have had basic training in evangelism and have become effective witnesses;
5. have discovered and begun to exercise their spiritual gifts;
6. are reproducing themselves through making disciplemakers; and
7. are experiencing true Christian sharing or koinonia.

How?

It takes years of the Holy Spirit's work in a person's life to accomplish these objectives fully. But *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* provides a concrete tool for opening up one's life to the discipling ministry of the Spirit and the Word.

Initially the disciple commits himself to Phase One, lasting eight weeks. *This is a serious commitment.* To begin, the disciple must accept the *Discipleship Covenant* and seek conscientiously to fulfill it. To continue in the

program, the covenant must be renewed at the beginning of each eight-week phase.

There are three basic parts to *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* as it functions from week to week:

1. *Discipleship Cell* -- The small-group meeting of two to five disciples with the discipler. This is a weekly one-to-two-hour training session for the purpose of informal sharing, prayer, Bible study, and talking over assignments and projects.

2. *One-on-One Sharing* -- A weekly one-to-one encounter between the discipler and disciple for the purpose of review, prayer, discussion, and personal application of material studied.

3. *Individual Study and Application* -- This is time the disciple spends on his own in completing Bible studies contained in this Manual, memorizing assigned Scriptures, reading, and putting assignments into practice.

Normally *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* requires a minimum of seven hours per week for the disciple (Discipleship Cell, 2 hours; One-on-One, 1 hour; Individual Study and Application, 4 hours). The discipler will spend about seven hours per week working with one disciple, and should allow an additional two hours per week for each additional disciple.

Manual Contents

This Manual contains all necessary materials for Phase One. Materials for subsequent phases may be added to the Manual as needed. For each week, the Manual contains:

Introduction

Weekly Assignment
Bible Study Outline
Prayer Record Form
Weekly Planner
Scripture Memory Card

Getting Started

The following two pages contain an outline of the six eight-week phases of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* and the *Discipleship Covenant*. You should go over this material carefully with your discipler and, when ready, sign the Covenant and begin the program.

DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP -- OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

1. Thinking Discipleship
2. Using the Tools

PHASE ONE: *Where Do I Start?*

1. Assurance of Salvation
2. Feeding on the Word
3. Developing a Quiet Time
4. A Life of Worship (Prayer and Praise)
5. Witnessing
6. The Holy Spirit
7. A Clear Conscience
8. Led by the Spirit

PHASE TWO: *What Is Discipleship?*

1. The Call to Discipleship
2. Establishing a Life Goal
3. Arranging Priorities
4. The Disciplined Life
5. Discovering Spiritual Gifts
6. Stewardship of the Body
7. Poverty and Riches
8. Financial Freedom

PHASE THREE: *Where Do I Fit in God's Family?*

1. Man and Woman in God's Image
2. Living in Community
3. Submitting to One Another
4. God's Plan for the Family
5. The Roles of Husband and Wife
6. Spiritual Leadership in the Home
7. The Home and the Church
8. Family Lifestyle

PHASE FOUR: *How Can I Share My Faith?*

1. The Great Commission
2. Telling My Story
3. Evangelism and Gifts
4. Methods of Evangelism
5. Training in Evangelism
6. Intensive Christian Witness
7. Church Growth
8. World Vision

PHASE FIVE: *How Can I Disciple Someone Else?*

1. Follow-up of New Converts
2. Follow-up of New Converts (cont.)
3. The Principle of Multiplication
4. Beginning to Disciple
5. Continuing to Disciple
6. Making Disciple-Makers
7. Beginning a Small Group
8. Small Group Leadership

PHASE SIX: *What Is God's Overall Plan?*

1. God's Cosmic Plan
2. The Kingdom of God
3. The Church
4. Ministry and Spiritual Gifts
5. Spiritual Warfare
6. Social Witness
7. Groups for Mission
8. The Church as Counterculture





The Discipleship Covenant

Convinced that God is calling me to a life of fuller discipleship, I commit myself to Phase One of the *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* program, and will endeavor faithfully to fulfill the following disciplines:

1. A minimum of one hour per week with the discipler.
2. Faithful participation in the Discipleship Cell.
3. A regular quiet time of Bible study and prayer.
4. A program of regular weekly Scripture memorization.
5. Sharing my faith with others.
6. Active involvement in my local church.
7. A sincere endeavor to put into practice whatever God teaches me through *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*.

Name _____

Date _____



Thinking Discipleship

This is the first of two introductory sessions designed to acquaint you more fully with the philosophy and materials of the *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* ministry.

THINKING REDEMPTIVELY

Disciples of Jesus Christ should be

*Redemptive in thought
Redemptive in purpose
for
Redemptive results.*

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16 - 6:2 and answer the following questions:

1. Why is it that as Christians we now "regard no one from a worldly point of view"? From what point of view should we look at other persons?
2. What did God give us when he reconciled us to himself? (Note verse 18.)
3. In what ways are we Christ's ambassadors?
4. When is the right time for a person to come to God? What is our part in helping people come to God?

In this passage Paul is describing the ministry he and his co-workers had among the Corinthians. In reconciling us to himself, God gave us all the message of reconciliation so we can have

a reconciling ministry in the world. We are Christ's ambassadors; God's fellow workers. Therefore we should strive to be redemptive in all we say and do.

REDEMPTIVE LIVING

You are encouraged to be constantly aware of the needs of others. These needs will include spiritual needs. Watch for opportunities to help those in need, and take advantage of these opportunities. Think and act redemptively.

The discipleship materials contain several disciplines to aid you in redemptive living. These include a planning calendar and a prayer record form (which will be explained in the next session). One of the most important aids to redemptive living and thinking will be the time you spend regularly with your discipler. You will meet regularly with him and other disciples in the *Discipleship Cell*, and you will spend time privately with him weekly for prayer, sharing, and work assignments. There may also be informal fellowship times apart from these weekly sessions. Through these times, talking about God and all he is doing will eventually become as natural as talking about the weather.

Redemptive living means talking not only about God, but also to God -- and listening to him. Praying together is one of the keys to real discipleship. MUCH PRAYER - MUCH POWER.





Using the Tools

A certain man had a beautiful workshop in his home. It was well lighted and colorfully painted. He had a well-equipped work bench with a vise and two mounted power saws. Neatly arranged on the wall was a wide assortment of tools -- screwdrivers, wrenches, saws, hammers, pliers, drills, chisels.

The man kept his workshop neat and tidy. Everything was always in its place. There was only one problem: He never used the tools for anything! They were just for looks.

We don't want this to happen with *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*. Use the tools! This lesson will show you how, and will make growth in discipleship orderly and progressive. Tools are most effective when used the way they were designed to be used!

THE DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL

The Discipleship Manual contains everything you will need for the first eight weeks of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*. This material is all part of Phase One. You will note that there are dividers also for the other five phases. Material for these phases will be added as needed.

Each week you will be using the following tools:

Introductory Session 2 - b

Topic Introduction

The first page each week will introduce the topic for the week. It will state the purpose of that week's lesson and explain how to proceed.

Weekly Assignment

Each week an assignment will be given. This is to be completed before the next Discipleship Cell meeting. It will include Bible study and some means of applying what is learned. Occasionally it will include reading from books or other sources. The discipler may add to or modify these assignments as he feels is best for each disciple. Since individuals differ, the assignments may need to be adapted to different individual needs.

Bible Study Outline

A different Bible study for each of the eight weeks is provided. The disciple is to complete the study each week on his own. The study may then be discussed with the discipler during the One-on-One Session, or in the Discipleship Cell.

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Each week's lesson will include a "bridge-building opportunity" -- a suggested way to be in redemptive contact with other persons. Week by week you will be building bridges to non-Christians. At the proper time the Spirit will help you cross those bridges and lead people to Christ.

Prayer Record Form

"Much Prayer - Much Power!" These words at the top of the prayer record form emphasize a key element of discipleship. Day by day, you should record requests that come to your attention -- especially matters of prayer that are shared in the Discipleship Cell. As the date of each request and the date of the answers

Introductory Session 2 - c

are recorded, God's work in the lives of the disciples will be clearly seen.

Weekly Planner - "Planning - To Live Redemptively"

This sheet has spaces for each day of the week. It is an aid to redemptive living. Its purpose is twofold. First, it is a tool to help you organize and discipline your life so that your use of time will really reflect your priorities. We give our time to the things that are important to us. Secondly, once you have worked out a pattern for your life, the planner can be used as a record to keep track of commitments and appointments.

Each disciple needs to work out his own schedule, breaking down the day into time periods that correspond to his commitments, or writing in times when certain things are to be done. There is a place to check each day for daily devotions, bridge-building contacts, church commitments, and contacts made with new persons. "Timothy Call" means a daily informal contact with a prayer partner or fellow disciple, whether by telephone or in person. "Salvation by Appointment" means a definite time of presenting the Gospel to a non-Christian.

Scripture Memory Card

The Scripture Memory Packet contains a verse for each week. The verses are printed in the Authorized Version (King James) and in the New International Version.

Each week's verse corresponds to the topic of that week. *It is essential that you memorize one verse each week, and that you constantly review verses learned.* When you have memorized all 48 verses, you will have with you always key Scriptures relating to every area of your life. These are not verses just for evangelism, but passages which speak of God's total work in our lives.

Introductory Session 2 - d

Use the eight verses that go with Phase One, one verse at a time. Carry the verse packet with you for practice and review. The remaining verses will be used as you proceed through phases two through six.

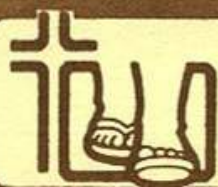
Use the tools intelligently and faithfully -- to the glory of God.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Begin to pray daily for each person in the Discipleship Cell.

2. Set a regular time for the one-on-one meeting with your discipler.





1. Assurance of Salvation

INTRODUCTION

"Fear not!"

These words are found many times in the Bible. God assures those who trust in him that he will be with them and protect them. One of the most basic truths of the Bible is that Christians may *know* they have been born into the family of God.

This week's lesson and Bible study will help you nail down the fact that God has forgiven your sins and is with you daily.

The following assignments are to be completed during the course of the week.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read John 5:24; 10:28-30;
1 John 1-5 _____
2. Complete the Bible study _____
3. Memorize 1 John 5:11-12 _____
4. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity _____

Study the Word

Phase One

Week One

1. What provision has God given you in writing that assures you of eternal life?
(1 John 5:13)

2. How does the Bible accomplish its purpose in you? That is, how must you receive the Word to know that you are born of God?
(1 John 5:1, 10; John 5:24)

3. When you meet this basic condition of faith in Jesus Christ, what is there about the nature of God that assures you of salvation?
(Hebrews 10:23; 2 Thessalonians 3:3)

4. What is your relationship with God, to which the Holy Spirit bears witness? (Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6)

5. What has God done for you now that you are trusting in Christ? (Col. 2:13; 1 Jn. 2:12)

6. What does the forgiveness of sins mean in terms of your relationship with God?
(Romans 8:1; John 3:18)

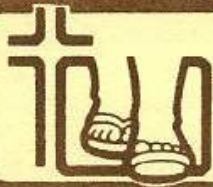
7. What does the absence of any condemnation for sin say about your assurance of salvation?
(1 John 3:21)

8. How would you sum up the way one feels who has his faith firmly fixed in God?
(Romans 5:1; 15:13)

Bridge Building Opportunity

Write out why you know that your salvation is real, and tell what you know is true about your past, present, and future in light of John 5:24. Share your answer with another member of your cell group or another believer.





2. Feeding on the Word

INTRODUCTION

Jesus, the Word of God, was made flesh and lived among us. Through his Spirit he has given us the written Word, the Bible. Jesus speaks to us today through his Spirit, and through the written Word.

We must feed on the Word daily if we are to live. A once-a-week banquet is not enough! The wise Christian is one who stores up the Word in his heart, and who uses it in his daily life. This week's work will help you feed on the Word.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:12-17;
1 Peter 1:22-25; Psalm
119:106
2. Complete the Bible study
3. Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17
4. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity

Study the Word

Phase One
Week Two

1. For what reason was the Bible written?
(John 20:31)

2. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, what is even more important than food for your physical body? (1 Peter 2:2)

3. Why is the Bible an infallible guide for our lives? (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

4. From a practical standpoint, why do you need the word of God in daily living? (Psalms 119:105, 130; 2 Peter 1:19)

5. How does God guide you in understanding the Bible? (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12)

6. Since the Holy Spirit both inspired and interprets Scripture, what is a good practice to follow when opening the Bible? (Psalm 119:18, 27; James 1:5)
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-

7. What must you do to really get the meat of the Word? (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11)
-
-

Now that you have begun the Scripture memorization work in the *Decision to Discipleship* program, here are some principles to help you to memorize and internalize God's Word:

- *THINK THROUGH* and *MEDITATE ON* the verse
- *ASSOCIATE* the verse with another idea or picture in your mind
- *VERBALLY* repeat the verse out loud
- *REPEAT THE REFERENCE* before and after the verse
- *APPLY* the verse in your daily life and
- *REVIEW* your memory verses daily (the real secret!)

Bridge Building Opportunity

This week, share one of the verses you have memorized with two other people, and report on your experience to your discipler.





3. Developing A Quiet Time

INTRODUCTION

Jesus himself needed time alone with the Father, away from the crowds and even away from his disciples. He spent time alone with God, because pleasing God and doing his will were the most important things in his life.

Twentieth-century disciples especially need quiet times with God. Crowded schedules and pressing demands tend to soak up all our time. Therefore we must set aside time to be alone with the Father, and we must *develop* this time into a vital part of our relationship with God.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Psalm 1; Isaiah 40:30-31; Luke 5:15-16; 6:12 _____
2. Complete the Bible study _____
3. Memorize Psalm 1:1-2 _____
4. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity _____

Study the Word

Phase One
Week Three

1. What is the proper attitude for communion with God during your personal devotional time?

Matthew 5:16 _____

Psalm 42:1-2 _____

Psalm 119:2, 10 _____

Jeremiah 29:13 _____

2. What basic characteristic of God did these men experience in their encounters with God?

Moses (Ex. 3:3-5) _____

Isaiah (Isa. 6:1-3) _____

John (Rev. 4:1-2, 8) _____

3. Make note of the kind of atmosphere and environment which Jesus found conducive to his own personal and spiritual development.

Matthew 5:16 _____

Mark 6:46 _____

4. What can you learn from the life of Jesus about both the quality and the amount of time you should devote to prayer? (Luke 6:12)

5. What key dimension of the devotional life is underscored in the following Psalms?

Psalm 19:14 _____

Psalm 63:6 _____

Psalm 119:78 _____

Psalm 119:148 _____

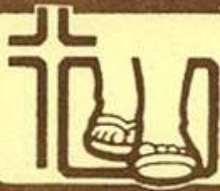
6. If you seek to develop a quality devotional life and communion with God, what does God promise? (Jer. 29:12-13; Mt. 5:16)

7. What must be your attitude if you really want to experience God's presence?
(1 Chronicles 22:19)

Bridge Building Opportunity

Experiment this week with various times and locations to determine the best setting and time for your personal devotions. Share your discoveries and devotional experiences with your discipler this week. You may also want to consider keeping a prayer diary or notebook on your prayer life.





4. A Life of Worship

INTRODUCTION

We worship God because he is holy. No one else is worthy of the worship we give to God. Worship is not just something we do on Sundays, but it is our loving, reverent response to God day by day. So Paul says, "Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV).

This week we emphasize two dimensions of worship: *prayer* and *praise*. The two go together. Daily we pray to God, and daily we praise him for himself and for his wonderful works in the world. A disciple is one who has encountered God through Jesus Christ, who therefore knows who God is, and who in response lives a life of prayer and praise.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Psalm 150; John 17:1-26;
Ephesians 5:15-20 _____
2. Complete the Bible study _____
3. Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6 _____
4. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity _____

Study the Word

Phase One
Week Four

Many of the Psalms are expressions of prayer and praise. Look at Psalm 145. Here the psalmist is praying to God, but the prayer is mainly one of praise.

1. What are some of the reasons the psalmist praises God in Psalm 145?

2. Note the various aspects of God's character as detailed in the following verses:

verse 3 _____

verse 8 _____

verse 9 _____

verse 13 _____

verse 17 _____

verse 18 _____

3. What does this Psalm say about God's kingdom?

4. Compare Psalm 145 with Matthew 6:9-13. What similarities do you see in each?

5. In summary, what are some of the things we should praise God for?
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6. What are some of the things for which it is proper to ask God?
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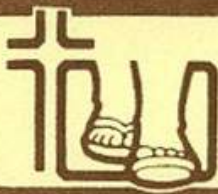
Bridge Building Opportunity

To be a bridge to others, you must be in daily contact with God. This week, practice communicating to God your innermost thoughts and concerns. Practice praising him. Be prepared to share in your cell group meeting a word of praise to God for what he is doing in your life.

Probably no discipline is more essential and yet more neglected among Christians than prayer. Jesus lived in constant communication with the Father, and we as his disciples must have daily disciplines and times of prayer.

Report to your discipler this week the progress you are making in establishing a regular and systematic time for personal devotions. (See last week's Bridge-Building Opportunity work.)





5. Witnessing

INTRODUCTION

The basic secret of the Church's growth is so simple that we often miss it. The secret is in Christians telling others about Jesus and what he is doing in their lives. That's witnessing.

Just as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us to be his witnesses. The whole divine plan for the Gospel's conquest of the world is simple: Go tell others! Gossip about Jesus! Make disciples. All power has been given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18), and he gives us the power of his Spirit to be his witnesses (Acts 1:8).

This week's emphasis is designed to help you witness effectively for Jesus Christ.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8
2. Complete the Bible study
3. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17
4. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity

Study the Word

Phase One
Week Five

1. Moved by love for the multitudes who were lost, Jesus came into the world to save sinners. In the light of Christ's work, what will you become if you follow him? (Matthew 4:19; Luke 5:10)
-
-

2. Since God works through human personality, what does the world so desperately need? (Matthew 9:38; Romans 10:14-15)
-
-

3. What is the *Great Commission* which Jesus gave to his disciples? (Matthew 28:19-20)
-
-

4. How has God provided the spiritual power for you to be a witness for Christ? (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49)
-
-

5. How did the people in Judea and Samaria find out about Jesus after Pentecost? (Acts 8:1,4)
-
-

6. What did Jesus regard as the supreme work of God? (John 6:29, 40)

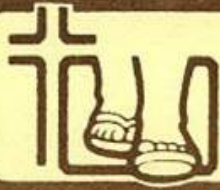
7. What does the Scripture say is the relationship between confessing (witnessing for) Jesus Christ and our salvation? (Acts 10:9-10)

8. What should you do now with the knowledge and responsibility gained in this study? (Mark 5:19; 2 Timothy 2:2)

Bridge Building Opportunity

This week, share with another person the most important thing that God has done in your life through Jesus Christ. Record below the circumstances and details of this witnessing experience:





6. The Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION

A Christian is a person who has been born again by the power of the Spirit of God. The work of the Spirit is to draw people to Christ, make them new through faith in Christ, and work in them so they can serve God creatively and effectively.

The Holy Spirit is not some impersonal influence. He is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Jesus. The Christian already has God's Holy Spirit living within him. The Spirit wants to lead us into his fullness so that we may be ever more like Jesus.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read John 14:15-17; 25-26;
15:26-27; 16:12-15 _____
2. Complete the Bible study _____
3. Memorize Romans 8:26 _____
4. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity _____

Study the Word

Phase One
Week Six

Chapters 14, 15, and 16 of John contain Jesus' teachings to his disciples on the eve of his death. They give us the deepest insights into the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

1. What is the name or title Jesus frequently gives the Holy Spirit? (Jn.14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)

2. In what way would the Holy Spirit be a "helper" or "counselor" to the disciples? Why did Jesus use the word "another"? (John 14:16)

3. What is the Holy Spirit's function in relation to "truth," and your understanding of it? (John 14:17, 26; 15:26; 16:13)

4. What is the Holy Spirit's supreme ministry? (John 16:14)

5. What is it that the unbelieving world cannot receive the Holy Spirit? (John 14:16, 30; 15:21; 16:3, 8-11)

6. What other privilege of the believer is mentioned repeatedly in these chapters? (John 14:13-14; 15:7,16; 16:23-26)

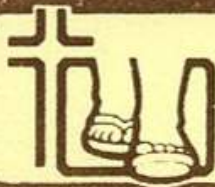
7. To whom is the Holy Spirit given now, in contrast to Old Testament days? (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17)

8. What does Romans 8:26 teach you about the Holy Spirit?

Bridge Building Opportunity

Describe below the following two things:
(1) How I believe the Holy Spirit is working in my life right now, and (2) ways in which I believe the Spirit wants to work through me to reach other people:





7. A Clear Conscience

INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest possessions of a Christian is a clear conscience. He has been forgiven! The guilt of sin has been washed away. The sins were real, but Jesus forgave them.

Part of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to maintain a clear conscience between ourselves and God. We need to understand this work of the Spirit and to keep our minds open and obedient before God so that we can be spiritually healthy. We cannot serve God effectively unless our conscience is clear before him.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Read Hebrews 9:13-14;
Acts 23:1-5; 24:16 | _____ |
| 2. | Complete the Bible study | _____ |
| 3. | Memorize Acts 24:16 | _____ |
| 4. | Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity | _____ |

Study the Word

Phase One
Week Seven

1. What cleanses your conscience from acts that lead to death, so that you may serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:13-14)

2. If you confess your sins to Jesus Christ, from what does he cleanse you? (1 Jn. 1:9)

3. Why should you be careful in exercising your freedom of conscience? (1 Corinthians 8:9)

4. What is the condition of the "conscience" of those who depart from the faith? (1 Timothy 4:1-2)

5. A "good conscience" is one that is lived "before God." What does "before God" mean? (Acts 23:1-5)

6. Paul "exercised" or disciplined his conscience to be clear at all times. To whom did he strive always to keep his conscience clear? (Acts 24:16)

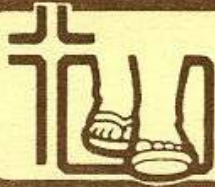
Bridge Building Opportunity

Christ's blood cleanses you from all sin. When you are forgiven by God your conscience is cleansed from those things which plagued you.

Examine your own conscience before God and in light of his word. Are there any areas of your life that God is dealing with you about through your conscience? If so, discuss them with your discipler.

This week, share with another person how God has given you a clear conscience before him.





8. Led by the Spirit

INTRODUCTION

God does not turn us into robots. His plan for us is not to *control* us as one controls a machine or an animal, but to *lead* us. The dynamic Christian life is the life led by the Holy Spirit.

One cannot be led by the Spirit unless he is committed to Jesus and ready to obey. True discipleship is a dynamic mixture of a *will* to obey God, a *heart* that loves God, and a *mind* that understands God's will. The Holy Spirit will lead us if we let him do his work in us.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Luke 4:1-15; Romans 8:1-17; Galatians 5:16-26
2. Complete the Bible study
3. Memorize Romans 8:14
4. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity
5. Decide if you are ready to sign the Covenant to continue with Phase Two.

Study the Word

Phase One
Week Eight

1. God wants you to be like Jesus. How can you be pure and holy in God's sight? (Hebrews 10:10; 13:12; Ephesians 5:25-26)
-
-

2. As with any benefit of the atonement, how is holiness appropriated in your life? (Acts 15:9; Acts 26:18)
-

3. What resource has God provided through which you can experience his sanctifying grace? (John 15:3; 17:17)
-
-

4. What should you be increasing in as you perfect your faith in Christ? (1 Thessalonians 3:12; Colossians 3:12-14)
-

5. Love is the greatest expression of holiness. What are some other virtues you should be cultivating in your life? (2 Peter 1:5-7; Galatians 5:22-23)
-
-

6. What should you endeavor to think about during the day? (Colossians 3:1-2; Philippians 2:5; 2 Corinthians 10:5)
-

7. In what ways should you respond to God's love for you? (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:11)

8. What does it mean to make a full surrender to Jesus Christ? (Matthew 16:24; Philippians 3:8)

9. How is your loving service to Christ expressed in daily conduct? (John 14:21, 23; Luke 9:23)

Bridge Building Opportunity

You should be developing an increasing sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit in your life. Be prepared to share with your discipler and other disciples this week regarding crucial decisions or commitments which the Spirit is leading you to make. These decisions might revolve around such things as your vocation, your ministry in the church, stewardship of material and physical resources, your witness to specific acquaintances, etc.





PLANNING - TO LIVE REDEEMPTIVELY

*"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."
Acts 5:42*

TIME

BRIDGE BUILDING

DAILY DEVOTIONS

TIMOTHY CALL

SALVATION BY APPT.

NEW CONTACT

CHURCH COMMITMENTS

SUNDAY

*"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord."
Psalms 122:1*

MONDAY

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19*

TUESDAY

*"And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
Galatians 6:9*

TIME

*"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."
Acts 5:42*

BRIDGE BUILDING
DAILY DEVOTIONS
TIMOTHY CALL
SALVATION BY APPT.
NEW CONTACT
CHURCH COMMITMENTS

W
E
D
N
E
S
D
A
Y

*"Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers, make good use of every opportunity you have."
Colossians 4:5*

T
H
U
R
S
D
A
Y

*"He that winneth Souls is Wise."
Proverbs 11:30*

F
R
I
D
A
Y

*"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28*

S
A
T
U
R
D
A
Y

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."
1 Corinthians 15:58*



What is Discipleship?

AS YOU BEGIN PHASE TWO . . .

You have already discovered some of the dimensions of discipleship. But being a disciple of Jesus means a life-long learning, growing process.

Discipleship means more than merely believing in Christ, or being ready to share your faith. It even means more than helping to disciple someone else. Discipleship means Christian life-style. It means orienting all one's life around the central commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

You have already committed yourself to Phase Two through renewing the Discipleship Covenant. As you proceed through Phase Two, these are the issues you will deal with:

1. The Call to Discipleship
2. Establishing a Life Goal
3. Arranging Priorities
4. The Disciplined Life
5. Discovering Spiritual Gifts
6. Stewardship of the Body
7. Poverty and Riches
8. Financial Freedom

You are moving into serious discipleship. Count the cost! Continue the adventure!

THE DISCIPLESHIP COVENANT

Phase Two

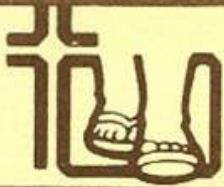
Convinced that God is calling me to go on in the life of discipleship, I commit myself to Phase Two of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* and will endeavor faithfully to fulfill the following disciplines:

1. A minimum of one hour per week with the discipler.
2. Faithful participation in the Discipleship Cell.
3. A regular quiet time of Bible study and prayer.
4. A program of regular Scripture memorization and review.
5. Sharing my faith with others.
6. Active involvement in my local church.
7. A sincere endeavor to put into practice whatever God teaches me through *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*.

Name _____

Date _____





1. The Call to Discipleship

INTRODUCTION

"Jesus paid it all," we sing. The debt for sin was paid on the cross. Salvation is free.

But Jesus not only says "Come to me for rest." He also tells us, "Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). Jesus calls us to discipleship.

This week's assignment involves looking at the call to discipleship which Jesus gave to people who wanted to follow him. It takes disciples to make disciples. The Great Commission to *go and make disciples* was given to those who had already heeded the call to discipleship. The same call comes to us today.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Luke 14:25-35, Mark 1:15,
and Matthew 6:33

2. Complete the Bible study

3. Memorize 1 Peter 2:21

4. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity

Study the Word

Phase Two
Week One

Read Matthew 10:24-39. Then go back and read the whole chapter, beginning with verse 1.

1. Jesus is our Master. What is the relationship that should exist between a disciple and his Master? (10:24-25)

2. To whom is Jesus talking in this chapter, and what is the occasion?

3. What kind of attitude should disciples have towards those who persecute them? (10:26-31)

4. Why should Jesus' disciples not fear?

5. What danger do we run if we deny Jesus before men?

6. How is the meaning of verse 34 explained by the verses which follow?

7. Does discipleship ever cause conflict? Why?

8. What is the best way to really find one's life?

9. List five marks or characteristics of a Christian disciple that are suggested in this passage.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

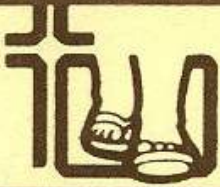
5) _____

Bridge Building Opportunity

Matthew 10:35-36 tells us that genuine discipleship poses potential conflict among members of the same family. This is not true, however, if the family is united in truly wanting to serve Jesus.

This week, share with someone in your family (either your immediate family or your in-laws) what the Lord is doing in your life.





2. Establishing a Life Goal

INTRODUCTION

Life is short. In a brief span of years, your life on earth will be over. What do you hope to accomplish in life? What is *really* important to you? What is your life goal?

Perhaps you haven't thought about that. The point is, many forces around us push their priorities and goals upon us. We have to decide for ourselves what is really important, and be part of a committed group which is willing to live--and die--for the values and truths that are of eternal significance.

Begin to think about your life goal as you work through this week's assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | Read these Scriptures:
Mark 1:15; Matt. 6:33
Romans 12:1-2 | _____ |
| 2. | Complete the Bible study | _____ |
| 3. | Memorize Matthew 6:33 | _____ |
| 4. | Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity | _____ |

Study the Word

Phase Two
Week Two

Read Philippians 3:1-21. Read the chapter a second time, marking or underlining whatever Paul says about his goal in life.

1. What words or phrases does Paul use to describe his life goal?

2. What was the focus of Paul's life?

3. What was Paul determined to do because of his goal of knowing Christ?

4. What did knowing Christ include for Paul? (Note verses 10 and 11)

5. In a sentence, write out what you think was Paul's life goal.

6. How do our Christian brothers and sisters help us know Christ and be like him?
(verse 17)
-

7. What do you think Paul meant by "knowing Christ" or "gaining Christ" or "reaching the goal set before him?"
-
-

8. How did Paul's goal affect the way he lived?
-
-

9. What do you think was Jesus' life goal?
Look at John 4:34, 5:30, and 6:38.
-

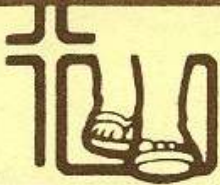
10. Think and pray about what your life goal is and should be. Then write out your life goal in your own words.

The goal of my life is _____

Bridge Building Opportunity

Share your life goal with at least one other person as God opens up the opportunity--someone such as your employer, or a colleague, classmate, or teacher.





3. Arranging Priorities

INTRODUCTION

All that a Christian does is to be done to the glory of God. But not everything we do *will* be done to God's glory unless we have our priorities straight.

Our *priorities* should reflect our *life goal*. How we spend our time, money, attention, and energy reveals our real priorities. The world confronts us with incessant demands, and unless we set our priorities on the basis of our true goal to live for God, the world will set them for us.

Many things are important in the life of the Christian. The point is to distinguish between things of primary and secondary importance, and to live our lives accordingly.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Read Mark 12:19-31 and
Exodus 20:1-17 | _____ |
| 2. | Complete the Bible study | _____ |
| 3. | Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:31 | _____ |
| 4. | Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity | _____ |

Study the Word

Phase Two
Week Three

Study Matthew 6:19-34. Notice this is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. From this passage, you should be able to find answers or insights for the following questions.

1. What is the most basic thing for which a disciple of Jesus should seek?

2. What things do the people of the world seek?

3. Why do Christians need not be preoccupied with these things?

4. Why shouldn't Christians store up earthly wealth?

5. What do verses 22 and 23 tell us about priorities?

6. What problem does the disciple encounter if he puts the wrong value on earthly wealth? (verse 24)

7. What should be the Christian's attitude concerning the future?

8. What kind of relationship between the heavenly Father and the disciple is implied in this passage?

9. In what ways does this passage assist in arranging priorities in one's life?

10. What questions does this passage raise for which you do not yet have an answer?

Bridge Building Opportunity

List below what you feel are the top five priorities in your life--in order of priority. Begin thinking about any changes you should make in your life in the light of these priorities.

1. _____

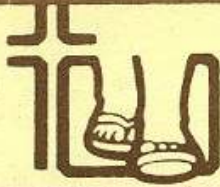
2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____





4. The Disciplined Life

INTRODUCTION

It is impossible to achieve God's goal for your life in your own strength. Only the Holy Spirit can produce acceptable fruit in your life. Scripture, however, gives us this principle: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:12-13, RSV). Here are the steps:

1. Determine your life goal.
2. Arrange your priorities in light of this goal.
3. Work out a regular discipline which will help you achieve your goal and which reflects your priorities.
4. Give all this to God, rest in him, and let his Spirit lead you into a disciplined life. For "the fruit of the Spirit is . . . self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Ephesians 5:15-16 and I Corinthians 9:24-27
2. Complete the Bible study
3. Memorize Ephesians 5:15-16
4. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity

Study the Word

Phase Two
Week Four

Read Hebrews 12:1-29 and answer the following questions:

1. What is a suitable title for Hebrews 12?

2. Who are the "great cloud of witnesses" referred to in verse 1? (Look back to chapter 11)

3. What do we learn about our lives by looking at Jesus?

4. What must we lay aside if we are to live effective Christian lives?

5. What is the goal of the discipline which God gives us?

6. What is the relationship between discipline and holiness?

7. What do verses 18-24 say about the place of the entire church in the life of discipleship?

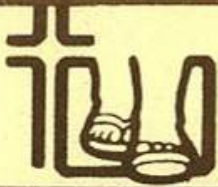
8. What does this chapter say about Jesus' life of discipleship?

9. Summarize what this chapter has taught you about discipleship.

Bridge Building Opportunity

Work out a weekly schedule for your life which is consistent with your life goal and stated priorities. Indicate in approximately one-hour blocks how you plan to spend each day of the week. Review and discuss your schedule with your discipler.





5. Discovering Spiritual Gifts

INTRODUCTION

Christians are saved by grace and they are to live by grace. God graciously gives us the gifts of the Spirit so we can live and minister effectively for him.

Few things in life are as fulfilling as discovering one's gifts and employing them in God's service. As you explore this subject and let the Spirit show you just where you fit in the body of Christ, you will find a fulfilling and effective place of service. You will find that all God's people are ministers.

It is the disciplined disciple who can most effectively use the Spirit's gifts to the glory of God.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Read John 1:14-16,
Ephesians 1:22-23,
Ephesians 4:7-16, and
I Corinthians 12:4-6 | _____ |
| 2. | Complete the Bible study | _____ |
| 3. | Memorize 1 Peter 4:10 | _____ |
| 4. | Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity | _____ |

Study the Word

Phase Two
Week Five

Study 1 Peter 4:7-11. The word in the original Greek language which is translated "spiritual gift" here is *charisma*. Literally it means "gift of grace." The word translated "grace" in verse 11 is *charis*.

1. Who are the recipients of spiritual gifts?

2. For what purpose should spiritual gifts be exercised?

3. What two general kinds of spiritual gifts does Peter mention here (verse 11)?

4. The idea of *stewardship* is central to this passage. In what ways should we be good stewards of the spiritual gifts God gives us?

5. What is the end result of spiritual gifts being used properly?

6. Read Romans 12:4-8 and list three more observations about spiritual gifts.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Bridge Building Opportunity

Gifts of the Spirit are given so we can be effective ministers of God's grace to others. Some gifts help us worship God; others help us strengthen other believers; other gifts equip us to carry God's grace and love to the world. Spiritual gifts can be a bridge of love to people around us.

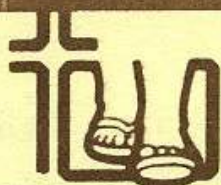
Discuss the following with your discipler this week:

1. What spiritual gifts do you believe God has given you?

2. What gifts do you think you may have, but are unsure about?

3. What questions do you have about the gifts of the Spirit?





6. Stewardship of the Body

INTRODUCTION

Men and women were created in the image of God. Each person is a unity of body, mind, and spirit. The beauty and harmony of the physical body reflect something of the glory of God.

Our bodies are not prisons from which we should seek escape. Rather, they are given us to be used for God's glory, to be indwelt by his Spirit. As Christians we believe not in the destruction of the body, but in its resurrection!

This week's assignments are aimed to help you glorify God in your body.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Leviticus 19:2, 10:10;
I Corinthians 6:19-20; and
Isaiah 43:6-7 _____
2. Complete the Bible study _____
3. Memorize 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 _____
4. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity _____
5. Read "Stewardship of Life" and
any other supplemental materials
suggested by your discipler. _____

Study the Word

Phase Two
Week Six

Study I Corinthians 6:12-20, and answer these questions:

1. For whose purpose was the physical body created?

2. What is the relationship between our physical bodies and Christ himself (verse 15)?

3. What future does God have planned for the physical bodies of believers?

4. What deeper kind of "unity" is mere physical or bodily unity indicative of (verse 17)?

5. Even though we have "freedom" in Christ, what must we guard against in exercising that freedom (verse 12)?

6. The Apostle Paul mentions all three persons of the Godhead in this passage: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Note the unique relationship each has to the believer and the stewardship of the physical body:

God the Father (verse 14): _____

God the Son (verse 19c and 20a): _____

God the Spirit (verse 19): _____

7. According to 1 Corinthians 6:20 and 10:31, how should the disciple of Jesus Christ utilize the body?

Bridge Building Opportunity

Over-indulgence or abuse of the body in the area of exercise, diet, sleep, etc. are spiritual issues. Read the article by Dr. Paul Yardy on "Stewardship of Life."

Review with your discipler plans for implementing a needed diet or exercise plan suited to your individual needs. Involvement in the same (jogging, exercise, athletics, etc.) with a non-Christian friend might provide an opportunity for Christian witness and your concern for bringing all of life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.



Christian discipleship must include the concept of *stewardship*. The idea that man and woman are stewards of God is intrinsic in the creation story (Gen. 1-3), in which they are appointed lords of all things.

In the New Testament Jesus told parables to emphasize and to illustrate man's role as a steward. A steward is one who is entrusted with the affairs and possessions of his master. The lessons make clear that a good steward is one who takes his responsibility seriously and is faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). In the broadest sense, Christian stewardship includes all of life and not merely money, talent, and possessions. It is from this angle that we should see our stewardship of the physical aspect of our persons.

A human being is a composite of multiple, intricately inter-related qualities. These include *biological, physiological, emotional, rational, spiritual, and social* dimensions. (A good book to read which deals with some of these aspects is Dr. McMullen's *None of These Diseases*.)

Much understanding about our physical needs and about the best way to care for those needs can be gleaned from the Bible. For instance, the principle set forth in the Ten Commandments of six days of work, followed by a day of rest and worship, recognizes our need for cyclic renewal. To ignore this need is to invite injury to one's health. Likewise, the moral principle of the sacredness of sex and the demand for marital fidelity, if universally practiced, would free mankind of the ravages of venereal diseases. Scriptural warnings against gluttony (Titus 1:12) no doubt have spiritual overtones, but they also carry implications of

the dangers of overweight. Scripture uses the analogy that our body is a temple wherein dwells our personhood and where God's Spirit comes and dwells with us. We should take extra care that nothing be allowed to defile that temple (1 Cor. 3:16, 17).

Physical health is the basis for realizing other human values, not a substitute for them. There is a biblical principle that recognizes a hierarchy of values. What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world (including a high level of physical fitness) and loses his own soul? Jesus even challenged his disciples to risk their health if need be for the sake of the Kingdom.

In our pursuit of the fountain of youth we must ever be mindful of the fact that "it is appointed unto man once to die." The aging process is at work in every one of us, starting to some degree at the time of our birth. With these concepts in mind we should keep our motives, goals, priorities, and sense of destiny in proper balance as we give attention to our physical health, as good stewards of the Lord.

Modern medical science offers many well-documented rules for ensuring an optimum state of well-being. The good Christian steward will recognize that these blessings from science are really part of the wonderful providences of God and will try to keep abreast of current health concepts.

It would be well to mention now several areas where science has accumulated much data and has developed ways and means to help us enjoy a high level of health. These include ways to avoid threats to our health. Prevention of disease, diet and nutrition, obesity, exercise needs, recreation, and some harmful vices of our culture are areas to be noted.

Prevention is always better than cure. There are a number of immunization agents available from your doctor to assist in building body defenses against disease. Be sure these are current. Much knowledge in the area of nutrition is available to indicate that our food should be more of the wholesome, natural form. Highly refined sugars and flour should be kept at a minimum. This is true of the saturated fats. Lack of plenty of the natural grain fiber in our food may be the basis of a number of diseases plaguing civilized societies. A diet too high in animal protein is thought to have some disease-producing potential.

The fat person runs a higher risk of falling prey to many conditions which are not as likely to afflict the lean person. These include diabetes, back problems and arthritis, arteriosclerosis of blood vessels, heart disease, high blood pressure, and a shorter life span. It is important to lay aside every weight which would beset us (Hebrews 12:1).

Physical fitness is defined as the ability to carry out daily tasks with vigor and alertness, without undue fatigue, and with ample energy to enjoy leisure time pursuits and to meet unforeseen emergencies. This level of fitness,

obviously, will vary with the individual's life-style and occupation. Not everyone needs to maintain a level of fitness to enable him to climb Mount Everest. The person whose occupation is a sedentary one would do well to follow some prescribed exercise. The affluent individual often avoids utilitarian types of chores, work, and modes of transportation because of status connotations. Instead, he is inclined to turn to the sophisticated fads of jogging or time-consuming sports. One wonders if the weight lifter who labors to develop the body contours of a Mr. Atlas isn't motivated more by pride than a sense of Christian stewardship of the "temple for the Holy Spirit."

Recreation and play are big business in the USA. The Christian disciple must ever be sure that his play time is truly recreative in character, and never destructive. When play recreates it helps to fit one for larger service. Too often sports become a matter of idolatry because of its all-consuming demand on time, thought, and priorities.

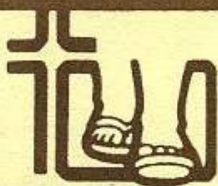
Medical science has now accumulated much data which clearly establishes a case against some of our culture's vices. Under the checks of the Spirit serious followers of Christ discarded practices long before such data was available. The use of tobacco in any form would best be struck from the book of the Christian disciple. Cancer, heart disease, lung crippling vascular problems are too often the result of the use of tobacco. According to medical science, alcohol is a depressant and effects the body in just the opposite way that Scripture demands. Man is commanded to be in control of his body and to be

sober-minded. To talk about the temperate use of alcoholic beverages is a delusion. The beverage itself deprives the individual of his own powers to make a judgment as to when the line is crossed between a hypothetical point of temperance and that of excessive indulgence. When it comes to the matter of alcoholic beverages, it seems very clear that complete abstinence is the only rule to go by in this modern century. Alcohol is in effect a poison to the body.

Finally, we can say that except for times of sickness or injury, the best health is that which is least compulsively preoccupied with itself. Likewise, the best exercise, recreation, nutrition, and the like are those patterns of life which are least compulsively preoccupied with health and are most welcomed for their own sake. Even when there are disabilities about which nothing can be done, it is best to adapt to them and learn to live with them as God asked Paul to do with the thorn in his flesh. This frees the individual to give more attention to the matters of the spirit and service to others.

Remember John's prayer for Gaius, "I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well" (3 John 2).





7. Poverty and Riches

INTRODUCTION

Jesus was poor in worldly wealth, and yet he gave more to the world than any of the rich men of his generation. He was the richest of all, but for our sakes he gave up his throne to become poor.

God's continual response to the needy of the world is one of compassion. Jesus is deeply "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (Hebrews 4:15). His concern for the poor is our burden too.

Most of us don't consider ourselves rich. But in comparison with world needs, we are the wealthy of the earth. Part of our discipleship is answering biblically the questions of poverty and riches.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read II Corinthians 8 and 9;
Matthew 5:42, 25:35; and
Luke 3:11, 14:12. _____
2. Complete the Bible study _____
3. Memorize James 2:5 _____
4. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity _____

Study the Word

Phase Two
Week Seven

Read James 1 and 2 carefully. Underline or mark with colored pencils all the references to wealth, poverty, riches, the poor person, or the rich person.

1. Give titles to the following sections:

James 1:2-18 _____

James 2:1-13 _____

James 2:14-26 _____

2. What attitude toward riches is expressed in James 1:9-11?

3. What is the relationship between James 1:16-18 and James 1:9-11?

4. According to James 2:1-4, what should be the Christian's attitude toward a poor person?

5. Compare James 2:5 and 2:8. How does the priority of love relate to our attitude and actions toward the poor?

6. Why does James include the warning of judgment in 2:12-13? How do these two verses relate to what James has been saying about the poor and the rich?
-
-

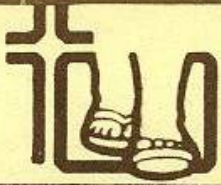
7. Consider the importance of good works or deeds in James 2:14-26. We cannot be saved by works, but in the daily Christian life works are indispensable. Why do you think this teaching on good deeds is included as part of the discussion on our attitude toward rich and poor?
-
-

8. James 2:5 is a key verse. Compare it to 1 Corinthians 1:26-30. What is the essential point which these verses teach?
-
-

Bridge Building Opportunity

Look at James 1:27, 2:14-17, and Matthew 25:34-36. Plan and do a specific act of Christian love and compassion to a poor person or family this week. Report to your cell group on your experience.





8. Financial Freedom

INTRODUCTION

Most of us are very private persons in the matter of money. Our money is our own business, we say. But it is also God's business. And since the Christian is a member of the Body of Christ, each person's own finances really are a matter of our corporate discipleship. It is the same Jesus who is Lord both of the Church and of our own "private" lives.

There can be freedom and joy in our financial affairs if we will follow biblical principles of stewardship and money management. How can we best use our resources to glorify God and help those in need? Such is a primary discipleship concern at the end of Phase Two.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Luke 12:13-21 _____
2. Complete the Bible study _____
3. Memorize Proverbs 3:9-10 _____
4. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity _____
5. Decide whether you are ready to sign the covenant for continuing with Phase Three _____

Study the Word

Phase Two
Week Eight

Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 carefully two times, then answer the following questions.

1. What would be a suitable title for this chapter?

2. What word is used to describe our use of money in verses 1, 12, 13?

3. Identify three principles in this chapter which relate to handling one's personal finances.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4. Why does God sometimes bless Christians with material wealth? (verse 11)

5. What is the implied relationship between material wealth and spiritual wealth?

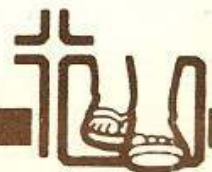
6. What are some of the results of faithfulness and generosity in our financial dealings? (verses 12-14)

7. How does faithfulness in handling material wealth benefit us spiritually?

8. List two other biblical passages which give further instruction in handling our finances.

Bridge Building Opportunity

Contact your pastor or another church leader, or write to an overseas missionary for information regarding the financial needs in the church or overseas. Share your findings with your discipler.





PLANNING - TO LIVE REDEEMPTIVELY

*"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."
Acts 5:42*

TIME

BRIDGE BUILDING
DAILY DEVOTIONS
TIMOTHY CALL
SALVATION BY APPT.
NEW CONTACT
CHURCH COMMITMENTS

SUNDAY										

*"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord."
Psalms 122:1*

MONDAY										

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19*

TUESDAY										

*"And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
Galatians 6:9*

TIME

*"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."
Acts 5:42*

BRIDGE BUILDING

DAILY DEVOTIONS

TIMOTHY CALL

SALVATION BY APPT.

NEW CONTACT

CHURCH COMMITMENTS

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*"Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers, make good use of every opportunity you have."
Colossians 4:5*

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*"He that winneth Souls is Wise."
Proverbs 11:30*

F
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*"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28*

S
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Y

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."
1 Corinthians 15:58*



Where Do I Fit in God's Family?

AS YOU BEGIN PHASE THREE

How are the relationships in your life?
Good? Bad? Complicated?

We are social persons, made to live in relationship with others. For the Christian, the question of the *kind* of relationships we have is crucial.

Look at Jesus. His life was not without conflict. But he was always perfectly in his Father's will. His life and relationships give us a model for all our relationships with other people. The Word of God shows us how to build and sustain helpful, healthful relationships.

The first part of Phase Three deals with relationships in society and especially in the Christian community, the Church. You will then study what the Bible says about other relationships -- between individuals, in marriage, and in the home.

A basic resource for this phase is H. Norman Wright's book, *Communication: Key to Your Marriage*. This book has been included with your Phase Three manual pages.

Review the Discipleship Covenant on the next page, and sign it if you have not already done so. You are now ready to begin Phase Three.

THE DISCIPLESHIP COVENANT

Phase Three

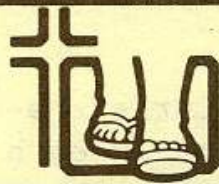
Convinced that God is calling me to go on in the life of discipleship, I commit myself to Phase Three of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* and will endeavor faithfully to fulfill the following disciplines:

1. A minimum of one hour per week with the discipler.
2. Faithful participation in the Discipleship Cell.
3. A regular quiet time of Bible study and prayer.
4. A program of regular Scripture memorization and review.
5. Sharing my faith with others.
6. Active involvement in my local church.
7. A sincere endeavor to put into practice whatever God teaches me through *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*.

Name _____

Date _____





1. Man and Woman in God's Image

INTRODUCTION

Genesis 1:27 tells us, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Human-kind was created as male and female -- in the image of God.

This means that in some very crucial ways, men and women are like God. In fact, it means that man and woman together make up the image of God. Some aspects of God's nature are more evident in a man; some are more obvious in a woman. God is a trinity of divine persons in mutual fellowship, yet one God. He made human beings to live in community, to be different from each other and yet to need each other. So it is important -- especially today -- for Christians to understand what it means to be a man or woman in the Body of Christ.

Sin distorts and degrades the relationship between the sexes. The image of God is marred in all of us. But God's plan through Christ is that we all together should grow up into Christ, that we should be conformed to Jesus' likeness (Eph. 4:13-15, Rom. 8:29). In the Church, says Paul, we are neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, but we are all one in Christ (Gal. 3:28).

So this is where we begin with Phase Three. We can be properly, wholesomely, and lovingly

Phase Three
Week One

related to each other in the Body of Christ because each of us bears God's image, and in each of us that image is being renewed through the work of Jesus' Spirit in us.

Your assignments this week start at this key point as we consider the question, "Where do I fit in God's family?"

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read: Genesis 1:26-31,
Galatians 3:26-29,
John 13:1-15, and
Ephesians 4:1-16

2. Complete the Bible study
(next page).

3. Memorize Genesis 1:27.

4. Read the Introduction and
first chapter of *Communica-
tion: Key to Your Marriage*

5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity.

Study the Word

*Phase Three
Week One*

MAN AND WOMAN IN GOD'S IMAGE
Genesis 2:18-25

1. What was the primary purpose for which God created woman? (verse 18)
-

2. Despite the presence of "cattle, birds, and beasts," what need of man remained unmet? (verse 20)
-

3. What do these two verses (18 and 20) suggest about God's intention in creating man male and female in his image?
-
-

4. Compare verses 21-23 with Ephesians 5:28. What common truth do you discover?
-

5. What does verse 24 suggest about the new home that is established when two people marry?
-
-

6. Despite man's exploitation of human sexuality, what was the attitude toward it prior to the Fall? (verse 25). Compare Genesis 3:7, 10, 11.
-

7. Does verse 18 relate to the Church as well as to marriage? How?

8. What common truth underlies Genesis 1:27 and 2:23?

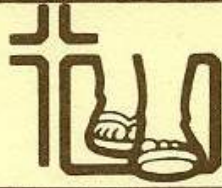
Bridge-Building Opportunity

Remember that every person -- even the "worst sinner" -- has been made in God's image. There is "something of God" in every person. And Jesus died for every person. These are the two reasons why it is possible for any person to become a Christian, if he or she will respond to God's Spirit.

So the first fact in presenting the Gospel is not, "We all are sinners." That is the second fact. The first is: "We all are made in God's image."

Try to look at each person you see this week as someone who bears, in some way, the image of God. Share with at least one person that God loves him or her, and that he/she was created in God's image.





2. Living in Community

INTRODUCTION

We were built for community, for sharing our lives with others, for what the New Testament calls *koinonia*. This Greek word refers to the shared life which believers have in common.

The Church is *the community of God's people*. It is the Body of Christ in which each believer is related to, and depends upon, the other believers. So living the Christian life means living in community.

There are three parts to a healthy church's life: *Worship, community, and ministry*. But a church's worship and its ministry will be no stronger than its fellowship, its life-in-community. And the example of Jesus with his disciples shows that discipleship grows best in community.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Read Philipians 2:1-11. | _____ |
| 2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). | _____ |
| 3. Memorize Acts 2:42. | _____ |
| 4. Read chapter 2 in <i>Communication: Key to Your Marriage</i> . | _____ |
| 5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. | _____ |

Study the Word

Phase Three
Week Two

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Study Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37, and 5:42. This is a description of the early Jerusalem Church just after Pentecost.

1. What were some of the activities which the early Christians in Jerusalem did *together*?

2. Which of these activities took place in believers' homes?

3. Do you see any relationship between *worship*, *witness*, and *community* in these verses? What?

4. List five things that were true of the early Jerusalem church:

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

5. What personal needs were met through the community life of these first believers?
-
-

The picture given in Acts 2-5 is not intended as a detailed pattern for the Church to follow today. This was the first experience of the Jerusalem Church; later we read of the Church in Antioch (Acts 13) and in other places. In some details, these churches were quite different.

But all experienced community. The important thing today is that the Church rediscover the meaning of Christian community that the early church knew.

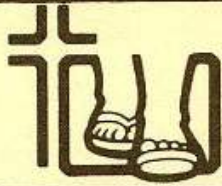
(Note, incidentally, that Acts 2 and 4 don't say that all believers sold all their possessions. The point is that resources were shared, and believers did whatever was necessary so that no one was in need.)

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Make a list of the ten to fifteen most important relationships in your life -- for example, with your spouse, your father, certain friends and Christian sisters and brothers, etc.

Now, put a star beside those names where the relationship is not really what it should be. Make all these relationships (especially the starred ones) matters of special prayer during Phase Three. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you especially sensitive to the needs, concerns, and interests of these "significant others" in your life.





3. Submitting to One Another

INTRODUCTION

Submission isn't just for children, or wives, or people under authority. *It is a basic principle within the Christian community.* Paul said to the Church at Ephesus, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph. 5:21 NIV).

The over-arching principle for all who take the yoke of Christ is the principle of *mutual submission* -- being servants to one another. And Jesus is our great model for submission as we see in John 13 and Philippians 2.

Submitting to one another is part of Christian discipleship lived out in community.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | Read Colossians 3:18-21 and Ephesians 5:21-25. | _____ |
| 2. | Complete the Bible study (next page). | _____ |
| 3. | Memorize Ephesians 5:21. | _____ |
| 4. | Read chapter 3 in <i>Communication: Key to Your Marriage</i> | _____ |
| 5. | Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity. | _____ |

Study the Word

*Phase Three
Week Three*

SUBMITTING TO ONE ANOTHER
Colossians 3:12-17

1. What are the qualities of the community of God's people, as Paul describes it? (verse 12)
-
-

2. What particular fruit of the Spirit helpful in eliminating friction is necessary for life in community? (verse 12; compare Galatians 5:22-23)
-

3. What two virtues are we to consciously exercise toward one another? (verse 13)
-

4. Why should we practice forgiveness with one another? (verse 13; compare Matthew 18:21-35)
-

5. What is the "outer garment" of Christlikeness which binds all other virtues together? (verse 14)
-

6. What attitude that should mark our life together is repeated three times? (verses 15, 16, 17)
-

7. What is both the source and basis for our mutual ministry to one another?
-

8. What is the difference between "teaching" and "admonishing" one another? (verse 16)

9. Review the "one another" commands in this passage:

1) Verse 13 _____

2) Verse 13 _____

3) Verse 16 _____

4) Verse 16 _____

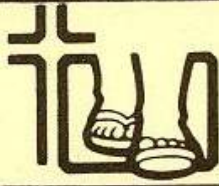
10. How would you describe the church life depicted by Paul here?

11. Compare this passage with Ephesians 5:21 and Matthew 23:11-12. What does it mean to submit to one another in the Christian community?

Bridge-Building Opportunity

As a bridge of love, build a bridge of service this week. Show your submission to Christ and to your Christian brothers and sisters by serving another person at his or her point of need.





4. God's Plan for the Family

INTRODUCTION

The two most basic forms of community in the Bible -- and in society -- are the *family* and the *Church*. Both together are part of God's over-all plan. Therefore discipleship in the Church must not be divorced from discipleship in the home.

Like the Church, the family is not primarily an institution or organization. It is a community of persons bound together by love and mutual commitment. The form of the family may vary somewhat in different cultures, but its strength and soundness depend on cooperating with God's plan.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Read 1 Corinthians 13. | _____ |
| 2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). | _____ |
| 3. Memorize Matthew 19:4-6. | _____ |
| 4. Read chapters 4 and 5 in <i>Communication: Key to Your Marriage</i> . | _____ |
| 5. Listen to cassette DTD-3A,
<i>Parents and Partners</i> .
(This may be done in the
Discipleship Cell.) | _____ |
| 6. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. | _____ |

Study the Word

*Phase Three
Week Four*

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FAMILY

1 Timothy 3:1-13

The New Testament ties discipleship, leadership, and family life together. Note how this is so in 1 Timothy 3:1-13.

1. What personal spiritual qualities should characterize the Christian husband and father? (verses 2, 3, 8)
-
-

2. In what three relationships must a man exhibit Christian qualities before he is qualified for spiritual leadership? (verses 2, 4, 7)
-

3. What is the depth of spiritual maturity required of one being considered for leadership in the Church? (verses 6, 9)
-

4. What four qualities in particular does Paul single out as those which should mark the Christian woman, wife, or mother? (verse 11)
-

5. What is the relationship of a Christian father to his children, and what should their attitude be toward him? (verses 4 and 12; compare Titus 1:6)
-
-
-

6. On what basis does Paul examine a man's family life before giving him a place of leadership in the Church? (verse 5)

7. Compare this passage on the family with the similar one in Titus 1:5-9. What common qualifications are found in both?

8. How do these Scriptures tie together discipleship, family life, and leadership in the Church?

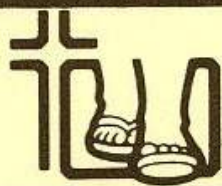
Bridge-Building Opportunity

If you are a parent, share personally with your son or daughter this week how you came to give your life to Jesus Christ.

If you do not have children, take time this week to share God's work in your life with a parent, or with your brother or sister.

Record your experience of sharing in two or three sentences, below:





5. The Roles of Husband and Wife

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a *covenant relationship*. A man and a woman marry because they love each other, but the test of true love is whether it is willing to make long-range commitments. Much of our social fabric is coming apart because people no longer tie love and commitment together.

A covenant is an act of faith. It is an act of the *will*, not just a moving of the *emotions*. A husband loves and serves his wife not just because he feels like it, but because he is committed to her. And so also a wife with her husband.

In the marriage covenant, a man and a woman commit themselves to fulfill *the roles of husband and wife*. Discipleship in marriage involves understanding these roles and commitment to them -- in love.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Ephesians 5:21-6:4.
2. Complete the Bible Study (next page).
3. Memorize Ephesians 5:31-33.
4. Read chapter 6 in *Communication: Key to Your Marriage*.
5. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity.

Study the Word

Phase Three
Week Five

THE ROLES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE
Ephesians 5:21-30

1. What other basic relationship should govern a husband and wife's relationship to one another? (verse 21)
-

2. What is the husband's relationship to the wife in comparison to Christ's relationship to the Church? (verse 23)
-

3. What does it mean for wives to be subject to their husbands "in everything"? (verse 24). Is there ever a time or situation when this command is not binding?
-
-

4. Wives should be subject to their husbands as the church is to Christ. In light of Christ's relationship to his church, what is the man's responsibility to his wife? (verse 25)
-
-

5. In what two ways should a husband love his wife? (verses 25 and 28)
-
-
-

6. Study verses 32 and 33. In what ways is the Church like the family?

7. Compare verse 25 with Philippians 2:5-13. In what ways does Jesus' life show us how a husband should relate to his wife?

8. How are verses 22-25 to be understood, in the light of verse 21?

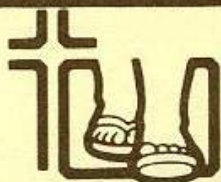
Bridge-Building Opportunity

"As Christ loved the church" is a key phrase in the Bible study, above. Think of at least five things that Jesus did, or does, because of his love for the Church.

Now, complete the following statement:

Because of Jesus' love for the Church, and because of the love he has given me, this week I will seek to follow Jesus' example by _____





6. Spiritual Leadership in the Home

INTRODUCTION

God said in Moses' day, "These words which I command you . . . shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7 RSV).

Spiritual leadership is the responsibility, first of all, of the home. Christian values are most solidly learned in the community context of the family. The organized church can supplement, but not take the place of, the home in this area.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read **Acts** 16:23-34 _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize Ephesians 6:4. _____
4. Read chapters 7 and 8 in:
*Communication: Key to
Your Marriage.* _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Study the Word

Phase Three
Week Six

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

1. What affirmation of faith serves as the foundation of spiritual leadership in the home? (verse 4; compare Exodus 20:3)

2. What must be the supreme affection of the spiritual leader of the home according to God's plan? (verse 4)

3. What can you discover that indicates the home is to be the center of religious education and instruction? (verses 7, 9)

4. What evidence can you find that parents are to educate their children by both example and word? (verses 6 and 7)

5. When should God's teachings be a part of our lives? (verse 7)

6. On what level must God's commandments affect the spiritual leader of the home? (verses 4 and 6)

7. Note verses 1-3. What were some of the blessings promised the people of Israel if they learned and obeyed God's instructions?

8. What are some of the ways the instructions given in verse 7 can be carried out in your family?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

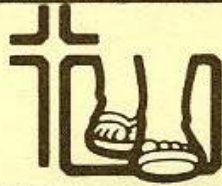
Bridge-Building Opportunity

If you are married, discuss with your spouse this week the matter of spiritual leadership in the home. Are you exercising this leadership? What should you agree to do differently?

If you are unmarried, discuss with those you live with ways to make spiritual leadership and Christian instruction more a part of your life together.

Write here any conclusions you come to:





7. The Home and the Church

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes the family is seen as separate from, or even competing with, the Church -- as though the home and the Church were two separate worlds. In the biblical picture, however, the Christian home is part of the Church. The Church is the family of God and the family is the church of God.

The aim of this week's topic is to help the Christian family be more truly the Church, and to help the Church be a family of families and a home for those who have no "natural" family.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Matthew 25:31-46. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize Ephesians 4:15. _____
4. Read chapter 9 in *Communication: Key to Your Marriage* _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Study the Word

Phase Three
Week Seven

THE HOME AND THE CHURCH
(Selected passages)

The term "house" or "household" has a broad meaning in Scripture. It may mean one's immediate family, or may signify one's extended family -- including even slaves within the house. Ultimately it also came to designate God's family, the Church.

1. What is the meaning of the term "house" or "household" in the following passages?

Josh. 24:15; Prov. 31:21, 27; Heb. 11:7

Gal. 6:10, Eph. 2:19; 1 Pt. 4:17

Luke 1:33; Acts 16:31-34; Phil. 4:22

2. While the purpose of the gospel is to unite families, what may ultimately happen in some instances? (Matthew 10:34-39)
-
-
-
-

3. What important function occurred in the homes of the following believers?

Prisca and Aquila (Rom. 16:15; 1 Cor. 16:19)
Nympha (Col. 4:15)
Philemon (Philemon 2)
Mary (Acts 12:12)
Paul (Acts 28:23, 30)

4. What was the relationship between the conversion of the following individuals and the salvation of their households?

Capernaum nobleman (Jn. 4:53)
Cornelius (Acts 10:2; 11:14)
Lydia (Acts 16:15)
Philippian jailor (Acts 16:31-34)
Crispus (Acts 18:8)

5. What important spiritual ministry finds expression in the homes of Christians?

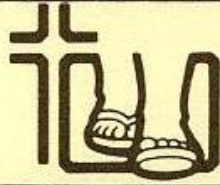
1 Tim. 5:10; Tit. 1:8; Heb. 13:2; 1 Pt. 4:9

"St. Paul, writing to Philemon, mentions 'the church which is in thy house;' plainly signifying that even a Christian family may be termed a church." -- John Wesley

Bridge-Building Opportunity

What are some of the ways your household can build a bridge to another family? This week, take one concrete step toward building such a bridge.





8. Family Lifestyle

INTRODUCTION

"Lifestyle" has become a popular word in recent years. Is this just a fad?

It is more than a fad. The new interest in the way we live -- our "style" of life -- reveals a deep human concern with the quality of our lives. This is a special concern for Christians, who remember that Paul said, "Live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Eph. 4:1 NIV). More than a dozen times the New Testament uses the Greek word *anastrophe* which literally means "manner of life" or "lifestyle" (for instance, Gal. 1:13, Eph. 4:22, 1 Tim. 4:12, Heb. 13:7, James 3:13, 1 Pet. 1:15).

Lifestyle is a concern all the way through *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*. This week's focus emphasizes that *family lifestyle* is a part of discipleship.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Review Matthew 25:31-46. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize 1 Peter 3:8. _____
4. Finish reading *Communication:
Key to Your Marriage*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____
6. Decide whether you are ready to
sign the Covenant for con-
tinuing with Phase Four. _____

Study the Word

Phase Three
Week Eight

FAMILY LIFESTYLE
Matthew 6:25-34

1. Jesus states that a Christian lifestyle sees life as consisting of more than what things in particular? (verses 25, 31)

2. Note the several references to "anxiety" in this passage: verses 25, 27, 28, 31, 34. Three times Jesus commands, "Do not be anxious." What are you anxious about that should be committed to the Lord?

3. If God is mindful of the birds of the air (verse 26) and the grass of the field (verse 30), then what should we be assured of for ourselves? (verse 30, 32)

4. Anxiety over the everyday necessities of life is really a symptom of what spiritual weakness? (verse 30)

5. Jesus deals with another common anxiety at the conclusion of this passage. Along with worry over food, clothing, and drink, what else are we tempted to worry about? (verse 34)

6. Often our worries about life's necessities and the future are ungrounded. What good advice for sound emotional health does Jesus conclude with in verse 34?

7. List four concerns mentioned in this passage which are matters of family lifestyle -- things we are concerned about in our home.

- 1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____

8. What applications to family lifestyle do you see in this passage?

9. (Optional.) The Greek word *anastrophe*, meaning "manner of life" or "lifestyle," occurs in the following passages. State in one or two sentences what these verses teach about Christian lifestyle.

Gal. 1:13	Eph. 4:22	1 Tim. 4:12
Heb. 13:7	Jas. 3:13	1 Pet. 1:15
1 Pet. 1:18	1 Pet. 2:12	1 Pet. 3:1
1 Pet. 3:2	1 Pet. 3:16	2 Pet. 2:7
2 Pet. 3:11		

Bridge-Building Opportunity

This week, do one of the following, whichever is more needful in your case:

1. Spend an hour together with your family discussing your family lifestyle.
2. Share a meal with another family, and make family lifestyle a topic of conversation.





PLANNING - TO LIVE REDEMPTIVELY

*"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."
Acts 5:42*

TIME

BRIDGE BUILDING

DAILY DEVOTIONS

TIMOTHY CALL

SALVATION BY APPT.

NEW CONTACT
CHURCH COMMITMENTS

SUNDAY

*"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord."
Psalms 122:1*

MONDAY

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19*

TUESDAY

*"And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
Galatians 6:9*

TIME

"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."
Acts 5:42

BRIDGE BUILDING

DAILY DEVOTIONS

TIMOTHY CALL

SALVATION BY APPT.

NEW CONTACT

CHURCH COMMITMENTS

W
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"Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers, make good use of every opportunity you have."
Colossians 4:5

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"He that winneth Souls is Wise."
Proverbs 11:30

F
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"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28

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Y

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."
1 Corinthians 15:58



How Can I Share My Faith?

AS YOU BEGIN PHASE FOUR . . .

You can't share what you don't have. But God is working in your life. Over the past several weeks, you have seen prayers answered, you have gone deeper into the Word, and your faith has grown.

Good News is for sharing! The aim of Phase Four is to help you share your faith. If you are growing in your discipleship, you have much to share. Our concern here is not just to transmit ideas -- rather it is *to share life*. The more life we receive from Christ, the more we want to pass it on.

One reason many Christians are not better witnesses is simply that they have never been trained in sharing their faith. These eight weeks will provide some of that training. Over the course of Phase Four you will be studying:

1. The Great Commission
2. Telling My Story
3. Evangelism and Gifts
4. Methods of Evangelism
5. Training in Evangelism
6. Intensive Christian Witness
7. Church Growth
8. World Vision

Review the Discipleship Covenant on the next page. Sign it, if you haven't done so already. You are ready to begin Phase Four.

THE DISCIPLESHIP COVENANT

Phase Four

Convinced that God is calling me to go on in the life of discipleship, I commit myself to Phase Four of the *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* program, and will endeavor faithfully to fulfill the following disciplines:

1. A minimum of one hour per week with the discipler.
2. Faithful participation in the Discipleship Cell.
3. A regular quiet time of Bible study and prayer.
4. A program of regular Scripture memorization and review.
5. Sharing my faith with others.
6. Active involvement in my local church.
7. A sincere endeavor to put into practice whatever God teaches me through *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*.

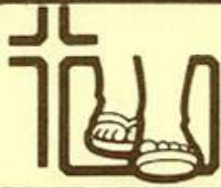
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Second Printing, 1981





1. The Great Commission

INTRODUCTION

God is reconciling the world to himself through Christ -- and he has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). To this ministry the Church and every individual believer have been commissioned.

The Church is called to be a *reconciled and reconciling community*. In past weeks we have examined the dimension of proper relationships within the Church family. But how can we fulfill our reconciling commission in the world?

The answer begins with examining the commission God has given us as disciples. Our concern here is not the great suggestion -- or the great commotion -- but the Great Commission!

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.

2. Complete the Bible study
(next page).

3. Memorize Matthew 28:19-20.

4. Read the Preface and Chapter 1 in *The Master Plan*.

5. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity.

Study the Word

*Phase Four
Week One*

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:16-20

Luke 24:44-49

1. Study Matthew 28:16-20. What is the importance of Jesus' statement in verse 18?

2. In verse 19, to what does the word "therefore" refer? How are verses 18 and 19 related?

3. The main command in verse 19 is, "Make disciples." What three things do disciples have to do in order to make more disciples?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4. Examine verse 20. What did Jesus mean when he said to "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you"?

5. Compare Matthew 28:18-20 with Luke 24:44-49. These are both accounts of some of the things Jesus said just before his ascension. What additional information about the Great Commission do we learn from the Luke account?

6. What is the message to be proclaimed among all peoples?

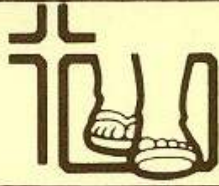
7. Where do we as Christians get the authority and power to make disciples, according to these two passages?

8. What do we learn from these passages about witnessing and disciple-making in our day?

Bridge-Building Opportunity

This week ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to a person needing reconciliation, and to help you be a minister of reconciliation to him or her.





2. Telling My Story

INTRODUCTION

Is witnessing telling what God has done for the world, or what he has done especially in my life?

Both. A Christian witness doesn't just tell about his own personal experiences; he points to Jesus Christ who has acted in his life. Or, put the other way: A witness tells not only that Jesus came into the world to save sinners, but goes on to relate how Jesus has changed his own life.

Witnessing involves much more than just verbal testimony. But Christian disciples should be able and ready to speak intelligently about what Jesus Christ has done in their own personal lives. This week's emphasis will help you tell your story to others.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Acts 8:26-40.
2. Complete the Bible study (next page).
3. Memorize Romans 1:16.
4. Read Chapter 2 in *The Master Plan of Evangelism*.
5. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity.

Study the Word

Phase Four
Week Two

TELLING MY STORY

Acts 26:1-29

1. Why does Paul "tell his story" here in this chapter? What are the circumstances, and what is Paul's purpose?

2. What does Paul tell about himself in this passage?

1) _____ 5) _____

2) _____ 6) _____

3) _____ 7) _____

4) _____ 8) _____

3. What does Paul tell about Jesus or God?

1) _____ 5) _____

2) _____ 6) _____

3) _____ 7) _____

4) _____ 8) _____

4. How would you describe Paul's attitude or spirit as he told his story?

5. List at least five things we can learn from this passage about sharing our personal testimony with others.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

- 4) _____

- 5) _____

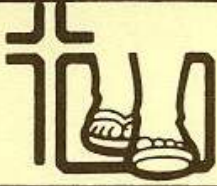
Bridge-Building Opportunity

Write out a three to four minute personal testimony. Be sure to answer briefly these four questions:

1. How was your life before conversion?
2. How did you come to realize your need?
3. How did you become a Christian?
4. What is God doing in your life now?

After preparing your testimony, share it with a friend or relative who does not know Christ. You will receive a tremendous blessing from doing so. Watch God work in both their life and yours.





3. Evangelism and Gifts

INTRODUCTION

Evangelism is one of the gifts of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:11). God especially enables some persons to consistently win others to Christ, and to lead others in evangelism. Not every Christian has this gift.

On the other hand, all believers are to be Christ's witnesses, and the Great Commission was given to the whole Church. The purpose of this week's topic is to help identify disciples who have the special gift of evangelism, and to help disciples who may not have this gift to be effective witnesses of what Jesus has done for them.

This study builds on the lesson on spiritual gifts in Week 5 of Phase Two.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Ephesians 4:7-16. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Review the study on spiritual
gifts in Week 5, Phase
Two. _____
4. Memorize Ephesians 4:11-12. _____
5. Read Chapter 3 in *Master
Plan*. _____
6. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Study the Word

Phase Four
Week Three

EVANGELISM AND GIFTS

Romans 12:1-21

1. Read this chapter over carefully two times. Try to capture the main thought of this chapter in one sentence:

2. What attitude should Christians have as they live their lives for Christ, according to this chapter?

3. What point does Paul make in comparing the Church to a human body in verses 4 and 5?

4. Paul mentions "function" in verse 4 and "gifts" in verse 6. What is the relationship between functions and gifts in the body of Christ?

5. How do verses 4-8 clarify the instruction in verse 3?

6. What gifts does Paul specifically mention in this chapter?
-
-

7. Evangelism is not mentioned as a gift here, although it is in Ephesians 4:11. Do you see any relationship between these gifts and evangelism?
-

Note that one of the gifts is "service" or "ministry." This is a general category which could include various specific ministries, including evangelism. You may want to compare 1 Corinthians 12.

8. As you examine this whole chapter, how would you describe the place and function of spiritual gifts within the Christian fellowship?
-
-

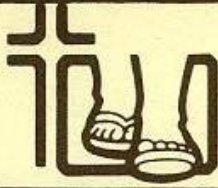
Bridge-Building Opportunity

Do you believe you know now which gifts God has given you? If so, write here the gift or gifts you have received:

Do you see any evidence in your life that God has given you the gift of evangelist?

This week, use your spiritual gift as a means of witnessing to a non-Christian.





4. Methods of Evangelism

INTRODUCTION

We *plan* to do whatever is really important to us. God loved the world so much that he designed and fulfilled a plan to reconcile the world to himself through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

If carrying out the Great Commission is important to us, we will have a plan and appropriate methods for evangelism. Yet many times this is the one thing that churches fail to plan to do!

But methods must always be true to the nature of the Good News itself. We are not trying to sell a doctrine or manipulate people into doing what we want them to do. Rather, our aim is by every appropriate means to persuade them to believe in Jesus Christ and give their lives totally to him.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Acts 2:14-41. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize Acts 20:20. _____
4. Read Chapter 4 in *The Master
Plan of Evangelism*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Study the Word

Phase Four
Week Four

METHODS OF EVANGELISM

John 3 and 4

Read these two chapters over carefully. Then answer the following questions.

1. Other than his disciples, what persons did Jesus have conversations with in these two chapters?

2. Jesus had extended conversations with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman. What are some of the ways these two individuals were quite different from each other?

3. What similarities are there in the way Jesus dealt with these two persons?

4. What differences do you see in the way Jesus dealt with Nicodemus and the woman?

5. How important is faith or believing in these two accounts?

6. From the example of Jesus in these two chapters, list at least five things that are important for us today as we share our faith with others.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

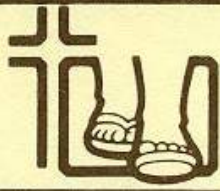
7. Do you see anything else in these two chapters which can help us use effective methods of evangelism in our day?

Bridge-Building Opportunity

You have studied some methods of evangelism. Perhaps you have practiced using some evangelistic tools. Now may be the time to cross those bridges you have been building and see some people give their lives to Jesus Christ as Savior.

This week, share your faith with some person you have been praying for. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and help you see and use the best opportunities and methods.





5. Training in Evangelism

INTRODUCTION

Evangelism begins as the spontaneous overflow of a life filled with the love and Spirit of God. It is "telling the story" of the significant difference in life when one is properly related to God through Jesus Christ.

While such spontaneous witnessing cannot be programmed or manipulated, there is certainly a place and great need for training in evangelism. This is especially true for those whom God has gifted as evangelists. These gifts must be properly channeled and used so the church can reach the greatest possible number for Christ.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Acts 17:16-34. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize 1 Cor. 9:19, 22b. _____
4. Read chapter 5 in *The Master
Plan of Evangelism*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Study the Word

Phase Four
Week Five

TRAINING IN EVANGELISM
Selected Passages

1. With what must we be familiar if we are to be effective in evangelism?

2 Timothy 3:15-16 _____

2. What was the focus of the evangelistic efforts of the early Church?

Acts 8:4, 15:35 _____

3. Make a study of the use of the Bible in evangelism by completing the following:

Luke 24:47 - Bible used by _____ to evangelize _____.

Acts 8:35 - Bible used by _____ to evangelize _____.

Acts 13:48 - Bible used by _____ to evangelize _____.

Acts 19:8-10 - Bible used by _____ to evangelize _____.

Acts 28:23-24 - Bible used by _____ to evangelize _____.

4. A working knowledge of the Bible is an absolute necessity in evangelism. What other resources has God provided for training (equipping) of believers in evangelism? (Note Ephesians 4:11-12)

5. The most important training we can receive in evangelism is that of an *example* -- someone to show us how. List some New Testament examples of this discipleship pattern in training for evangelism:

John 13:15 Discipler: _____

Disciple: _____

John 15:27 Discipler: _____

Disciple: _____

Philippians Discipler: _____
3:17; 4:9

Disciple: _____

1 Corinth- Discipler: _____
ians 4:16

Disciple: _____

6. The *pastor* has a crucial role in the training of persons in evangelism. Note the following pastoral duties Paul impressed upon Timothy:

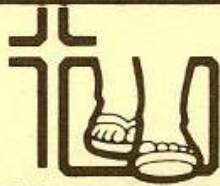
2 Timothy 4:5 _____

2 Timothy 2:2 _____

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Ask someone you know who has the gift of evangelism to let you be present the next time he/she deals with someone who isn't a Christian. If you can find no one else, ask your pastor to take you on an evangelistic call to the home of someone who isn't a Christian in order to present the Gospel to them. Note the procedure used by the evangelist in presenting the Gospel to a non-Christian.





6. Intensive Christian Witness

PHASE 4 WEEK 6

INTRODUCTION

For everything there is a time and a season. The life of the Church, the Christian community, goes on normally from week to week. We have worship and fellowship, evangelism and service. But there are those special times when we concentrate intensively on one thing and work at it with extra effort.

The Church needs times of intensive Christian witness -- times when everyone works together to share the Gospel with every receptive person in the community. If people are important, and if helping lost people find Christ is most important, we will work together in evangelism.

This week's study shows the need for intensive Christian witness, and suggests some means.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Luke 10:1-24. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Read Chapter 6 in *The Master
Plan of Evangelism*. _____
4. Memorize Luke 10:2. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Study the Word

Phase Four
Week Six

INTENSIVE CHRISTIAN WITNESS
Acts 17:16-34

Paul's evangelistic ministry at Athens is a good model for modern evangelism. Of particular importance is his *audience-orientation* and subsequent *strategy*.

CALCULATING: verses 16, 22-23

1. Identify four things Paul did before proclaiming the Gospel, noting especially the verbs used to describe his evangelistic strategy:

verse 16 _____

verse 22 _____

verse 23 _____

verse 24 _____

By *calculating* the awareness of his audience before evangelizing them, Paul was able to identify needed emphases. Note that in dealing with a largely pagan audience, Paul quoted no Old Testament Scriptures. His only references were to secular poets.

CULTIVATING: verses 17, 19

2. What were the three locations where Paul went to gain a hearing among the citizens of Athens?

verse 17 (a meeting place for devout Jews):

verse 17 (the center of city activity):

verse 19 (a meeting place for philosophers):

CONVERTING: verses 17-18, 23, 30-34

3. What *methods* did Paul employ at Athens?

verse 17 _____

verses 18, 23 _____

4. What particular biblical truths did Paul proclaim to the Athenians?

verse 18 _____

(compare verses 31-32)

verse 30 _____

verse 31 _____

5. What was the three-fold response of the Athenians?

verse 32 _____

verse 32 _____

verse 34 _____

CONSERVING: verse 34

6. What was the consequence of some having believed Paul's message at Athens?

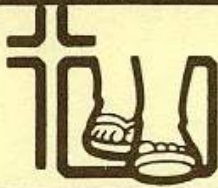
verse 34 _____

Bridge-Building Opportunity

See what you can discover about the religious understanding and attitudes of some unsaved friends. Particularly seek to discover their attitudes toward the person of Jesus, resurrection and life after death, and the Bible as God's revealed Word.

Compare your findings with that of Paul at Athens. Do you see any similarities?





7. Church Growth

INTRODUCTION

What is alive grows. There is something spontaneous and natural about genuine church growth. Normal growth does not depend upon successful techniques or programs, although planning has its place. Rather, growth is the normal consequence of spiritual life.

The nature of the Church is to grow. So church growth is not a matter of bringing to the Church that which is necessary for growth. Rather, church growth is a matter of removing the hindrances to growth. The Church will naturally grow if not limited by unbiblical barriers.

As disciples, we need to examine what the Bible teaches us about the growth of the Church.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Acts 17:1-9 and 1 Thessalonians. _____
2. Complete the Bible study (next page). _____
3. Read Chapter 7 in *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. _____
4. Memorize Acts 9:31. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity. _____

Person Growth

1951

I have been thinking a great deal lately about the growth of the human mind. It is a process that is not complete at birth, nor is it finished at death. It is a continuous journey of discovery and learning.

One of the most important factors in this growth is the environment. The people we surround ourselves with, the experiences we have, and the challenges we face all shape our thoughts and feelings. We are constantly being influenced by the world around us, and it is up to us to decide how we will respond to those influences.

Another key element is the desire to learn. We must have a genuine curiosity about the world and a willingness to explore new ideas. This is not always easy, especially when we are faced with complex or unfamiliar subjects. But it is through this process of inquiry that we truly grow and expand our horizons.

Finally, I believe that growth is a personal responsibility. We cannot rely on others to do our thinking for us. We must take ownership of our own minds and strive to improve them through constant effort and reflection. It is a lifelong pursuit, and one that is essential for a meaningful and fulfilling life.

As I look back on the years that have passed, I am struck by how much I have learned and how far I have come. It is a testament to the power of the human mind and the resilience of the human spirit. I am grateful for every challenge I have faced and every lesson I have learned.

I am excited about the future and the possibilities that lie ahead. I know that there is still so much more to learn and so many more questions to ask. I will continue to seek out new experiences and to push myself to grow in every way that I can.

With love and hope,
 [Signature]

Study the Word

Phase Four
Week Seven

CHURCH GROWTH

Acts 2-9

1. Read quickly or skim chapters 2 through 9 of Acts, beginning with 2:41 and ending with 9:31. (You may omit chapter 7.) List below all the references you find to the growth of the Church in these chapters.

-
2. Study carefully the passages you noted. What things impress you here about the growth of the early church?

-
-
-
3. How many Christians do you think there were by the time Paul went to Tarsus?

-
4. Why did the early church grow so rapidly? List as many different reasons for growth as you can find in these passages.

5. Which of these reasons for growth can be applied to the Church today, and which were due to the special circumstances of that time and so have no importance for today?

6. Was the growth reported in Acts 6:7 related to what happened in Acts 6:1-6? How?

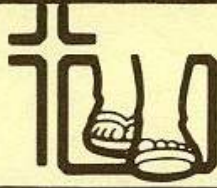
7. List three things you can do to help your church grow.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Talk over with God in prayer what you have learned from Acts about the growth of the early church. What one or two things do you think should be done by you, your church, or your discipleship cell to help the church win others to Christ and disciple them? Pray about this, and discuss it with your discipler.





8. World Vision

INTRODUCTION

There is a world to win. Our reconciling responsibility begins at home but reaches to the whole world. As society turns inward in its pre-occupation with one's own needs and desires, disciples of Jesus must become world Christians who reach out to all the peoples of the earth.

We can't speak about "the world" intelligently until we look at the real task before us. It is overwhelming and totally impossible by human wisdom and power. But God's Holy Spirit will be our wisdom and power to fulfill the Great Commission if we will let him work in us. The aim of this week's study is to help disciples see the world as God sees it.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Isaiah 45:22-25 and Revelation 7:9-10. _____
2. Complete the Bible study (next page). _____
3. Read Chapter 8 in *The Master Plan of Evangelism* and the pamphlet, "Everything You Need to Know to Become a World Christian." _____
4. Memorize Acts 1:8. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity. _____

REPORT

11/11/54

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work done during the year. It is followed by a detailed account of the various projects undertaken and the results achieved.

The second part of the report describes the work done in the various departments and the progress of the various projects. It is followed by a detailed account of the various projects undertaken and the results achieved.

CONCLUSION

The work done during the year has been very satisfactory and has resulted in the completion of many important projects. It is hoped that the results achieved will be of great value to the organization.

Study the Word

Phase Four
Week Eight

WORLD VISION

Selected passages

1. What was God's ultimate purpose in calling Abram to be head of the Jewish nation?

Genesis 12:3 _____

2. Israel, like Abram, was chosen by God and called for what special purpose?

Isaiah 42:6; 49:6 _____

3. Who does God desire to worship him, and where does God desire to have his glory announced?

Psalm 96:1, 3, 7 _____

4. Who does God promise to gather together, and to whom does he promise to manifest his glory?

Isaiah 66:18-20 _____

5. For whose salvation did the apostle Paul carry a compelling burden?

1 Corinthians 9:22 _____

Romans 16:26 _____

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 19 _____

Phase Four
Week Eight

In the following great events of redemptive history, for whom did God express concern?

The Nativity (Luke 2:10) _____

The Ascension (Luke 24:47) _____

Pentecost (Acts 2:5-11) _____

The Consummation (Revelation 5:9) _____

The challenge of reaching the entire world with the Gospel is staggering. Two billion people will not be reached by conventional efforts, including: 502 million Hindus, 664 million Muslims, and 827 million Chinese. Even in the United States, over 100 million adults are unchurched.

THE CHALLENGE

THE WORLD: 1 billion people name Jesus as Lord
1 billion may have heard of Him
2 billion people have never heard
His Name

Christians (1 billion)	Non-Christians culturally separated from a
Non-Christians in same culture as Christians (1 billion)	Christian Witness (2 billion)

Bridge-Building Opportunity

1. Share the above "challenge" of world evangelization with another Christian, preferably one who is not a part of your discipleship group. Help the one with whom you share to see the tremendous challenge facing the Church today. Pray together with him/her about your part in reaching the world with the Gospel.
2. Add some world needs to your daily prayer time.
3. Ask God if he would have you fast at least one meal per week to pray for world needs and to learn more deeply God's concern for the world.





PLANNING - TO LIVE REDEEMPTIVELY

*"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."
Acts 5:42*

TIME

BRIDGE BUILDING

DAILY DEVOTIONS

TIMOTHY CALL

SALVATION BY APPT.

NEW CONTACT

CHURCH COMMITMENTS

SUNDAY										

*"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord."
Psalms 122:1*

MONDAY										

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19*

TUESDAY										

*"And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
Galatians 6:9*



How Can I Disciple Someone Else?

AS YOU BEGIN PHASE FIVE . . .

Reproduction is the aim of discipleship. The goal of discipling is not just to make disciples, but to make disciple-makers. Fulfilling the Great Commission means making disciples, not just making converts. And that means helping disciples to become disciplers.

This new phase is therefore crucially important! Before Phase Five is complete, you should be discipling someone else. And by the end of Phase Five, one or more new discipleship cells should have been formed from your cell.

This new phase deals with discipling someone else. You will confront the following major concepts:

1. Follow-up of New Converts
2. Follow-up of New Converts (continued)
3. The Principle of Multiplication
4. Beginning to Disciple
5. Continuing to Disciple
6. Making Disciple-Makers
7. Beginning a Small Group
8. Small-Group Leadership

Review the Phase Five Discipleship Covenant on the next page. Once you have signed the covenant, you are ready to begin Phase Five.

THE DISCIPLESHIP COVENANT*Phase Five*

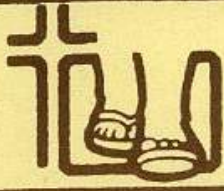
Convinced that God is calling me to go on in the life of discipleship, I commit myself to Phase Five of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*, and will endeavor faithfully to fulfill the following disciplines:

1. A minimum of one hour per week with the discipler.
2. Faithful participation in the Discipleship Cell.
3. A regular quiet time of Bible study and prayer.
4. A program of regular Scripture memorization and review.
5. Sharing my faith with others.
6. Active involvement in my local church.
7. A sincere endeavor to put into practice whatever God teaches me through *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*.

Name _____

Date _____





1. Follow-up of New Converts

INTRODUCTION

Jesus said to make disciples by going, baptizing, and teaching them to practice what he taught (Matthew 28:19). When a person is born into the family of God, the first task is follow-up. This means caring for a newborn Christian and helping him or her to grow. So follow-up is the first step in discipling a new believer.

Through sharing your faith, you have helped other people become Christians. Or perhaps someone else has led a person to Christ, and you have been assigned to begin discipling. In either case, this new task can be the most rewarding part of discipleship for you.

It is a crime to neglect newborn children. And it is a spiritual crime to let newborn believers die without the care they need.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read 1 Peter 5, 1 John 1 & 2

2. Complete the Bible study
(next page).

3. Memorize Ephesians 1:7.

4. Read the first two chapters in
Disciples Are Made -- Not Born.

5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity.

Study the Word

Phase Five
Week One

FOLLOW-UP OF NEW CONVERTS

1 John 1 and 2

1. Read over 1 John 1 and 2 carefully. List several key words that appear repeatedly in these two chapters:

2. Write a sentence that summarizes the main thought in each of the following sections:

1:1-4 _____

1:5-10 _____

2:1-14 _____

2:15-17 _____

2:18-29 _____

3. What facts about Jesus does John want to be sure his spiritual children especially understand?

4. What do we learn in chapter 1 about fellowship? With whom should we have fellowship? Why is this important?

5. 1 John 1:7 contains a key statement. Notice how it seems to summarize much of what these two chapters teach.
 6. How can we handle the problem of sin in our lives, according to these two chapters?
-
-

7. What responsibilities do we take upon us when we become Christians? (2:3-6)
-

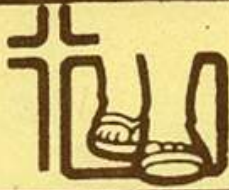
8. If you were studying these two chapters with a new convert, what are five things you would want him or her to learn?

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

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Share 1 John 1 and 2 with a new Christian. Read the passages together, and discuss what God is saying to Christians here. Answer any questions, if you can; admit it if you can't. Share what you yourself have learned in studying these passages.





2. Follow-up of New Converts (cont.)

INTRODUCTION

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin" (1 John 1:7 NIV).

This dynamic way, this "walking in the light," is what discipleship is all about. Follow-up involves walking this way ourselves, and helping others walk along with us. This is the way of purity and holiness.

And Jesus is our model. "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did" (1 John 2:6 NIV).

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-20
1 Corinthians 10:13
Romans 12:1-2
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page).
3. Memorize 1 John 1:7
4. Read chapters 3 and 4 in *Disciples are Made -- Not Born.*
5. Complete the Bridge-building Opportunity.

Study the Word

Phase Five
Week Two

FOLLOW-UP OF NEW CONVERTS (Continued)
Romans 12

1. Read Romans 12:1-21. What would be a good title for this chapter?

2. What kind of sacrifice is described in verse 1?

3. What kind of contrast is suggested in verse 2? What do you think "the pattern of this world" refers to?

4. We are not to be like the world. What are we to be like? (Compare Romans 8:29)

5. How can we be transformed by the renewing of our minds? Does verse 1 provide any clues?

6. What are some of the characteristics of the life that is holy and pleasing to God? Note verses 9-21.

7. Study verses 3-8. What is the relationship like that Christians have with each other through Jesus Christ?

8. What are some of the ways we as Christians are different from each other? (verses 5 and 6)

9. List at least five things from this chapter that you think it is important for a new Christian to know:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

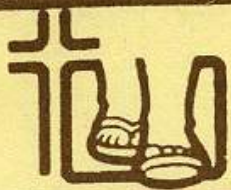
10. What one thing from this passage is most important for your life right now?

Bridge-Building Opportunity

You now should be following-up a new believer. If you are not, discuss this with your discipler.

This week, take time to show the person you are following-up that you care. Have the person over for dinner or a visit. Get personally better acquainted.





3. The Principle of Multiplication

INTRODUCTION

In reaching out to others, sometimes we forget to teach them in turn to reach out to others. But faithful discipleship requires that we take that second step. The principle of multiplication is that as Jesus' disciples we are to make disciples who will make *disciple-makers*.

This is a slow process at first. So it was with Jesus and the Twelve. But as you work with one person and teach him to do the same, you soon become 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, . . .

Important reading this week is chapter 11 in Walter Henrichsen's book, *Disciples Are Made -- Not Born*.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Matthew 14:15-21;
Luke 5:1-11; John 21:6-14. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2 _____
4. Read chapters 5 and 11 in
*Disciples Are Made -- Not
Born*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Study the Word

Phase Five
Week Three

THE PRINCIPLE OF MULTIPLICATION
Selected Passages

1. What principle of reproduction is built into God's creation? (Genesis 1:11-12)
-

If fruit trees bear fruit according to their seed, then disciples of Jesus Christ should produce _____.

2. Read John 15:1-8, 16. According to John 15:8, the proof of discipleship is:
-

3. What four different levels of fruitfulness are recorded in these verses?

15:2a _____

15:2b _____

15:2c _____

15:5, 8 _____

4. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus said we are to go and *make disciples*. According to John 15:16, what are we to do in order to bear fruit?

"_____ and bear fruit"

5. What does the following record from the life of the early church tell us about their spiritual reproduction?

Acts 6:7 _____

Acts 9:31 _____

6. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7. This is the record and details of Paul's multiplying of disciples on the personal level. List the four "generations" of disciples mentioned in verse 2:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

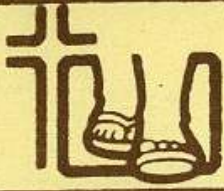
Bridge-Building Opportunity

If the Church is to be faithful in fulfilling our Lord's commission to make disciples in all nations, we must move beyond mere *addition* of disciples to the *multiplication* of disciples.

To disciple the nations means a continuing work of spiritual reproduction, of multiplying disciples -- next door, throughout our city, among nations and peoples different from us, and around the world. We must produce mature Christian disciples who in turn will be able to reproduce themselves in other mature disciples, who will reproduce themselves . . . and so on.

This week, share this *principle of multiplication* with one or two other believers you are working with.





4. Beginning to Disciple

INTRODUCTION

Over the past six months you have learned many things about discipleship and Christian living. And you have begun to put many of these things into practice, making them part of your Christian lifestyle.

Now you are to begin discipling someone else, under the guidance of the person who has been discipling you. If you haven't been discipling another person up to now, this is the time to begin. Your discipler will help you as to the precise "how" and "when" of this new step in discipleship.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and 1 Timothy. _____
2. Complete the Bible study (next page). _____
3. Memorize Colossians 1:28. _____
4. Read chapters 6 and 7 in *Disciples Are Made -- Not Born*. _____
5. Begin to disciple someone else (See Bridge-Building Opportunity). _____

Study the Word

Phase Five
Week Four

BEGINNING TO DISCIPLE

Matthew 28:19-20

1 Timothy 1:1-20

Paul very carefully disciplined Timothy. His two letters to Timothy show this, and give us many insights in discipling. The purpose of this study is to help prepare you for discipling someone else.

1. Review the Bible study on The Great Commission in Phase Four, Week 1.
2. Carefully read over 1 Timothy 1:1-20, remembering that this letter is part of Paul's way of discipling Timothy.
3. What kind of relationship existed between Paul and Timothy? Note verses 2, 18.

4. What qualities of a good discipler does Paul reveal in what he says to Timothy?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

5. What are some of the things we should avoid when we teach or disciple someone else, according to this chapter?

6. What are some of the qualities that Paul wants to see in Timothy's life?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

7. What do we learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter?

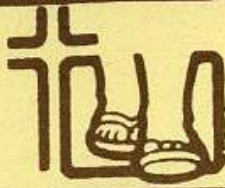
Bridge-Building Opportunity

You are now to begin discipling someone else. Pray and seek God's will as to whom you can disciple. Discuss this with your discipler. Talk to the prospective disciple, encouraging him to join you in discipleship.

This new disciple is your responsibility now, and you begin with him at Phase One of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*, just as you began several months ago. This means you should:

1. Have the necessary discipleship manuals in hand.
2. Review the introductory material in the Training Manual.
3. Meet with the new disciple, following the procedures outlined in the Training Manual.
4. Discuss any questions with your discipler.





5. Continuing to Disciple

INTRODUCTION

You have learned that making disciples involves far more than just communicating facts. When Christian nurture is just the transmission of factual information, the result is Christians who know the right answers but haven't made them part of their lifestyle.

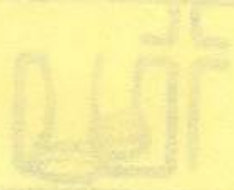
One answer to this problem is a *discipleship model*. The greatest need for the Christian pursuing holiness is for a model, an example, a pattern to follow. You will be an effective discipler to the extent that you show by your life the truth of the words you teach.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Read John 15:1-17; James 1:22; and 2 Timothy | _____ |
| 2. Complete the Bible study (next page). | _____ |
| 3. Memorize Hebrews 12:11. | _____ |
| 4. Read chapters 8 and 9 in <i>Disciples Are Made -- Not Born</i> | _____ |
| 5. Continue your ministry of discipling (Bridge-Building Opportunity). | _____ |

6. Continuing to Disciple



INTRODUCTION

You have learned that making disciples involves far more than just communicating facts. When Christian nurture is part of the transmission of factual information, the results in Christians who know the right answers but haven't made them part of their lifestyle.

One answer to this problem is a discipleship model. The greatest need for the Christian world today is for a model, an example, a pattern to follow. You will be an effective disciple to the extent that you know by your life the truth of the words you teach.

Learning Objectives

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Read John 13:1-17, James 1:19 and 2:1-4.

2. Complete the Bible study next page.

3. Memorize Hebrews 12:11.

4. Read chapters 5 and 6 in discipleship and make a list of _____
5. Outline your ministry of discipleship using the following categories: _____

Study the Word

Phase Five
Week Five

CONTINUING TO DISCIPLE
Selected Passages

1. Read John 13:12-17. According to verse 15, Jesus said that he has given us an _____
_____ in order that we should
_____ as he has done.

2. What are we to follow, now that Jesus is not physically present with us, according to 1 Peter 2:21?

3. Look at 1 Corinthians 4:16. What does Paul urge the Corinthians to do, because of his intimate relationship with them?

4. By saying this, Paul could be opening himself up to the charge of pride and egotism. But what had he already written to the Corinthians in the previous chapter? Note 1 Corinthians 3:5-7.

5. Read Philippians 3:17 and 4:9. Paul urged the Philippians to join in _____
_____ him as an _____.

What were they to do with what they had already learned from and seen in him?

6. Examine the following passages. What more do we learn about being imitators here?

1 Cor. 11:1 _____

1 Thess. 1:1, 6 _____

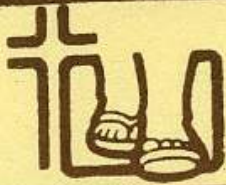
Hebrews 6:12 _____

7. Keeping Heb. 6:12 in mind, consider the examples recorded in Heb. 11:4-12 and 17-32.
 8. Ultimately, whom are we to imitate and pattern our lives after? (Ephesians 5:1; compare Romans 8:29)
-

Bridge-Building Opportunity

1. In what areas of your life are you or are you not a good example for others to follow?
2. Continue your discipleship ministry. You should now be started into Phase One with one or more disciples.





6. Making Disciple-Makers

INTRODUCTION

You will notice that discipleship involves spiritual growth for yourself, reaching out to others for Christ, bringing them to a point of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and then teaching them to be disciples. This week's study underscores the fact that the disciple himself should become a disciple-maker.

By the way -- nothing sparks our own spiritual growth like helping another person to grow! This is something else you are now learning.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read 1 Thessalonians. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15. _____
4. Read chapters 10 and 12 of
*Disciples Are Made --
Not Born.* _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Making Disciple-Makers



INTRODUCTION

You will notice that discipleship involves spiritual growth for yourself, teaching one to others for Christ, bringing them to a point of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and then teaching them to be disciples. This week's study underscores the fact that the disciple himself should become a disciple-maker.

By the way -- looking speaks out our spiritual growth like helping another person to grow! This is something that you are now learning.

ASSIGNMENTS

Study Questions

1. Read 1 Thessalonians. _____
2. Complete the Bible study (next page). _____
3. Memorize 1 Timothy 2:15. _____
4. Read chapters 10 and 11 of Disciples Are Made Not Born. _____
5. Complete the Bridge Building Opportunity. _____

MAKING DISCIPLE-MAKERS
1 Thessalonians

Fill in the chart on the next page. If space is insufficient, make a larger chart on an 8½ x 11 or 17 x 22 sheet of paper.

Bridge-Building Opportunity

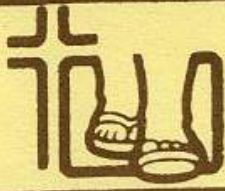
As you continue to disciple, spend informal time with the new disciple you are working with. Be sure everything you do is redemptive in thought for redemptive purpose for redemptive results.

This week, take the new disciple along with you on a visit to an unsaved friend, relative, or contact.



FIRST THESSALONIANS

Theme of book				
Chapters	1	2	3	4
Chapter Theme/Title				
Persons Mentioned				
Jesus Christ				
Return of Jesus				
The Holy Spirit				
Insights into Discipleship				
Insights into Evangelism				
Insights into Christian Lifestyle and Holiness				
Promises				
Important Cross-References				



7. Beginning A Small Group

INTRODUCTION

The first Christians in Jerusalem "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship" (Acts 2:42 NIV). Fellowship -- a genuine experience of Christian community -- is basic to Christian living and discipleship. In fact, to experience real Christian community is to experience the Church.

Through *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* you have learned the importance of fellowship and small-group sharing. Now it is time to consider starting a new group -- either a new discipleship cell or some other experience of Bible study group.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read 1 John 5 and Acts 2:41-42, 5:42.
2. Complete the Bible study (next page).
3. Memorize Ephesians 2:19.
4. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity.

Study the Word

BEGINNING A SMALL GROUP

Acts 2:41-47, 5:42

1. Study carefully Acts 2:41-47. When and where did these events take place? What had just happened?

2. Who does "they" in verse 42 refer to? Do you find any clues as to how many people might have been involved?

3. What four things did these early Christians do, according to verse 42?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

4. Where did they meet together to do these things? Compare verses 42 and 46; also 5:42.

Note: "Breaking bread" refers to the common meal which the Christians shared together in their homes, ending with the Lord's Supper.

5. What did these Christians do so that all the believers had both their spiritual and their material needs met? (Compare Acts 2:42-45 with 4:32-35.)

6. Review the Bible study of Week 3, Phase Two, on Acts 2 and 4.

The number of Christian believers in Jerusalem soon reached into the thousands -- perhaps as many as ten or fifteen thousand. At times this great congregation met all together, but frequently they met in small groups in private homes. In small-group meetings, they discovered a level of fellowship they could not have known otherwise. And Christian disciples still need this kind of sharing today.

Bridge-Building Opportunity

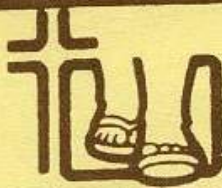
In the plan of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*, new discipleship cells should be formed from the original cell. Either now or at some later time within the next several weeks, one or more new groups should start functioning.

There are several different kinds of small groups -- evangelistic Bible study groups, discipleship groups (such as your discipleship cell), mission groups, and prayer and Bible study groups of various types.

Should you start a small group? Discuss this with your discipler. Options:

1. If you have two or more disciples, they should be functioning under your leadership as a Discipleship Cell.
2. You might want to start some type of evangelistic Bible study group.
3. Consider a mission or service group for helping meet a special need in your church or community.





8. Small Group Leadership

INTRODUCTION

Revival movements have come and gone down through the history of the Church. One common ingredient of most genuine renewal movements, however, has been Christians meeting together in small groups for prayer, Bible study, and sharing of experiences.

The Methodist Revival in England two hundred years ago was built in part on the "class meeting" and on the "bands" -- small groups of Christians meeting in homes.

Your experience of discipleship so far has been based on small-group sharing. The purpose of this week's study is to help you lead a small group for spiritual growth and renewal.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12;
Colossians 1:1-29.
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page).
3. Memorize Acts 20:28.
4. Read the booklet, *Small
Groups*.
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity.

8. Small Group Leadership



INTRODUCTION

Revival movements have come and gone down through the history of the Church. One common ingredient of most genuine renewal movements, however, has been Christian meeting together in small groups for prayer, Bible study, and sharing of experiences.

The Methodist Revival in England two hundred years ago was built in part on the "class meeting" and on the "bands" -- small groups of Christians meeting in homes.

Your experience of discipleship so far has been based on small-group sharing. The purpose of this week's study is to help you lead a small group for spiritual growth and renewal.

Date Completed

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-15; Colossians 3:1-23

2. Complete the Bible study (next page).

3. Memorize Acts 20:28

4. Lead the Exhibit, Small Groups.

5. Complete the Service-Building Opportunity.

Study the Word

Phase Five

Week Eight

SMALL-GROUP LEADERSHIP

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

1. Who is sending this letter to the Thessalonians? Why do you think Paul often spent time with companions in his ministry?

2. List several things that we learn about the Thessalonian church from these verses:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

3. Why is it important that we remember Jesus' promise to come to earth a second time?

4. In a brief statement, write out your understanding of what the Church of Jesus Christ should be like, based on what you can learn from this chapter.

5. REVIEW: Spend several minutes going back over the Bible studies in Phase Five. Think about what you have learned. Then try to list several things a person should remember as he leads a small Bible study group.

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Use your Bible study group or discipleship cell meeting as a time to strengthen new Christians in the group. Have each one share something of what God has done in their lives over the past few weeks.





PLANNING - TO LIVE REDEEMPTIVELY

*"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."
Acts 5:42*

TIME

BRIDGE BUILDING

DAILY DEVOTIONS

TIMOTHY CALL

SALVATION BY APPT.

NEW CONTACT

CHURCH COMMITMENTS

S
U
N
D
A
Y

*"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord."
Psalms 122:1*

M
O
N
D
A
Y

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19*

T
U
E
S
D
A
Y

*"And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
Galatians 6:9*

TIME

"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."

Acts 5:42

BRIDGE BUILDING

DAILY DEVOTIONS

TIMOTHY CALL

SALVATION BY APPT.

NEW CONTACT

CHURCH COMMITMENTS

W
E
D
N
E
S
D
A
Y

"Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers, make good use of every opportunity you have."

Colossians 4:5

T
H
U
R
S
D
A
Y

"He that winneth Souls is Wise."

Proverbs 11:30

F
R
I
D
A
Y

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28

S
A
T
U
R
D
A
Y

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58



What Is God's Over-all Plan?

AS YOU BEGIN PHASE SIX . . .

God has a plan and purpose. We can never fully understand his ways; they remain a mystery to us. But in the Bible God shows us the main outline of his plan for the ages.

You are part of that plan, for Jesus has made you part of the Church, his Body. What God has been doing in your life over the past months fits into his plan to reconcile the world to himself through Jesus Christ.

The plan of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* has brought us through different phases of the Christian life. Now it is time to step back and ask, "What is God's overall plan?" This is the purpose of Phase Six--to look at God's cosmic plan of which we are a part. We will examine these topics:

1. God's Cosmic Plan
2. The Kingdom of God
3. The Church
4. Ministry and Spiritual Gifts
5. Spiritual Warfare
6. Social Witness
7. Groups for Mission
8. The Church as Counterculture

Go over the Phase Six Discipleship Covenant on the next page. When you have signed the covenant, you are ready to begin Phase Six.

THE DISCIPLESHIP COVENANT

Phase Six

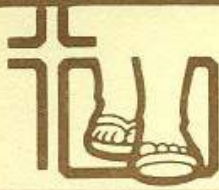
Convinced that God is calling me to go on in the life of discipleship, I commit myself to Phase Six of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*, and will endeavor faithfully to fulfill the following disciplines:

1. A minimum of one hour per week with the discipler.
2. Faithful participation in the Discipleship Cell.
3. A regular quiet time of Bible study and prayer.
4. A program of regular Scripture memorization and review.
5. Sharing my faith with others.
6. Active involvement in my local church.
7. A sincere endeavor to put into practice whatever God teaches me through *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP*.

Name _____

Date _____





1. God's Cosmic Plan

INTRODUCTION

Compare Ephesians 1:9-10 and Colossians 1:19-20 --

For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth (Eph. 1:9-10 RSV).

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (Col. 1:19-20).

God has a plan to reconcile all things through Jesus Christ. Our aim in Phase Six is to understand this plan.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Ephesians 1-3 and Matthew 5-7. _____
2. Complete the Bible study (next page). _____
3. Memorize Ephesians 1:9-10. _____
4. Read pages 11-17 and 45-51 in *Community of the King*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity. _____

GOD'S COSMIC PLAN
Hebrews 1 and 2

Read Hebrews 1 and 2 over very carefully, twice. Then answer the following questions.

1. What Old Testament passages are quoted in these two chapters?

2. Who is Jesus Christ, according to these chapters?

3. What are some of the things we learn here that Jesus has done?

4. Find all the references to such ideas as "universe," "all things," "everything," and "everyone" in these two chapters. How broad is God's plan? What all does it include?

5. Study 2:5-9. What is the point of this passage? What does it teach us?

6. Hebrews 2:9 seems to be a key verse. Not everything is now harmoniously under Man's feet, as at creation. But we see Jesus! How does Jesus' victory (verse 9) relate to the problem noted in verse 8?

7. Note verses 2:10-16. How are Christians now related to Jesus Christ?

8. Write a sentence or phrase summarizing each of the following sections:

1:1-3 - _____

1:4-14 - _____

2:1-4 - _____

2:5-10 - _____

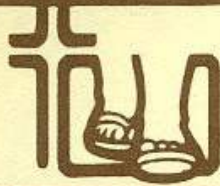
2:11-18 - _____

Note: All the personal Bible studies in Phase Six will be on Hebrews. As you go through this delightful book, notice the many things that are said about God's redemptive plan.

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Share two or three things God is teaching you with a new Christian -- perhaps someone you are discipling.





2. The Kingdom of God

INTRODUCTION

Christians pray constantly, "May your kingdom come; may your will be done on earth..." We pray, "Yours is the kingdom!"

God's plan to reconcile all things to himself through Jesus Christ -- things in heaven and things on earth -- is what the Kingdom of God is all about. The Kingdom of God is not a place; it is God's rule over every person, power, and nation in the universe.

We are to pray for, and expect, the coming of the Kingdom in fullness, for God is King and Christ has conquered. We are to seek the Kingdom of God and its justice in the world.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Ephesians 4-6. _____
2. Complete the Bible study (next page). _____
3. Memorize Colossians 1:13. _____
4. Read pages 21-41 in *Community of the King*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building Opportunity. _____

The Kingdom of God

1941

...and your study, "May your study
...your will be done on earth...
...the Kingdom"

God's plan is to bring us to a point
...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see

...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see

Completed

Completed

1941

...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see

...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see

...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see

...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see

...to a point where we can see
...to a point where we can see

Study the Word

Phase Six
Week Two

Hebrews 1-4

Read the first four chapters of Hebrews over carefully. Read chapters 3 and 4 a second time.

1. What do we learn about the Hebrew people in Old Testament days in chapters 3 and 4?

2. Why did the people Moses led out of Egypt fail to enter the promised rest (the promised land)? Note 3:19, 4:2, and 4:6.

3. What more do we learn about Jesus Christ in chapters 3 and 4?

4. What warnings or exhortations are found in chapters 2, 3, and 4?

5. Summarize briefly what God is saying to us about "rest" in chapters 3 and 4.

6. What do we learn about faith and obedience in these chapters?

7. What does it mean for us that Jesus is our great high priest?

8. Compare Hebrews 1-4 with Matthew 5-7. List four ideas that are found in both passages.

1) _____

2) _____

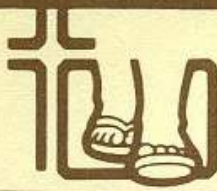
3) _____

4) _____

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Spend time this week meditating on God's plan for your life and the lives of those around you, based on your Bible reading. Spend time in silence before God.





3. The Church

INTRODUCTION

God's plan is that now, through the Church, the great wisdom of God should be made known. God is working through the Church, Christ's Body, to reconcile the world to himself.

This puts tremendous responsibility on us -- but also gives us tremendous hope. For God has promised to do through the Church what we can never do except as we totally give ourselves to him and trust him.

It is crucial for us to understand the Church and how it functions in God's overall plan. The Book of Ephesians is an especially helpful place to learn of God's plan for and through the Church.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12-14. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize 1 Peter 2:9. _____
4. Read pages 53-72 in *Community
of the King*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

PHASE 3 WEEK 3

The Church

... is that now, through the Church, the power of God should be made known to the world through the Church, Christ's body, to reach the world to Christ.

This part is essential... but also gives... has received... the world...

... of a... with... The... of God's...

- 1. Read & Comprehend 15-16
- 2. Copy out the Bible study (next page)
- 3. Prayer (next page)

Study the Word

Phase Six
Week Three

Hebrews 1-5

Review Hebrews 1-2, and read chapters 3-5 carefully. Notice any passages that talk about being the church or the people of God.

1. Study Hebrews 2:10 through 3:6. List four things we may learn here about the church, God's family.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

2. Compare 3:1-6 with Ephesians 2:19-22 and 1 Peter 2:4-10. What similar ideas are found in all three passages?

3. Study Hebrews 3:7-13 carefully. In a sentence, summarize the main thought of this passage.

4. What is the point of the emphasis on "Today" and "daily" in 2:7 and 2:13?

5. Think further about 2:12-13. What are we to do so that none of our Christian brothers or sisters may have "a sinful, unbelieving heart" or "be hardened by sin's deceitfulness"?
-

6. How can we fulfill verse 2:13? How does this relate to discipleship?
-

7. Read chapter 5. What do verses 11 through 14 suggest to us about discipleship?
-

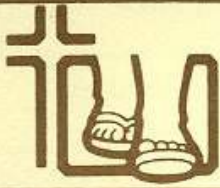
8. In summary, what do we learn about the church in Hebrews 2-5? How is the church pictured or understood in these chapters? What is the church?
-

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Notice that 1 Peter 2:9 says you are part of God's people. He has chosen you. He has blessed you. Why? So that you may declare the wonderful deeds, praises, and works of him who called you from darkness to light.

This week, practice praising God for all his wonder, goodness, and mercy. Then share with someone else the praises of God in your life.





4. Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

INTRODUCTION

The New Testament explains that all Christians are priests and ministers, and that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts so we can serve God, each other, and the world. So ministry and spiritual gifts are tied together.

We are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and serve with the kind of spirit he showed. So we are priests of God, servants of Christ, gifted by the Spirit.

Part of God's plan involves understanding and using the gifts for ministry he gives us. The *Spiritual Gifts Inventory* included as part of this week's material may help you identify your gifts, if you haven't already.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read 1 Timothy 1-6. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. _____
4. Read pages 73-96 in *Community
of the King*. _____
5. Complete the *Spiritual Gifts
Inventory* in the Manual. _____
6. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Annual Report 2023



Our mission is to provide quality education and training to all students, regardless of their background or financial situation. We are committed to excellence in teaching and learning, and to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all our students.

Over the past year, we have achieved significant milestones in our academic and financial performance. Our student success rates have improved, and our financial stability has been maintained. We are proud of the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students, and we look forward to continuing our journey of growth and innovation in the coming year.

Dr. Jane Smith
 President

John Doe
 Treasurer

For more information, please contact our office at (555) 123-4567 or visit our website at www.ourcollege.edu.

We are grateful for the support of our donors, alumni, and the community. Your contributions help us provide the best possible education for our students. We encourage you to continue supporting our mission and vision for the future.

Study the Word

Phase Six
Week Four

Hebrews 2-6

Read chapters 2 through 6 of Hebrews, especially noting chapters 2, 3, and 6.

1. What should be the goal of our discipleship?
(Hebrews 6:1-3)

-
2. List three warnings or exhortations that are found in chapter 6.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

3. In Hebrews 2:3, "the Lord" refers to Jesus Christ. How was the salvation which Jesus announced "confirmed to us by those who heard him"?

-
4. In what ways did God also testify to the truth of the message of salvation? (2:4)

-
5. Notice that in 2:4 "gifts of the Holy Spirit" were one of the ways God demonstrated that his message was true. What do we learn here about spiritual gifts? (Compare 1 Corinthians 12:11)

-
6. As you look through these five chapters, what do you learn about the ministry of

Jesus? List at least five things about Jesus' ministry.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

7. Since Jesus is our great high priest and we are a spiritual priesthood (1 Peter 2:4-9), in some ways we Christians share in Jesus ministry and in some ways we do not, for he is God. What are some of the ways our ministry ought to be like Jesus' ministry?

8. Why is it that Christians have a firm and secure hope? Note 6:13-20.

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Thank God for the spiritual gift he has given you. Begin to exercise that gift to the honor and glory of God the Father.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY



"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them . . . "

— Romans 12:6



The generally acknowledged spiritual gifts listed below are found in one or more of the following chapters: Romans 12; I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; or I Peter 4.

Check what applies:

	A NEED EXISTS FOR THIS GIFT	I FEEL I MAY HAVE THIS GIFT	I WOULD ENJOY USING THIS GIFT
PROPHECY the inspired presentation of the Word of God			
SERVING a general gift for service or ministry to others			
TEACHING spiritual and moral instruction of believers from the Scriptures			
EXHORTATION encouragement of believers through counsel and appeal			
GIVING generous contributing or sharing, especially of financial resources			
LEADERSHIP helping a group to solve problems and reach common goals			
MERCY practical acts of mercy to others such as those done by Jesus			
SHEPHERDING pastoral oversight and equipping of others for ministry			
EVANGELISM persuading unbelievers to receive Christ and become responsible members of his church			
HELPING the ministry of giving assistance or lending a helping hand			
ADMINISTRATION to steer and guide others, exercising government over them			
DISCERNMENT distinguishing truth from error in doctrine and ministry			
APOSTLE the commission and ability to carry the Gospel to new areas			
FAITH extraordinary faith which creates an atmosphere of expectancy			
HEALING bringing spiritual, emotional, and physical healing to others			
MIRACLES power to perform unusual signs for the glory of God			
TONGUES speaking in another or unknown language to communicate Gospel or to praise God			
INTERPRETATION the God-given ability to interpret speaking in tongues			
KNOWLEDGE spiritual insight necessary for deeper understanding of God's truth			
WISDOM special ability to apply God's truth to immediate problems or needs			

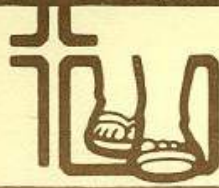
Other possible spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament:

Check what applies:

		A NEED EXISTS FOR THIS GIFT	I FEEL I MAY HAVE THIS GIFT	I WOULD ENJOY USING THIS GIFT	OTHERS CONFIRM I HAVE THIS GIFT
POVERTY	(I Cor. 13:3) the calling to surrender all material possessions to serve God and minister to others.				
CELIBACY	(I Cor. 7:7) calling to forgo marriage and family responsibilities to be freed for ministry to others				
INTERCESSION	(Jas. 5:13-18) the burden for and ministry of intercessory prayer for others and their needs				
MUSIC	(Eph. 5:19) vocal or instrumental music for glory of God and to minister to others				
HOSPITALITY	(I Pt. 4:9) using one's resources for ministry to the physical and spiritual needs of others				
Other gifts or ministries which God may have given me:					

Name _____

Date _____ 19 _____



5. Spiritual Warfare

INTRODUCTION

You have already discovered that serving God faithfully puts you in a battle. The Bible calls the forces which are warring against God and his Kingdom "principalities and powers" or "rulers and authorities." Discipleship means joining in the war for the Kingdom of God -- but with joy and confidence, for Jesus Christ has already conquered!

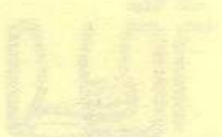
God's great bulwark and weapon against the powers of darkness is the Church, the Body of Christ. This, again, is why discipleship is so important in the spiritual warfare we all face. We must be the Church, the community of God's people, in actual fact.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read James 1-5. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize Ephesians 6:12. _____
4. Read pages 99-116 in *Community
of the King*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

5. Spiritual Warfare



The first step in spiritual warfare is to identify the enemy. The enemy is not a person, but a power. The power is the devil, who is the author of all sin and the father of lies. He is the one who is working against us, and he is the one who is trying to lead us away from God. We must understand that the devil is a real, powerful being, and he is not to be underestimated. He is the one who is working to destroy our lives, and we must be prepared to fight back.

The second step in spiritual warfare is to put on the armor of God. This armor is not made of physical materials, but of spiritual truths. It is the armor of truth, righteousness, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control. We must put on this armor every day, and we must keep it on at all times. This armor will protect us from the attacks of the devil, and it will help us to stand firm in our faith.

Prayer

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill your heart.

2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in all your ways.

3. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding.

4. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you strength and courage.

5. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you peace and joy.

Study the Word

Phase Six

Week Five

Hebrews 6-9

Study Hebrews 6-9, then answer the following questions.

1. What dangers do believers risk if they turn back from following God?

2. What kind of struggle is suggested in 6:1-12?

3. Read Psalm 110. Where is this psalm quoted in Hebrews?

4. Who was Melchizedek? (Note Genesis 14.)

Melchi means "king," zedek means "righteousness" or "justice," and salem means "peace" (shalom). in the Hebrew language.

5. In what ways was Jesus more like Melchizedek than like Aaron? Why is this important?

6. Jesus has a "permanent priesthood" (7:24). In what ways does Jesus continue to exercise his priesthood? What does this mean for us today?

7. Compare Hebrews 7:25 with Romans 8:26-27.
How does God continue to help us, especially when we pray?
-
-

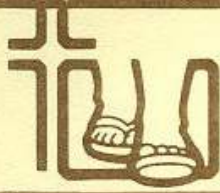
8. Study Hebrews 8:7-13. Note the quotation from Jeremiah 31:31-34 where the New Covenant or agreement was promised hundreds of years before Christ. What was "wrong" with the first covenant? (Notice especially "they" in verse 9 and "I" in verse 10.)
-
-
-

NOTE: In Old Testament days, the people were unfaithful to God's covenant. But with the New Covenant we can be faithful, for in Jesus God does more than give us his law on stone or in a book -- he writes it on our hearts! He comes to live with us and in us.

Bridge-Building Opportunity

As you memorize Scripture this week, take some extra time to meditate on the verses you have learned. The Word is part of your equipment in your spiritual warfare. Ask God to lead you to someone this week who needs to see Jesus. Then act as God leads.





6. Social Witness

INTRODUCTION

As you have studied the Bible, you have seen that God is concerned with all peoples and nations -- with the whole created order -- not just with the personal salvation of individual persons. God's reconciling work centers in the personal redemption which Jesus brings to persons, but it reaches to healing and reconciliation between groups, races, classes, and nations, and between humankind and the natural world.

The Church must have a social witness. Some believers are especially called to important ministries of reconciliation in the world of today's pressing social problems. This is basic and a crucial part of Kingdom work.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Acts 1-7. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize Isaiah 58:10. _____
4. Read pages 117-35 in *Community
of the King*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Study the Word

Phase Six
Week Six

Hebrews 8-10

Study Hebrews 8-10, then answer the following questions.

1. Notice the references to Jesus' ministry in 8:1-6. What ministry does Jesus continue to have and carry out?

2. We learn more here about the first covenant, compared with the New Covenant. Notice especially verses 9:9 and 9:13-14. What does the New Covenant do that the old covenant could not? (Compare also 10:1-2 and 10:22.)

3. According to 9:14, who has acted so that we are now free from our sins?

4. Now that our consciences have been cleansed from sin, what does God expect us to do? (9:14)

5. God wants a people who will serve him in the world. Notice Hebrews 8:10-12. It is sin and guilt that keeps us from serving God fully. But note Hebrews 9:15-28. Why did Jesus come into the world?

6. Study Hebrews 10:1-18. List at least three things that "the law" (that is, the Old Testament covenant) could not do.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

7. By contrast, what does the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus Christ do for all who believe fully in him?

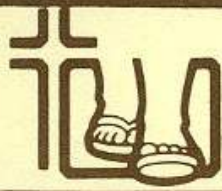
8. Notice all references to "cleanse," "sanctify," "perfect," or "make holy" in chapters 9 and 10. What does God intend for us, beyond the fact of having our sins forgiven?

9. Study verses 10:10 and 10:14. Then restate verse 14 in your own words.

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Every Christian is involved in a spiritual battle -- the Kingdom of God against the powers of this world. The battle is both inward (our attitudes, thoughts, intentions, desires, and temptations) and outward (our behavior in the world; our struggle for right and justice). What is your most important battle front right now? Share this with another disciple, and be faithful this week in your warfare.





7. Groups for Mission

INTRODUCTION

Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work" (NIV). And Jesus says, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20 NIV).

Christianity is not a solitary religion but a social faith. Christians together make up the Body of Christ, the community of God's people. And they can accomplish more for God's work by joining together in small groups for ministry than they can ever do separately.

This week's study looks at an added dimension of being a discipleship cell -- forming a cell aimed at a specific mission or ministry in the world.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Read Acts 8-13. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize Acts 6:3. _____
4. Read pages 137-68 in *Community
of the King*. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

Mission Statement

15/11

The purpose of this mission statement is to define the organization's purpose, values, and goals. It serves as a guiding principle for all activities and decisions. The mission statement should be clear, concise, and inspiring, reflecting the organization's unique identity and commitment to its stakeholders.

Our mission is to provide high-quality products and services that meet the needs of our customers. We are committed to innovation, integrity, and excellence in everything we do. We strive to create a positive impact on our community and the world through our actions and the products we create.

We are dedicated to the growth and development of our employees, providing them with the resources and support they need to succeed. We believe in the power of teamwork and collaboration to achieve our common goals. Our mission is to be a leader in our industry, setting the standard for quality and customer service.

Our Vision is to become the most innovative and customer-focused organization in our industry, recognized for our commitment to excellence and social responsibility.

Our Values are: Integrity, Innovation, Customer Focus, and Teamwork.

Our Goals are to increase revenue, improve customer satisfaction, and expand our market presence while maintaining our commitment to ethical practices and social responsibility.

We will achieve these goals through continuous improvement, innovation, and a focus on our customers. We will measure our progress regularly and adjust our strategies as needed to ensure we remain on track.

This mission statement is a living document that will evolve as our organization grows and changes. We will review and update it periodically to ensure it remains relevant and effective. We invite all employees and stakeholders to contribute to the success of our mission.

Study the Word

Phase Six
Week Seven

Hebrews 10-13

Study Hebrews 10-13 carefully. Then answer the following questions.

1. Hebrews 10:19 begins a section of practical teaching and application that runs through the end of the book. In a phrase or sentence, summarize the exhortations that are given in each of the following sections:

10:19-25 - _____

10:26-31 - _____

10:32-34 - _____

10:35-39 - _____

2. Study 10:19-25 carefully. This is a most important section. List at least five things that should be normal parts of the Christian life of the Christian community:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

3. What three important Christian qualities are mentioned in 10:22-24? Compare 1 Corinthians 13:13.

-
4. According to verses 10:22 and 10:24, what should our outward lives be like? Note 10:14, also.

5. Notice verse 10:24. What do you think are some of the ways we Christians can "spur one another on toward love and good deeds"?

6. Compare 10:24-25 with 3:12-13. What idea is found in both passages?

7. What seems to be the purpose of "meeting together," as mentioned in 10:25?

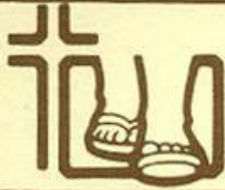
8. What can happen if we don't encourage and build up one another? Note 3:12-13 and 10:24-25.

Bridge-Building Opportunity

Christians meet together to worship, but they also meet together for other purposes -- to encourage, build up, and prod one another, and to help one another do God's work in the world. This is why Hebrews talks about meeting together frequently, encouraging one another daily, and spurring one another to love and good deeds. This is why discipleship groups and mission groups are formed.

This week, encourage one or two Christian brothers or sisters in their Christian walk.





8. The Church as Counterculture

INTRODUCTION

What in the world is the Church? Jesus prayed that the Church should always be *in* the world but never be *of* the world.

Too often we see the Church either trying to get away from the world, or becoming more and more like the world. But we are to be related to the world as a counterculture. We are to be so closely tied to Jesus Christ that we can have a transforming impact on our world.

This is possible only if the Church is a close-knit "alternate community" to what the world knows and experiences. The purpose of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP* has been to help build a Christian counterculture -- a group of people who live now by the values of the Kingdom of God.

ASSIGNMENTS

Date Completed

1. Review Acts 1-13. _____
2. Complete the Bible study
(next page). _____
3. Memorize Hebrews 13:13-14. _____
4. Read pages 169-92 in *Community
of the King*; review pages
114-16. _____
5. Complete the Bridge-Building
Opportunity. _____

At the Heart of the Counterculture

10/12

Introduction

The counterculture movement of the 1960s was a response to the social and political conditions of the time. It was a time when the young people of the United States were questioning the authority of their parents and the government. They were seeking a new way of life, one that was more authentic and more meaningful. This movement was not just a rebellion against the establishment; it was a search for a new identity and a new way of living.

The counterculture movement was a complex phenomenon that encompassed a wide range of activities and beliefs. It was a time of experimentation and discovery, both in the arts and in the sciences. It was a time when the boundaries between the sacred and the secular were being blurred. The counterculture movement was a time when the young people of the United States were finding their own voice and their own way of life.

Objectives

1. Review the slide show.
2. Complete the slide show (next page).
3. Complete the slide show (next page).
4. Complete the slide show (next page).

Study the Word

Phase Six
Week Eight

Hebrews 10-13

Reread Hebrews 10-13. You will also need to review some of the earlier chapters. Then answer the following questions.

1. What were some of the difficulties that the church to which Hebrews was written had undergone in the past, according to 10:32-39?

2. What are two basic things one can learn from chapter 11?

3. Hebrews 11:13 describes some of the Old Testament heroes of faith as "aliens and strangers on earth." Based on these three chapters, do you think this is true of Christians also? Why?

4. Find the places where "city" is mentioned in chapters 11-13. What do these passages teach us about the life of the church in the world today?

5. List at least five things we are exhorted to do in 12:1-2.

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

6. What do you learn about discipleship in 12:4-13?

7. How would you describe the Christian community, the Church, based on Hebrews 12:14-13:10?

8. Note Hebrews 13:11-21. In what ways is the Church to be like Jesus?

Bridge-Building Opportunity

You have completed forty-eight weeks of *DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP!* But your life of discipleship goes on. The last chapter of Hebrews makes this clear. This week, think and plan for your continuing life and ministry as a disciple of Jesus Christ.





PLANNING - TO LIVE REDEEMPTIVELY

*"And every day in the temple, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah."
Acts 5:42*

TIME

BRIDGE BUILDING

DAILY DEVOTIONS

TIMOTHY CALL

SALVATION BY APPT.

NEW CONTACT

CHURCH COMMITMENTS

S
U
N
D
A
Y

*"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord."
Psalms 122:1*

M
O
N
D
A
Y

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19*

T
U
E
S
D
A
Y

*"And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
Galatians 6:9*

