



The Workbook

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How To Use This Workbook

To the reader:

The Grass Drills and Grease Paint Workbook is designed for use in conjunction with the book Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Developing the Fundamentals of Christian Life. The course contained in these pages is intended to be a part of a comprehensive discipleship program. Plan to work through this book with a pastor, mentor, or teacher. They will help you to get the most from the learning experience. May the Lord bless you as you seek to learn more about Him and grow as a Christian.

To the teacher:

The workbook is divided into each lesson containing the same content.

- Description – a description of the lesson and an introduction to the material.
- Reading – the assigned reading section from the book.
- Worship Recommendation – each lesson will include a suggested hymn or worship song. If there are other songs in your tradition that are of value, then feel free to make a different selection.
- Scripture Lesson – the scripture is printed using the English Standard Version (ESV). If a different version is preferred, please review the discussion questions since they are drawn from the ESV.
- Discussion Questions – through directed discussion, the students will have the opportunity to delve into the scripture and learn these important lessons.
- Exercises – the exercises are designed to help the learners thoughtfully respond to the lesson and communicate that response to others. I encourage you to use the exercises as the basis for further discussion.
- Your Game Plan – the learner will describe how they plan to implement and practice what is learned in each lesson.
- Road Work – memory verses and practice. This encourages each learner to practice the discipline of getting the Word of God to take root in our lives.
- Director’s Notes – this summary will highlight the key things to remember after the lesson is completed.
- Additional Thoughts – some lessons will consider additional questions for the participants to conduct further study. This can also be a place for you to add study, reflection questions, or homework or the learner to engage in between classes.

Lesson # 1: Getting Started

Description

In this lesson, we will discuss and review your decision to surrender your life to Jesus Christ. You have taken a big step. This is life changing. You will begin to put your own story together so you can tell others about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how your life has changed as result.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Introduction, Chapters 1, 2

Worship Recommendation

Amazing Grace by John Newton

Scripture Lesson

The Story of a Searcher

Scripture Reference: John 3

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through

him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

The Roman Road

Scripture References: Romans

As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one...” (3:10)

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

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... (5:12)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (6:23)

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (5:8)

...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10:9)

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (10:10)

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (10:13)

Discussion Questions

1. How did Nicodemus know that Jesus was sent from God?
2. How does that instruct us about the impact of a life lived in obedience to God?
3. What does Jesus mean by being born again?
4. Jesus uses the example of wind to describe those born of the Spirit. What does this picture mean?
5. What does it mean that the Son of Man must be lifted up?

6. How do you know that God loves you?
7. Why do people love the darkness instead of the light?
8. Since all have sinned, what hope do we have for reconciliation with God?
9. Why is death the “wage” of sin?
10. What did Christ’s death do for us in our sin?
11. Why is confession important?
12. How can you call on the name of the Lord?
13. How can you believe in your heart? What does this mean?

Exercises

1. What was your life like before you met Christ?

2. What did you experience when you repented of your sins?

3. How has your life changed since you accepted Christ?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” Romans 10:9-10

Director's Notes

Remember, God loves you. You are important to Him. He sent His own Son to pay the price for the sin of all of us. It is our job to share this good news of the Gospel with others. Spend time in prayer and ask the Lord for opportunities to share the Gospel with someone this week.

Start thinking about your own testimony. What has God done for you? How has your life changed? Take some time and practice sharing with another believer your story and the Gospel story. This will help build confidence for when you have an opportunity to share.

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 2: Building a Firm Foundation

Description

Everything that is built requires a solid foundation, from buildings to computer programs. Learn the importance of developing a solid foundation of belief and practice by exploring the importance of the Bible in our daily lives and the vitality of a repentant life.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapters 3, 4, 5

Worship Recommendation

Blessed Assurance by Fanny Crosby

Scripture Lesson

Build Your House On The Rock

Scripture Reference: Luke 6:46-49

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

All Scripture Is Breathed Out by God

Scripture References: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Know the Truth

Scripture References: John 8:31-32

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

What Can Separate Us?

Scripture References: Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Requirement of Repentance

Scripture References 2 Chronicles 7:14

“...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Discussion Questions

1. What does the world want us to build our foundation on?
2. What is the basis for our foundation in Christ?
3. How do we secure our foundation?
4. Grass Drills and Grease Paint uses an example from the movie *Rocky* to describe “road work”. Describe another example of individual “road work”.
5. How do we know that the Bible is right?
6. How can we be sure that what we are reading is true?
7. Why should I read the Bible?
8. How can I incorporate the Bible into my life every day?

9. When you became a Christian, you repented of your sins. Do we need to repent again and again? Why?

10. What does a “lifestyle of repentance” mean?

11. If nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, why is a lifestyle of repentance important?

12. What does it mean to humble yourself?

13. God promises to hear our prayer, forgive our sin, and heal our land. What does this mean about how we should live our lives?

Exercises

1. What is a sin that continues to plague you? How can you eliminate this sin from your life?

2. Describe how you can live a life of repentance.

3. What can you do to build a firm foundation in your Christian life each day?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” John 8:31-32

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

Director’s Notes

Remember, God has given you a book that is breathed by His own Spirit. You can take this book, read it, learn it, and live it. It has changed the lives of millions of people. God wants to have a relationship with you, personally. If you spend time with friends, you learn more about them each day. The same is true of spending time with God.

God established His own standard for how life should be lived. We see this in the Old Testament and in the life of Jesus. When we fall away from that standard, we need to be ready to repent, honestly confess, and turn away from the old life. God promises to hear us, forgive us, and heal us.

He has sent the Holy Spirit to help us to live life differently each day.

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 3: Digging Deeper

Description

Each week we are digging into the practice of the Christian life more deeply. Spending time reading Scripture and meditating on it is important. Meditating on Scripture means to delve into it slowly and methodically, and to allow it to get inside you. The practice of prayer is an essential part of Christian life. You are talking with God. Like in any conversation, you talk and listen for the response. Additionally, we will learn about the Apostle's Creed as an example of the historical creeds of the Church.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapters 6, 7, 8

Worship Recommendation

In the Garden by C. Austin Miles

Scripture Lesson

Think On These Things

Scripture Reference: Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture References: Matthew 6:5-13

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Scripture References: Luke 18:1-8

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’”

And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Standing in Belief

Scripture References: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

Discussion Questions

1. What is true, honorable, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise?
2. Why should we think on these things?
3. How does this affect our outlook on life?

4. Why does Jesus say we should pray in secret?

5. If God knows what we mean before we ask him, why should we pray?

6. What is the lesson of the parable about the persistent widow?

7. As Paul challenges in Philippians, how can you stand in the gospel?

Exercises

1. Read John 3:16-17 and follow the Scripture meditation practice in Chapter 6 of Grass Drills and Grease Paint.

2. Jesus calls us to pray continually. How can you practice praying continually?

3. How can a creed help you to remember what is important to believe?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.’” Matthew 6:9-15

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:8

Memorize the Apostle’s Creed.

Director’s Notes

Remember, prayer and reading the Bible are important to your Christian life. Prayer is being in communication with God, and the Bible contains the very words of God. You can get to know His voice by reading the Scripture. Another tip to use when practicing prayer, you can use the acronym A.C.T.S.

- Adoration – spend some time telling God how wonderful He is and reminding yourself of what He has done for you.

Lesson # 4: Obedient Declaration and Worship

Description

Baptism, communion, and worship are three key areas of personal practice that every Christian should participate in, but why? We will explore these areas of practice. We will prepare you for baptism. Communion is a regular part of most worship services. Why do we do this and what does it signify? Worship can be a part of so many different elements of our lives. We will examine different examples and ways to practice a worship-filled life.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapters 9, 10, 11

Worship Recommendation

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing by Charles Wesley

Scripture Lesson

Be Baptized

Scripture Reference: Acts 22:14-16

And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Circumcision of Christ

Scripture References: Colossians 2:11-14

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Free from Sin

Scripture References: Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a

resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Supper

Scripture References: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Worship in All Things

Scripture References: Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Worship and Thanks

Scripture References: Ephesians 5:18b-21

...but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Words on Fasting

Scripture References: Psalm 35:13

But I, when they were sick— I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting; I prayed with head bowed

on my chest.

Scripture References: Daniel 9:3

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Scripture References: Joel 2:12-16

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

Scripture References: Matthew 6:16-18

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be baptized?
2. What are we doing when we are actually participating in the baptism service?
3. Most churches use 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 during a Communion service. How do we prepare ourselves to participate in the Eucharist?
4. Why should we prepare before we participate in the Lord’s Supper?
5. How can you worship God?
6. What songs minister to you?

7. How can you use your job, talents, and hobbies to worship God?

8. Why do you think that God wants us to sing songs as a part of worship?

9. How is fasting a form of worship?

10. Why is fasting important?

Exercises

1. Write your testimony that you can share as a part of the baptism service.

2. Describe the importance of the communion service and how you can best participate.

3. How can you worship God in your life each day?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:16-17

“...but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:18b-21

“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Romans 6:8-11

“‘Yet even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.’ Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.” Joel 2:12-13

Director’s Notes

Remember, you have the opportunity to declare publically your faith in Jesus. Baptism is an opportunity to respond to the Lord in obedience.

The communion service or Eucharist is a wonderful moment to remember what Jesus did on the cross for each and every one of us. Practice worship every day. Make it so ingrained that it is like breathing.

Remember what God did for you and allow the thanks to well up and spill out.

Practice humility by obediently fasting and praying. God loves a humble, repentant life. When we live this way, we are acknowledging all that He has done for us and will do for us.

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 5: Speaking, Acting, Learning

Description

You have a unique story. Your history and past are important. What God has done in your life is unique and yet common. Other people need to hear your story. God can use your story to minister to others. One thing that we tend to forget is that everything we have belongs to God. We have the opportunity to work with Him in what He wants to do. We demonstrate our submission to what God wants to do through the practice of tithing. What is it and why do we do it? You are not alone in your journey. There are others that you can learn from. We all need someone who will hold us accountable and gently correct us when we slip up or stray. We need people in our life who will love us enough to tell us we are wrong and also encourage us when we are down.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapters 12, 13, 14

Worship Recommendation

It Is Well With My Soul by Horatio G. Spafford

Scripture Lesson

Blood and Words

Scripture References: Revelation 12:11

And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Scripture References: 2 Timothy 1:8-14

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Scripture References: 1 John 5:6-12

This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

The First Tithe

Scripture References: Genesis 14:18-24a

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he [Melchizedek] blessed him [Abram] and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him [Melchizedek] a tenth of everything.

And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.”

But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me.”

The Proper Tithe

Scripture References: Malachi 3:8-11

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.

The Words of a Mentor

Scripture References: 1 Timothy 6

Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things. If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up

with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.

Discussion Questions

1. When you are sharing your testimony, what and who is the focus of the message?
2. What are the key aspects of your testimony?
3. Why is speaking about what God has done in your life important?
4. Why did Abraham think it important to give away a tenth of the spoils?

5. Who is Melchizedek? Why is he important?

6. How can we rob God?

7. What does the section in Malachi say about a person's heart?

8. How can we respond appropriately to the tithe?

9. What is the most challenging aspect of working with a mentor?

10. What does it mean to be held accountable for something?

11. Describe a time when you had a mentor that you respected.

Exercises

1. Review your answers in Lesson 1. What are the key things that Jesus did for you when you became a Christian?

2. Describe why it is important for you to practice tithing.

3. What do you need to look for in a mentor and accountability partner?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” Revelation 12:11

“Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 3:8-11

“But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” 1 Timothy 6:11-12

Director's Notes

Remember, you have a story to tell about what God has done for you. You are an important part of what God wants to do on the earth. We need to surrender all that we have to God. He will then give us the tools that we need to do the work that He has called us to do. Our heart and intent is an important aspect to our giving. We need a mentor, someone who will hold us accountable to live correctly before God and speak the truth to us – especially when we don't want to hear it.

Additional Thoughts

You have read my story, now it is time to start to think about your own story. Think about the changes in your life since your relationship with Jesus began.

How did you first hear about the Gospel?

What Bible verse(s) were particularly meaningful to you during this time?

How was your life before different from your life now?

Describe the feeling that occurred when you repented of your sins.

How can your story help others who need to know the Gospel?

Who needs to hear your story? Make a list below. These people need you to pray for them.

Lesson # 6: Your Responsibility

Description

You are part of a team. You have a job to do. The team has a goal. You have talent and skills to bring to the effort. You have gifts to explore and to develop.

God has a plan. God has a goal. He knows you and how He wants to use you. Your uniqueness is important.

It's time to get moving. It's up to you. What do you need to do to ensure that the team is successful? Where does your job start?

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapter 15, 16

Worship Recommendation

Solid Rock by Edward Mote and William B. Bradbury

Scripture Lesson

The Life of Living Dangerously

Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:1-16

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

The Fruit Filled Life

Scripture References: Galations 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control: against such things there is no law.”

Things To Remember

Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 4:13-16

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Discussion Questions

1. What do the Beatitudes say is required to live life for Jesus?
2. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
3. What does the word meek mean?
4. How can you hunger and thirst for righteousness?
5. What is the difference between mercy and grace?
6. How can we have a pure heart?
7. What does the Scripture mean by being a peacemaker?
8. What is persecution? Why is it important to know about it?
9. What does the Bible mean by bearing fruit?

10. What kind of fruit are you bearing in your life?

11. How can you change the fruit that you are bearing in your life?

12. Talk about each aspect of the fruit of the spirit. What is it? What does it say about you?

Exercises

1. When you read about the beatitudes, describe the attributes that you find most challenging to see happen in your life.

2. Describe the key difficulties that are hindering you in your daily walk. These are the aspects that are interfering with the production of spiritual fruit.

3. How will the Beatitudes listed in Matthew 5 and the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 impact the choices you are making in your life?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control: against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.” 1 Timothy 4:13-16

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:23-25

Director’s Notes

Remember, Jesus gave us a guide for behavior. Paul told us about the type of fruit that should be growing in your life. The Holy Spirit does a mighty work in you to bring about this fruit. The Body of Christ, of which we are members, needs us to be living our lives in this way. We can minister to others by how we live our lives. We declare to those around us how our faith, hope, and love take root by our life choices. Ask yourself this week, “Where do I place my hope and my trust?”

Additional Thoughts

I encourage you to spend time meditating on and memorizing the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. It is a good discipline to add to your personal to-do list.

Don’t forget to read, write, sing, and pray through the list. What does the Spirit bring to mind when you do this?

Lesson # 7: Survivor – Church Edition

Description

Survivor-Church Edition may seem a little extreme. We are human. We are all recovering sin addicts. This means that we will not always live life smelling of flowers and perfume. Sometimes we stink. The Bible teaches us about how to live and work together in unity. We need Jesus. We need the Holy Spirit actively working in our lives. We all have a different role to play in the body. Can we do this with love, compassion, understanding, and humility? Can we do this without hurting each other? Can we live life in unity?

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapter 17, 18

Worship Recommendation

Create In Me A Clean Heart by Keith Green

I Exalt Thee by Pete Sanchez

Scripture Lesson

Does Your Talk Match Your Walk?

Scripture Reference: James 1:19-27

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Grow Up

Scripture References: 1 Peter 2:1-3

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

One Body, Many Members

Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Discussion Questions

1. James talks about being doers of the word, not just hearers. He talks about those who only hear as deceiving themselves. What does this mean?
2. How should we balance a life of faith with works?
3. What does it mean to walk out a life of faith by our actions?
4. How does the world stain us?
5. How can we keep ourselves unstained from the world?

6. Now that you are a Christian, what does Peter mean by growing up in salvation?

7. How do you treat the different parts of your body? How do you protect and provide for the different parts? How does this occur in the body of Christ? What does it mean when Paul talks about us as different parts of the body?

8. What is our responsibility when a member of the church is suffering? Who is suffering in your home church? In the church around the world? What can we do?

9. How can we work together?

10. What is hindering us from working together?

Exercises

1. What are the sin traps that you fall into most often? What can others do to help you?

2. Describe the needs that you see in the church around you.

3. How can you help the church body – locally and internationally?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

“So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” 1 Peter 2:1-3

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.” James 1:19-24

Director’s Notes

Remember, you are a part of the body of Christ. You need to help care for and protect the body. Pay attention to those around you the church. Connect with someone outside of your group. Grab a cup of

coffee, eat lunch, go bowling, or find some common activity. Spend time talking about what God is doing in your life and what you are learning. Take the time to hear what is going on with them. Pray with them. Pray for them. Commit to pray for each other continuously. The body must be connected.

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 8: Teamwork Required

Description

Being a part of the body of Christ requires that we learn to work together, find ways to get along, and discover how we can live in unity. We are all God's children, but sometimes it can be difficult to get along with our siblings. Why is this important? Jesus gave us a job to do on this earth. We need to work together to get it done. How do we treat one another if we don't always agree? The Bible has the answer but, it is not an easy one.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapter 19, 20, 21

Worship Recommendation

Joy To The World by Isaac Watts

Scripture Lesson

Yes, No, and Pray

Scripture Reference: James 5:12-16

But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Treat Them Right

Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 3:8-17

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is

better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Humble or Judge

Scripture Reference: James 4:10-12

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Our Position, His Position

Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 2:9-21

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

Discussion Questions

1. Why should we let our “yes” be yes and our “no” be no?
2. What does James 5 say about how we should treat our emotions?
3. Why should we confess our sins to another Christian?

4. How can we develop unity of mind, sympathy, a tender heart, and a humble mind?
5. Even if we do everything right, we may still face trouble. What does this mean for a Christian today?
6. What does James mean about judging another? What is the difference between judging someone and having discernment?
7. Peter says that we are a royal priesthood. What does this mean?
8. Peter says that we are sojourners and exiles. What does this mean?
9. What is the connection between our actions and our heart? Why is it important for others to see the work that the Holy Spirit is doing inside us?
10. How does Peter's comments about servants and masters apply to your life?
11. What can Christ's suffering teach us about how we should approach life?
12. How do we find unity today as a church?

Exercises

1. What situations in your past might make it difficult to live in unity with a person in your church?

2. Describe how your life will need to change to live the way James and Peter describe.

3. How should you pray for your brothers and sisters in church?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.” 1 Peter 3:8-9

“But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no, so that you may not fall under

condemnation. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” James 5:12-16

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.” 1 Peter 2:9-12

Director’s Notes

Remember, we have a job to do. It is a big job. It’s our responsibility to take the Gospel to every nation, tribe, and tongue. We need our brothers and sisters to accomplish the task that Jesus gave to the church. You need to pray for your church and its leaders. You need to live in humility, love, and compassion towards others. Remember how you lived before you became a Christian. Remember how you felt. Allow those memories to stir compassion for the lost and for your fellow Christians. We are all human. We all have a very long way to go to grow into the creations God intended. The only way we can do that is through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our churches. Let’s look for the unity. Let’s look for the love. Let’s look for the work that God is doing in others.

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 9: Practicing for Excellence

Description

Learning new skills requires practice. Whether you were practicing in secret or with a team, the quality of your practice always reveals itself. You should not practice in isolation from other Christians. They are a part of your growth and development as a Christian. We need to practice the basics from the beginning of this course. We need to practice living a life of freedom in Christ. We need to practice acting in the manner prescribed by the Scriptures. This does not mean to “act” like a Christian, but to practice the life of a Christian. This may mean choosing different activities, fresh thoughts, or new friends. It will take practice.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapter 22, 23, 24

Worship Recommendation

How Great Thou Art by Stuart Hine

Scripture Lesson

Life in the Spirit

Scripture Reference: Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Taming the Tongue

Scripture References: James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged

with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Wisdom from Above

Scripture References: James 3:13-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to live a life in the flesh?
2. Why is the mind of flesh death?
3. How can you live in the righteousness that leads to life and peace?
4. What does James mean when he talks about a person who can bridle the tongue being able to bridle the whole body?

5. Why is it important to try to control what we say?
6. What does our language say about our heart?
7. How do our actions show what is in our heart?
8. How can we practice peace?
9. What does the scripture say about “faking it until we make it”?
10. If our lives are exhibiting good works, what does this say about our faith in Jesus?
11. If our lives are NOT exhibiting good works, what does this say about our faith in Jesus?
12. How would you respond if someone said, “I can do whatever I want to do. I only have to ask for forgiveness”?

Exercises

1. What areas of your life still reflect a life in the flesh?

2. Describe how you will work to control your tongue for God’s glory.

3. How can you practice a life focused on the peace of Christ?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” Romans 8:8-11

“So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness.

The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.” James 3:5-6

“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” James 3:16-18

Director’s Notes

Remember, you are forgiven. You are a child of God. You now have the responsibility to live your life as an act of worship to God. This should be reflected in the choices you make, how you spend your time, and what you say. The tongue communicates the status of your heart. It needs to be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit. Your words and your actions are seen by the world. You use them to communicate your relationship with Christ. What is your life saying? What would your family and friends say about the status of your life? You are a billboard for your Saviour. What are you practicing?

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 10: Just Do It

Description

We are called the Body of Christ. This phrase gives us a picture of how the church should operate. Your body works to take care of itself. Each part serves a different function. Some parts are more visible; some are more hidden. We should treat the fellow members of the body with respect, honor, and compassion. We should look for ways to serve. We should be obedient to the call of God on our lives. We are not alone in this effort. Jesus promised that a Helper would come. Paul talks about the work that the Helper does to equip us to obediently follow God's commands. The Helper brings gifts to help us accomplish the task at hand.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapter 25, 26, 27

Worship Recommendation

Holy, Holy, Holy by Reginald Heber

Scripture Lesson

Many Functions – One Body

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:4-8

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

The Promise of the Helper

Scripture Reference: John 14:15-29

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”

Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.”

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Five Fold Calling

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 4:11-14

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Just Do It!

Scripture Reference: Psalm 143:10

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 11:1

“You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.”

Love = Obedience

Scripture Reference: 1 John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Recipe for Success

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:12-18

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Discussion Questions

1. We are members of one body. How should we treat the other people in the church?
2. Jesus promised that a Helper (the Holy Spirit) would come. How does the Holy Spirit help?
3. Jesus said that we should not let our hearts be troubled. What troubles you?
4. How can the Holy Spirit help you as you deal with troubles?
5. Why would the Holy Spirit give gifts to Christians?
6. How can we learn to use these gifts for God's glory?

7. What purpose do the five-fold gifts serve today?

8. Describe how you can be obedient to God in your own life.

9. How can we overcome the world?

10. In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” How does this translate into a recipe for success in life?

Exercises

1. What habits in your life are harmful to the other parts of the body of Christ?

2. Describe how you can practice compassion for the body of

Christ. _____

3. How are you called to minister to others who are not yet Christians?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” John 14:15-17

“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”
John 14:21

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:26

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!” Psalm 143:10

“You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.” Deuteronomy 11:1

Director's Notes

Remember, you are part of a larger body. You may not be called to serve God in some visible public arena, but you are called to serve God. Obedience is key. You can support what God is doing by:

- Loving God first
- Obeying God first
- Doing all you can to worship and honor Him
- Caring for the other members of the body
- Learning about the gifts that the Holy Spirit has for you
- Rejoicing in hope
- Being patient in tribulation
- Being constant in prayer
- Contributing to the needs of the saints
- Seeking to show hospitality
- Blessing those who persecute you; blessing and not cursing them
- Rejoicing with those who rejoice
- Weeping with those who weep
- Living in harmony with one another
- Not being haughty, but associating with the lowly
- Never being wise in your own sight
- Repaying no one evil for evil
- Giving thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all
- Living peaceably with all

Additional Thoughts

Lesson #11: Get Ready, Stay Ready

Description

Before every game or production, the athlete and artist must prepare to do the job that they have practiced for so long. We need to:

- prepare
- wear the appropriate uniform
- hydrate
- eat the right foods
- get mentally ready

The Christian life is no different.

How can we live our lives in the way that God expects? The Bible offers some very practical guidance on this topic. We will explore the prescription for life. How can we prepare to live life each day for God's glory? How can we get our minds ready for the action of daily life?

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapters 28, 29, 30

Worship Recommendation

O come, O come, Emmanuel – Unknown, translated by John M. Neale

Scripture Lesson

The Whole Armor of God

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Hydrate

Scripture Reference: John 4:13-14

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Chew On This

Scripture Reference: Psalms 1:1-3

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Transformed Sacrifices

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Getting Real

Scripture Reference: James 1:12-27

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect

law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

What Do You Love?

Scripture Reference: 1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Take Heart

Scripture Reference: John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Discussion Questions

1. What does each part of the Armor of God mean?
 - a. Belt of Truth
 - b. Breastplate of Righteousness
 - c. Shoes of the Readiness given by the Gospel of Peace
 - d. Shield of faith
 - e. Helmet of Salvation
 - f. Sword of the Spirit

2. Why is the Armor of God important?
3. What else is required for us to do each day?
4. What does it mean when Jesus said, “a spring of water welling up to eternal life”?
5. How can we delight in the law of the Lord?
6. We are called to be living sacrifices. What does this mean?
7. How does James say we should live our lives?
8. What does pure religion mean?
9. What does it mean to love the world?
10. What does it mean to love God?
11. How can we have peace during times of trouble?

Exercises

1. What do you love in your life more than you love God?

2. Describe how you can practice putting on the Armor of God every day.

3. How can we live a life in which God is first, our religion is undefiled, and we have peace?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the

heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:10-12

“Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’” John 4:13-14

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Psalm 1:1-3

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” James 1:19-20

“If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” James 1:26-27

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:15-17

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Director's Notes

Remember, you are not alone in this life. God has given you protection. God has given you a wellspring of living water. God has sent a Helper, the Holy Spirit. God has given you a body of believers to learn from, work with, and stand together with in unity. We need to strive for obedience, humbly repent when we miss the mark, support one another, listen first, watch what we say, pray often, and stand our guard.

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 12: Stick-to-it-ive-ness

Description

It is our job to keep going. We know that the days ahead will be difficult. We are stepping out into a challenging new world. We are assured that the world will be against us. We need to be prepared to stick with it, even when life gets tough. We are called to live life set apart from the world around us. We will stand out. We also need to stand up. Concentrate and focus on the job at hand.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapters 31, 32

Worship Recommendation

Old Rugged Cross by George Bennard

Scripture Lesson

Wait It Out

Scripture Reference: James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

A Living Hope

Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Be Holy

Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Above All

Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 4:6-11

For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Discussion Questions

1. How long do we need to hold on in our daily lives?
2. How do we establish our hearts?
3. Describe how Job remained steadfast.
4. What is our inheritance?
5. How can we tell if our faith is genuine?
6. What does it mean to be holy in all of our conduct?
7. How does love cover a multitude of sins? How does earnestly loving someone make a difference?

8. What gifts have you received that you can use to serve others?

9. How do our actions glorify God?

10. What does it mean when Peter tells us that “the end of all things is at hand”?

Exercises

1. What do your actions say about your relationship with God (Father, Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit)?

2. Describe how you can serve the Lord in your actions toward other people.

3. How is the Lord calling you to change?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (James 5:7-8)

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:6-7)

“The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:7-8)

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:14-16)

Director’s Notes

Remember, God has called you to live a holy life. You are called to be holy. You are called to serve your fellow believers with your gifts. You are called to live a life that is different. The Holy Spirit is doing a great work in you. You will be different. We need to stick to it. There are times when it seems that the easy thing would be to give up on the changes and step back into our former life. That life is gone. Keep going. You have an inheritance waiting.

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 13: Get Ready

Description

We are at war. Not against people, but against an enemy that seeks to destroy our very spirits. The enemy has been fighting against God for eons. We need to get ready for the battle. Why?

- We have been entrusted with a commission from Jesus.
- We need to spread the good news of the Gospel to every person, no matter their
 - race
 - background
 - nationality
 - religion, etc

It's our job to make disciples of all the people in the world.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapter 33, 34, Postscript

Worship Recommendation

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God by Martin Luther

Scripture Lesson

The Struggle is Real

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Test and Love

Scripture Reference: 1 John 4:1-8

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and

knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Love One Another

Scripture Reference: John 15:12-14

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Watch and Bear

Scripture Reference: Galatians 6:1-2

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Behave Yourself

Scripture Reference: Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

He is Coming

Scripture Reference: 2 Peter 3:1-18

This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the Day of Judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Doxology

Scripture Reference: Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Discussion Questions

1. The idea of a war against the unseen can be pretty unsettling. How do we know that the war is happening? How can we be successful in the battle?
2. Why is it important to test everything?
3. What is the standard we need to use to test what we hear, read, and see?
4. Why is God greater than he that is in the world?
5. What does it mean when Scripture says, “God is love”?
6. How can we show our love for Christ?
7. Why should we be gentle when someone sins? Does this ever change? Why?
8. Why is it important to be thankful?

9. We have been waiting for Jesus to return for two thousand years. What should we do when people say either that it will never happen or that it will happen on a specific date?

10. Is Jesus going to return? How can we be confident in this knowledge?

11. According to Paul, what secrets have been kept that the Scriptures disclosed in the Old and New Testaments?

Exercises

1. What are some important reminders about living our daily Christian life? How do we need to remember to treat other Christians and the world at large?

2. Describe the areas of your life where the enemy can bring confusion, temptation, and distraction in your life.

3. How can we continue to hold on to the promises of Christ when the days get tough?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” John 15:12-14

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17

Director’s Notes

Remember, we are at war. It is a long marathon of trial and trouble. Jesus has gone ahead of us and sent the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us every step of the way. He reminds us of the teachings in Scripture and the words of Jesus when the times get rough. We have a job to do. We need to be about it. Jesus will return, and we need to be ready. The world needs to know the truth of the gospel. It’s our job to tell them.

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 14: Your Story

Description

The book, Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Developing the Fundamentals of Christian Life, is a portion of my testimony. It describes how God used football and theatre to help me to learn lessons that I could apply to my relationship with Him. You also have a story to tell. It will be unique to you. This lesson is an attempt to help you to focus your story and use it to tell others about the life changing work that Jesus has done in your life.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Review: My Story, Chapter 1, 15

Worship Recommendation

Because He Lives by Bill and Gloria Gaither

Scripture Lesson

Scripture Title

Scripture Reference: Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Paul’s Testimony

Scripture Reference: Galatians 1:1-24

Paul, an apostle — not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead — and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

Saul Ravages the Church

Scripture Reference: Acts 8:1-3

And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Saul Converted

Scripture Reference: Acts 9:1-31

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.

And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

And he said, "Who are you, Lord?"

And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias."

And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.”

But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Jesus’s description of the two greatest commandments translate into a recipe for success in life?

2. What are the key elements of Paul’s conversion story?
3. What are the key elements of Saul’s conversion story?
4. Since they are the same person, why are the two versions different?
5. How do we answer questions about the two different versions of the same story?
6. What does this tell you about your own testimony?
7. Who does Saul credit for the change in his life?
8. Paul urges his readers to focus on whom?

Exercises

1. What key points of your own story are important to share?

2. Describe your own experience when you came to the point of repentance and prayer.

3. How do you prepare to share your story with others?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40

“As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Galatians 1:9-10

“For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” Galatians 1:11-12

Director's Notes

Remember, you have a story to tell of how God has changed your life. The story of the Apostle Paul is one of redemption from a life of hatred and anger to a life of compassion and love. His intensity did not change. His drive and motivation to follow the Lord's direction never wavered. Saul loved the law and was driven to protect the sanctity of Scripture in the law. Paul loved the Lord and was driven to instruct and protect the truth of Scripture that was revealed in Jesus. Paul realized his true destiny by repenting and following Christ. Jesus changed his live and sharpened his focus to take the Gospel to the world. This can happen for you too.

Additional Thoughts

Lesson # 15: Share The Gospel

Description

The good news, the Gospel. It is a transformational message. The Holy Spirit prepares the hearts of men to receive the words of the Gospel. Our job is to share the truth. The Spirit does the work. We need to be obedient to the call to share the news. We will review the message and work to remember the key Scriptures involved in sharing the truth.

Reading

Grass Drills and Grease Paint – Chapters 22, 28, Postscript

Worship Recommendation

Crown Him With Many Crowns by Matthew Bridges

Jesus loves me! by Anna Bartlett Warner and David Rutherford McGuire

Scripture Lesson

The Roman Road

Scripture Reference: Romans 3:10

As it is written, 'None is righteous, no, not one...'

Scripture Reference: Romans 3:23

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Scripture Reference: Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...

Scripture Reference: Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Scripture Reference: Romans 5:8

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Scripture Reference: Romans 10:9-10

...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Scripture Reference: Romans 10:13

...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Scripture Reference: Romans 5:1

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Other Key Scriptures to Remember

Scripture Reference: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Scripture Reference: John 10:10

I have come that they have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Scripture Reference: Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Scripture Reference: Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.

Scripture Reference: John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ... He was buried, and ... He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

Scripture Reference: Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Scripture Reference: John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Scripture Reference: 1 John 5:12-13

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the scripture communicate man's need for a right relationship with God?
2. Describe why Jesus is the only way to God.
3. Why do we need to be willing to accept the gift of God in Jesus?
4. What can we do to make our life right with God?
5. What is the difference between faith and works?
6. How would you describe the chasm that is separating us from God?
7. Are being a good person and leading a good life enough to reconcile you with God? Why or Why not?
8. Can we find assurance that we now have a new life?
9. How does your story fit into the context of the Gospel message?

Exercises

1. What are the three sections of the Gospel that need to be understood?
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2. Describe the basic Gospel message.

3. How can someone become right with God?

What is Your Game Plan?

I will ...

Road work

Memorize the Scriptures listed above.

Director's Notes

Remember, the Gospel is the only message that can save the world. The world needs the message of the Gospel. It is needed in other countries. It is needed in other parts of this nation. It is needed in

your neighbor's life. It is needed in your family's life. You don't have to go to the farthest reaches of the globe. You can start with your friend, schoolmate, colleague, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, son, daughter, wife, and husband.

Everyone needs to hear about it. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to those who are seeking. Do not be afraid to share. Some may laugh at you. Some may call you out. Some may get angry. Some may not want to be your friend anymore. Some may say they want to know more. Some may be ready to pray immediately. Don't allow the response to diminish your desire to share. The response is up to God. All we have to do is share the good news of the Gospel. He will do the rest.

Additional Thoughts

This is just an introduction. I encourage you to spend time and practice with another Christian. Practice talking about the Scripture and answering questions. Practicing talking with others about the things of God.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Micah Crews is a husband, father, leader, educator, administrator, published author, produced playwright, theatre director, and passionate lover of Jesus Christ. Micah has worked in higher education for 20 years. He has served in local church leadership since 2012 as an elder, as a volunteer worker with the “Wee People” church ministry focused on providing solid Biblical teaching to the one to three year old age group, and as the leader of the Acting Up ministry team, which included original productions of *What I’m Looking For – An Easter Musical* and *The Promise of Christmas*. He has taught business management and communication at the college level. Micah received a Bachelor of Arts in English and Fine Arts: Theatre and a Master of Business Administration with a focus in New Venture Creation, completing both degrees at King University in Bristol, Tennessee. Micah is happily married to Amy. They live in Virginia with their two children (who passionately pursue the martial arts and ballet), three goldfish, and one cat.

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