

# THE WHEEL: A GENERAL PRESENTATION

## The Wheel

- 14 **The Wheel: General Presentation**
- 15 The Value of the Scriptures
- 16 Prayer
- 17 How God Answers Our Prayers
- 18 Witnessing: Sharing Christ with Others
- 19 Sharing Christ: Getting Started
- 20 Fellowship
- 21 Review Questions

**Purpose:** This session begins a new part of the Lifestyle Discipleship material that will provide a metaphor of the Spirit-filled Christian life. The Wheel, with its six parts, will help you remember the critical areas of focus in your walk with God.



### Objectives

1. The disciple will be able to draw the Wheel and label the six parts.
2. The disciple will understand the relationship of the parts of the Wheel and how they relate to his or her walk with God.
3. The disciple will understand the four means of demonstrating obedience, with Christ being central in the entire process.

### Scripture Memory

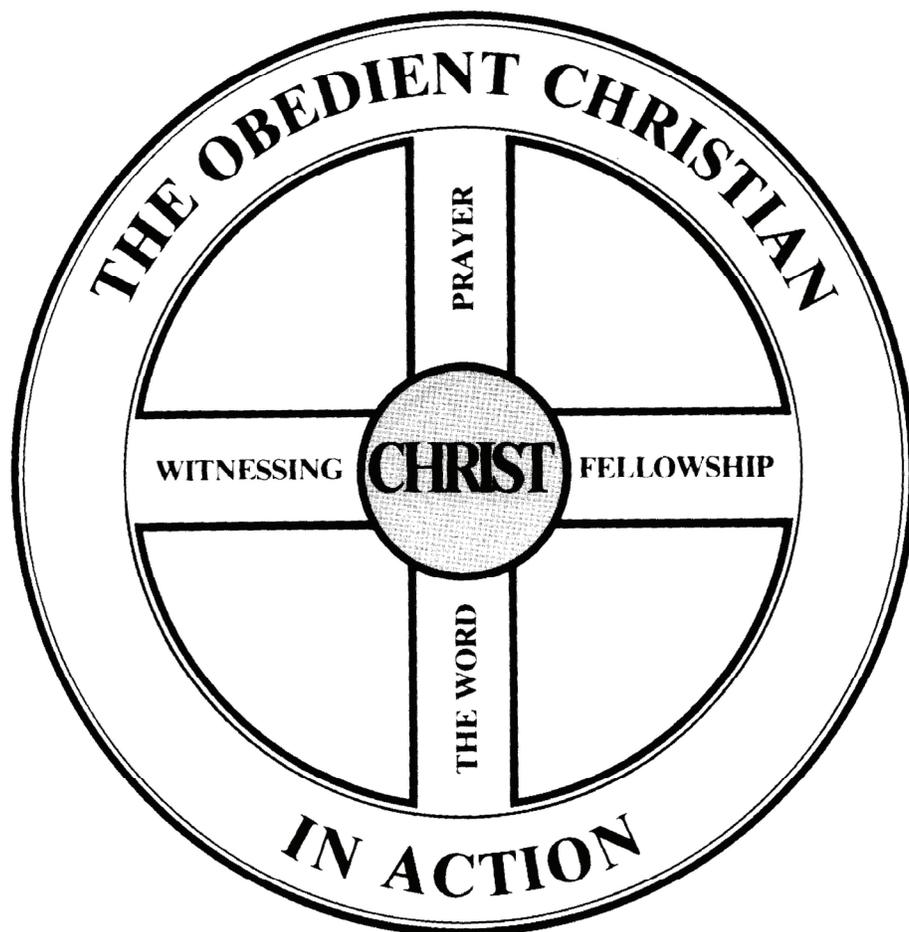
*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself up for me.*

Galatians 2:20



### Agenda

1. Interact on personal issues and prayer time.
2. Review Scripture memory.
3. Discuss the Wheel.
4. Discuss the worksheet.
5. Review the questions.



The Wheel illustration is a helpful way to remember basic truths about the Spirit-filled life. It is a Christ-centered life. The Holy Spirit focuses your attention on **Christ** and empowers you to live a life of **obedience** to Him. God's **word** and **prayer** build you up in a relationship with Christ so He can live through you and reach others through **fellowship** and **witnessing**. Without drawing attention to Himself, the Holy Spirit shapes each activity into an avenue of spiritual blessing.



## Worksheet

1. There are six parts of the Wheel. Look up the following verses and write in your own words the meaning of each of the parts.

A. Christ the center — 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20

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B. The Obedient Christian — Romans 12:1; John 14:21

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C. The Word — Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 3:16

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D. Prayer — Philippians 4:6-7; John 15:7

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E. Fellowship — Hebrews 10:24-25; Matthew 18:20

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F. Witnessing — Matthew 4:19; Romans 1:16

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- I. The Wheel has been used as an illustration of the Christian life for more than 50 years. It illustrates the functions necessary to produce a life of obedience and faithfulness which are important if I am to practice spirituality (walk in the Spirit) efficiently.
  - A. The Word is the basic spoke upon which the Wheel is resting. The Word makes the difference between mediocrity and productivity in life. It is as basic as **eating** is to physical life, 1 Peter 2:2.
  - B. Prayer is the second vertical spoke. It is the means of communication with the Father that which together with the Word makes our fellowship with Him complete. Prayer for the Christian is as basic as **breathing** is to our physical life, and it should be just as natural.
  - C. Fellowship is the third spoke and the first horizontal spoke considered. Fellowship is restorative. It is refreshing to get together with other believers. Hebrews 10:25 says I am not to give up meeting together with other believers. Fellowship is as basic to my Christian life as **sleep** is to my physical life.
  - D. Witnessing is the final spoke, and one that is horizontal. It is one of the ways we share the Gospel and ourselves with others. Witnessing is as basic to the Christian as **exercise** is to our physical life. Without it we will become listless, and very self-centered, Philemon 6.
- II. The Wheel is an illustration of the life of **obedience** for the Christian. It is endless and it illustrates the dynamics of the life.
  - A. Christ is the hub—the very center.
  - B. The weight of a wheel is borne at the hub.
  - C. The driving power comes from the hub.
  - D. The spokes are the instruments through which the driving power is conveyed from the hub to the outer rim. Only with spokes properly balanced can one be an obedient Christian in action, experiencing spirituality and the abundant life. John 10:10
  - E. A wheel is a circle—an endless line. Our life in Jesus is eternal and endless life, John 3:36a. When a wheel is moving, the spokes fade away and only the hub is seen. Do people see our spokes (our activities for Christ)? Or do they see Christ?

**Project:** Analyze the Wheel and then draw a picture of the Wheel which illustrates how your life looks in terms of its balance concerning the four spokes. Study it for a while.

What are you going to do about what you see?

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### Questions for Review and Discussion

1. How do you make Christ the center of your life?

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2. Being an obedient Christian is a reflection of what?

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3. What can cause us to lose our focus on Christ? What does this result in?

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### Summary and Key Concepts

In the following sessions you will study in more depth the four spokes, and you will learn that as we keep our focus on Christ, we can grow in the areas of prayer, God’s Word, witnessing, and fellowship.

Christ must always be in the center of our lives. He is our North Star. When we stray off our course, He guides us back on track, but only if we focus on Him. As we learn to walk in the Spirit more efficiently, we will enjoy God’s peace in all that we do.

# THE VALUE OF THE SCRIPTURES: THE WORD

**Purpose:** To understand the uniqueness of the scriptures as compared to all other writings.



## Objectives

1. The disciple will analyze various portions of scripture which speaks of itself and the roll it plays in the life God has given us.
2. The disciple will be able to see the importance of the Word as set forth in the Wheel.

## Scripture Memory

*All Scripture is inspired by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17



## Agenda

1. Interact on personal issues and prayer time.
2. Review Scripture Memory.
3. Discuss worksheet.
4. Discuss Scripture analysis.

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### The Importance of the Word of God in the Life of a Christian

These are only a few of the statements in Scripture that speak of the direct results of the Word of God in my life.

1. In **Salvation**, Romans 10:17
2. For my **Growth**, 1 Peter 2:2-3
3. It gives me **Boldness**, Psalm 119:42 (confidence)
4. It provides **Guidance**, Psalm 119:105
5. It gives **Power**, Jeremiah 23:29
6. It brings **Conviction**, Hebrews 4:12
7. The Word enables or facilitates **Fellowship**, John 15:7
8. The Word **Cleanses**, John 15:3
9. The Word brings **Victory**, Matthew 4:3-4
10. The Word brings **Success**, Joshua 1:8
11. The Word brings **Satisfaction**, Psalm 119:20
12. **Joy** comes from the Word, Jeremiah 15:16
13. **Life** is given through the Word, John 6:63
14. **Wisdom** is found in the Word, Psalm 19:7
15. The Word brings about **Conversion**, Psalm 19:7
16. The Word gives us **Warning** and **Great Reward**, Psalm 19:11

Add to the list of the above number of verses any new ones you find that speak definitely of the value of the Scriptures in practical ways. Keep this as an open assignment in which you will constantly build additional verses to your list.



## Worksheet

The following verses each give a different perspective on the value of the Word in the life of the individual Christian. Look up each verse and elaborate on why the Word is of value according to what the verse says.

1. Romans 10:17 \_\_\_\_\_

What is one of the best ways to do this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. 1 Peter 2:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

How can one make this a reality in his life? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Psalm 119:20 \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways have you experienced this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Psalm 119:42 \_\_\_\_\_

What activity of a healthy Christian is involved with the need for this characteristic? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Psalm 119:105 \_\_\_\_\_

How has this been true for you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Psalm 19:7 \_\_\_\_\_

(two things) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Jeremiah 23:29 \_\_\_\_\_

What evidences of this have you seen? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Jeremiah 15:16 \_\_\_\_\_

How do we “eat” His words? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Hebrews 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Of what does the Word convict? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. John 15:3 \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways does the Scripture do this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. John 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways is this true? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Joshua 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

What kinds of things do you feel are included in this promise? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Matthew 4:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Elaborate on the reality of this. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. John 6:63 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How has the Word been this for you? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Psalm 19:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some of the rewards spoken of here? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. 1 Peter 1:23 \_\_\_\_\_

The Word of God is an active agent on our \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### A Study of Psalm 119

Record in the margins using one word or a short phrase, each way the psalm says the scripture is profitable for us. Use color markers or anything you'd like to help you with studying this Psalm.

#### Psalm 119

- 1 How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord.
- 2 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.
- 3 They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.
- 4 Thou has ordained Thy precepts, that we should keep them diligently.
- 5 Oh that my ways may be established to keep Thy statutes!
- 6 Then I shall not be ashamed when I look upon all Thy commandments.
- 7 I shall give thanks to Thee with uprightness of heart, when I learn Thy righteous judgments.
- 8 I shall keep Thy statutes; Do not forsake me utterly!
  
- 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.
- 10 With all my heart I have sought Thee; Do not let me wander from Thy commandments.
- 11 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.
- 12 Blessed art Thou, O Lord; Teach me Thy statutes.
- 13 With my lips I have told of all the ordinances of Thy mouth.
- 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.
- 15 I will meditate on Thy precepts, and regard Thy ways.
- 16 I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

- 17 Deal bountifully with Thy servant, that I may live and keep Thy word.
- 18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law.
- 19 I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Thy commandments from me.
- 20 My soul is crushed with longing after Thine ordinances at all times.
- 21 Thou dost rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, who wander from Thy commandments.
- 22 Take away reproach and contempt from me, for I observe Thy testimonies.
- 23 Even though princes sit and talk against me, Thy servant meditates on Thy statutes.
- 24 Thy testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors.
  
- 25 My soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me according to Thy word.
- 26 I have told of my ways, and Thou hast answered me; Teach me Thy statutes.
- 27 Make me understand the way of Thy precepts, so I will meditate on Thy wonders.
- 28 My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Thy word.
- 29 Remove the false way from me, and graciously grant me Thy law.
- 30 I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Thine ordinances before me.
- 31 I cleave to Thy testimonies; O Lord, do not put me to shame!
- 32 I shall run the way of Thy commandments, for Thou wilt enlarge my heart.
  
- 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes, and I shall observe it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, and keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me walk in the path of Thy commandments, for I delight in it.
- 36 Incline my heart to Thy testimonies, and not to dishonest gain.
- 37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Thy ways.
- 38 Establish Thy word to Thy servant, as that which produces reverence for Thee.
- 39 Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Thine ordinances are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for Thy precepts; Revive me through Thy righteousness.
  
- 41 May Thy lovingkindnesses also come to me, O Lord, Thy salvation according to Thy word;
- 42 So I shall have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Thy word.
- 43 And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for I wait for Thine ordinances.
- 44 So I will keep Thy law continually, forever and ever.
- 45 And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Thy precepts.
- 46 I will also speak of Thy testimonies before kings, and shall not be ashamed.
- 47 And I shall delight in Thy commandments, which I love.
- 48 And I shall lift up my hands to Thy commandments which I love; and I will meditate on Thy statutes.

- 49 Remember the word to Thy servant, in which Thou has made me hope.  
50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that Thy word has revived me.  
51 The arrogant utterly deride me, yet I do not turn aside from Thy law.  
52 I have remembered Thine ordinances from of old, O Lord, and comfort myself.  
53 Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked, who forsake Thy law.  
54 Thy statutes are my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.  
55 O Lord, I remember Thy name in the night, and keep Thy law.  
56 This has become mine, that I shall observe Thy precepts.
- 57 The Lord is my portion; I have promised to keep Thy words.  
58 I entreated Thy favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to Thy word.  
59 I considered my ways, and turned my feet to Thy testimonies.  
60 I hastened and did not delay to keep Thy commandments.  
61 The cords of the wicked have encircled me, but I have not forgotten Thy law.  
62 At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to Thee because of Thy righteous ordinances.
- 63 I am a companion of all those who fear Thee, and of those who keep Thy precepts.  
64 The earth is full of Thy lovingkindness, O Lord; Teach me Thy statutes.
- 65 Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word.  
66 Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Thy commandments.  
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Thy word.  
68 Thou art good and doest good; Teach me Thy statutes.  
69 The arrogant have forged a lie against me; With all my heart I will observe Thy precepts.  
70 Their heart is covered with fat, but I delight in Thy law.  
71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Thy statutes.  
72 The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.
- 73 Thy hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments.  
74 May those who fear Thee see me and be glad, because I wait for Thy word.  
75 I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are righteous, and that in faithfulness Thou has afflicted me.  
76 O may Thy lovingkindness comfort me, according to Thy word to Thy servant.  
77 May Thy compassion come to me that I may live, for Thy law is my delight.  
78 May the arrogant be ashamed, for they subvert me with a lie; But I shall

- meditate on Thy precepts.
- 79 May those who fear Thee turn to me, even those who know Thy testimonies.
- 80 May my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that I may not be ashamed.
- 81 My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I wait for Thy word.
- 82 My eyes fail with longing for Thy word, while I say, “When wilt Thou comfort me?”
- 83 Though I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget Thy statutes.
- 84 How many are the days of Thy servant? When wilt Thou execute judgment on those who persecute me?
- 85 The arrogant have dug pits for me, men who are not in accord with Thy law.
- 86 All Thy commandments are faithful; They have persecuted me with a lie; help me!
- 87 They almost destroyed me on earth, but as for me, I did not forsake Thy precepts.
- 88 Revive me according to Thy lovingkindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Thy mouth.
- 89 Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven.
- 90 Thy faithfulness continues throughout all generations; Thou didst establish the earth, and it stands.
- 91 They stand this day according to Thine ordinances, for all things are Thy servants.
- 92 If Thy law had not been my delight, then I would have perished in my affliction.
- 93 I will never forget Thy precepts, for by them Thou hast revived me.
- 94 I am Thine, save me; For I have sought Thy precepts.
- 95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Thy testimonies.
- 96 I have seen a limit to all perfection; Thy commandment is exceedingly broad.
- 97 O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.
- 98 Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine.
- 99 I have more insight than all my teachers, for Thy testimonies are my meditation.
- 100 I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Thy precepts.
- 101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Thy word.
- 102 I have not turned aside from Thine ordinances, for Thou Thyself hast taught me.
- 103 How sweet are Thy words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- 104 From Thy precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.
- 105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

- 106 I have sworn, and I will confirm it, that I will keep Thy righteous ordinances.
- 107 I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O Lord, according to Thy word.
- 108 O accept the freewill offerings of my mouth, O Lord, and teach me Thine ordinances.
- 109 My life is continually in my hand, yet I do not forget Thy law.
- 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not gone astray from Thy precepts.
- 111 I have inherited Thy testimonies forever, for they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes forever, even to the end.
- 113 I hate those who are double-minded, but I love Thy law.
- 114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Thy word.
- 115 Depart from me, evildoers, that I may observe the commandments of my God.
- 116 Sustain me according to Thy word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.
- 117 Uphold me that I may be safe, that I may have regard for Thy statutes continually.
- 118 Thou hast rejected all those who wander from Thy statutes, for their deceitfulness is useless.
- 119 Thou hast removed all the wicked of the earth like dross; Therefore I love Thy testimonies.
- 120 My flesh trembles for fear of Thee, and I am afraid of Thy judgments.
- 121 I have done justice and righteousness; Do not leave me to my oppressors.
- 122 Be surety for Thy servant for good; Do not let the arrogant oppress me.
- 123 My eyes fail with longing for Thy salvation, and for Thy righteous word.
- 124 Deal with Thy servant according to Thy lovingkindness, and teach me Thy statutes.
- 125 I am Thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know Thy testimonies.
- 126 It is time for the Lord to act, for they have broken Thy law.
- 127 Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold, yes, above fine gold.
- 128 Therefore I esteem right all Thy precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way.
- 129 Thy testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul observes them.
- 130 The unfolding of Thy words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
- 131 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Thy commandments.
- 132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Thy manner with those who love Thy name.
- 133 Establish my footsteps in Thy word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

- 134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep Thy precepts.  
135 Make Thy face shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.  
136 My eyes shed streams of water, because they do not keep Thy law.  
137 Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and upright are Thy judgments.  
138 Thou hast commanded Thy testimonies in righteousness and exceeding faithfulness.  
139 My zeal has consumed me, because my adversaries have forgotten Thy words.  
140 Thy word is very pure, therefore Thy servant loves it.  
141 I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Thy precepts.  
142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth.  
143 Trouble and anguish have come upon me; Yet Thy commandments are my delight.  
144 Thy testimonies are righteous forever; Give me understanding that I may live.
- 145 I cried with all my heart; answer me, O Lord! I will observe Thy statutes.  
146 I cried to Thee; save me, and I shall keep Thy testimonies.  
147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Thy words.  
148 My eyes anticipate the night watches, that I may meditate on Thy word.  
149 Hear my voice according to Thy lovingkindness; Revive me, O Lord, according to Thine ordinances.  
150 Those who follow after wickedness draw near; They are far from Thy law.  
151 Thou art near, O Lord, and all Thy commandments are truth.  
152 Of old I have known from Thy testimonies, that Thou hast founded them forever.
- 153 Look upon my affliction and rescue me, for I do not forget Thy law.  
154 Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Thy word.  
155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Thy statutes.  
156 Great are Thy mercies, O Lord; Revive me according to Thine ordinances.  
157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, yet I do not turn aside from Thy testimonies.  
158 I behold the treacherous and loathe them, because they do not keep Thy word.  
159 Consider how I love Thy precepts; Revive me, O Lord, according to Thy lovingkindness.  
160 The sum of Thy word is truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting.
- 161 Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of Thy words.  
162 I rejoice at Thy word, as one who finds great spoil.  
163 I hate and despise falsehood, but I love Thy law.

- 164 Seven times a day I praise Thee, because of Thy righteous ordinances.  
 165 Those who love Thy law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble.  
 166 I hope for Thy salvation, O Lord, and do Thy commandments.  
 167 My soul keeps Thy testimonies, and I love them exceedingly.  
 168 I keep Thy precepts and Thy testimonies, for all my ways are before Thee.
- 169 Let my cry come before Thee, O Lord; Give me understanding according to Thy word.  
 170 Let my supplication come before Thee; Deliver me according to Thy word.  
 171 Let my lips utter praise, for thou dost teach me thy statutes.  
 172 Let my tongue sing of Thy word, for all Thy commandments are righteousness.  
 173 Let Thy hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Thy precepts.  
 174 I long for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my delight.  
 175 Let my soul live that it may praise Thee, and let Thine ordinances help me.  
 176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant, for I do not forget Thy commandments.



### Life Application

What to you is the single greatest value in involvement with the Scripture?  
 Speak from your own experience.

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How has this session challenged you to be more involved in the Scriptures?

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*Notes*

# PRAYER

**Purpose:** To help the disciple understand the place of prayer in a life that is lived in communion with God.

## Objectives

1. The disciple will gain an understanding of three kinds of prayer.
2. The disciple will review the conditions for successful prayer.
3. The disciple will be able to better organize his prayer life.
4. The disciple will rate his prayer life.
5. The disciple will understand common misconceptions concerning prayer.

## Scripture Memory

*Be anxious for nothing, 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 comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4: 6-7

## Agenda

1. Mutual sharing and prayer time.
2. Discuss material.
3. Review questions.
4. Review Scripture memory.

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## Introduction

This is a session that summarizes the importance of prayer in the Bible. Prayer is essential in completing communion and fellowship with the Father that I need in the Christian life. It is not something that makes me more spiritual. It is, however, a means of interacting with our heavenly Father, a means of ministry and support of others, and a means of receiving in relation to our need.

## Three Basic Kinds of Prayer

The first is **communion**. This involves reading the Scriptures and hearing God speak to us and speaking to Him in return. It can be away in a private place or in public. It may be with open or closed eyes, whichever seems natural. It includes thanksgiving and praise.

The second kind of prayer is **petition**. Petition is asking the Father for things that we need. It can be in regard to everyday needs or larger needs. There is often the feeling that the Father is not to be bothered by very personal things in our lives. But we can be assured that He is interested in whatever our need is.

**Intercession** is the third way to pray. This is different from petition in that one is speaking to God on behalf of others and putting one's self between people and the Father. Moses was interceding when He asked God to not destroy Israel—but if He did, to blot him out. It was intercession when John Knox cried, "Give me Scotland or I'll die". Intercession is probably more intense than petition, although not always.

## Certain Conditions for Successful Prayer

1. Confessing and forsaking sin, Psalm 66:18; 1 John 1:9
2. A forgiving spirit, Mark 11:25
3. A spiritual motive, James 4:3
4. Obedience as a general rule of life, 1 John 3:22
5. Faith that we will receive what we ask for, Mark 11:24
6. Prayer according to the will of God, 1 John 5:14
7. Prayer in the Name of Jesus, John 16:23
8. Persistence—not giving up, Luke 11
9. Open ears to the cry of the poor, Proverbs 21:13
10. Right family relationships, 1 Peter 3:1-7
11. Doing it—praying—"Men ought always to pray and not to faint." Luke 18:1

The Holy Spirit has an active part in our prayer life and encourages us

to know how to pray, Romans 8:26-27.

Our Father answers **every** prayer we offer in the way of a request. He says "yes", "no", or "wait a while".



## Worksheet

This is a session that summarizes the topic of prayer and praying as it occurs in the teaching of the Scripture. It's not exhaustive by any means. But it is enough of a basis to give adequate information so that you or any young Christian can begin an active prayer life.

Prayer is essential if we are to enjoy fellowship and communion with the Master. It does not make me more spiritual. The reasons people pray are varied and sometimes are not according to the will of the Father and His Son.

### Three Kinds of Prayer

We usually want to spend time with those we love. There is joy in talking with them and hearing them speak. This type of prayer is called **communion**. Write in your own words what you feel this is in your own life in relation to your Heavenly Father!

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This can be accomplished through reading, praying and meditating on the words of Scripture. I can ask Him to make real for me the things that I read, as I read. Or I can be away in a private place just because I want to spend time with Him alone. It may be in public. It may be an open or closed eye approach. Whatever it is, it involves simply \_\_\_\_\_ with Him. It may involve loving Him and telling Him how we feel about Him, listening for Him to speak to us, or thanking and praising Him for what He has done and who He is, Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Psalm 100:4.

The second kind of prayer is **petition**. Petition is asking for things and sometimes for people. In this light, it is different from \_\_\_\_\_ which is simply having fellowship with God. Petition is asking for our needs or

for the needs of others. Matthew 21:22 says, "If we believe we will \_\_\_\_\_." Sometimes I will ask for others. When I offer a petition for another, I stand beside the person for whom I am asking. We needn't be afraid of our Father's lack of concern about things that may appear to be little to Him. God is interested in our needs irrespective of how trivial they seem to be. When I ask for these kinds of things, I am usually praying a prayer that is a \_\_\_\_\_.

The third kind of praying is **intercession**. Intercession at times can be more intense than petition. It also involves being in a different position. When I offer a petition, I stand beside another. When I intercede, I am usually in between the person, for whom I am praying, and the Father. Moses' prayer is an example of intercession when he prayed that God would not destroy Israel. But if God chose to, he asked to be taken also. Intercession was illustrated by Paul who said what concerning Israel, Romans 9:3?

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Intercession was involved in the prayers of George Mueller, when he sought God's provisions for the orphans he served. Read the accounts of the prayer life of Harry Ironsides, Oswald Chambers, Amy Carmichael and other more contemporary saints.

### **Certain Conditions for Successful Prayer**

People frequently say that prayer for them seems to be a failure. Somehow they don't connect with God, or what they are asking for isn't on the Father's agenda for them. There doesn't seem to be any value in prayer.

The Scripture outlines conditions for a successful and fulfilling life of prayer. The remainder of this study will involve looking at conditions for a prayer life that is meaningful and successful.

Perhaps the greatest hindrance to an active prayer life is inactivity—simply not praying. We are commanded in the Scriptures to pray. See 1 Thesalonians 5:17. What does this mean?

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I need seriously to ask myself if I have honestly tried to allocate time in my busy schedule to approach my heavenly Father on a regular and scheduled basis.

Other conditions for success include the following:

1. Psalm 66:18

What does this verse mean? \_\_\_\_\_

How do I do what is forbidden in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

How can I be faithful to this condition? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 1:9)

2. Mark 11:25

What is meant by forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do we have problems in the area of forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_

3. James 4:3

What do we mean by prayer with a spiritual motive? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some examples of motives which are not spiritual?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

4. 1 John 3:22

To maximize my prayer life (to really make it effective) what should characterize my life generally?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Mark 11:24

What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can our faith increase, Romans 10:17? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. 1 John 5:14

How do we know the will of God in prayer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How are we to pray if we do not know for certain if something might be the will of God or not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. John 16:23

Write in your own words the meaning of this verse. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is praying "in the Name of Jesus" a "magical" phrase that will get us whatever we want? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Luke 11 (the story of the persistent neighbor)

How is persistence a positive thing in prayer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Proverbs 21:13

How can I live a life that shows open concern for the poor? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. 1 Peter 3:1-7

What is implied for the married in this text? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What conditions for the unmarried might be implied from this text? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Luke 18:1

What encouragement is given in the phrase "they ought to pray and not lose heart"?

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12. Romans 8:26-27

What role does the Holy Spirit play in our prayer life?

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List the problems you have faced in your prayer life.

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

How are you going to deal with these problems and get them out of your life?

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



### Questions for Review and Discussion

1. How can our prayers be of any benefit to God if He has already predetermined what He will do?

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2. In what way(s) is it possible for prayers to be hindered by forces outside ourselves?

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3. What about the prayers of those who do not know the Lord? Does God hear these? \_\_\_\_\_ Justify your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How would you encourage a new Christian to begin to pray?

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5. Why was it necessary for the Son of God to pray?

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**How Would You Rate Your Prayer Life?**

Answer each of the following questions, and give yourself a score of 4 for "always", 3 for "often", 2 for "sometimes", 1 for "seldom", and 0 for "never".

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Do you set aside time for prayer in private every day?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Are you able to keep your thoughts from wandering to other matters when you pray?

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Do you make yourself get up promptly in the morning in order not to neglect prayer?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In public prayer are you able to forget the people present and make real contact with God?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Do you always approach the Father through Jesus' name?  
Ephesians 3:12
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Do you diligently watch for and record answers to your prayers?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. After receiving an answer to prayer, do you fulfill any promises you made to God?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When you pray in public do you resist the temptation to orate?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Do you share with others when you receive definite answers to prayer?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Do you have a prayer list?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Do you wake up in the morning with a definite prayer in your heart and on your lips?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. When others are praying, are you courteous and reverent, praying silently with them?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Are you willing to be the instrument by which God answers your prayers?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Do you keep your promises to missionaries and others who ask your prayer help?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. In sickness or trouble of any nature is prayer your first thought?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. In saying grace at the table do you avoid mechanical statements and really thank Him?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Do you remember to pray regularly, as God commanded, for our government?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. When you instruct others in praying do you teach them to talk to God?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Are you free to incorporate Scriptural expressions in your prayer?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Do you refuse to use your public prayer to instruct or attack others?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Are you so in earnest about your requests that you come to God again and again with them?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Is your most fervent prayer all the time prayer for the salvation of the lost and the welfare of fellow Christians?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. Do you really fight the interruptions that would keep you from praying?

\_\_\_\_\_ 24. Do you utilize prayer as a means of resisting temptation?

\_\_\_\_\_ 25. When you pray, do you honestly seek the glory of God?

\_\_\_\_\_ Total points

If you score 100, you have a rather outstanding prayer life. If not more than 50, put yourself at the top of your prayer list.

### **Common Misconceptions Concerning Prayer**

#### **Imposing Our Will upon God**

God has given us the power through prayer to get what we want for ourselves, regardless of what He wants. Consequently, we speak of "power in prayer", and/or "a great force is unleashed in prayer!" These are two examples of Pelagian error. As Christians, we are not to try to impose our will upon God. The idea of "binding God" is blasphemous.

#### **Prayers of Painless Piety**

Prayer of painless piety asks God to do something for us that costs the prayer nothing. It is praying for the hungry when the prayer, rather than God, is the one who should do the feeding.

I need to participate in the provision of food for the hungry, if I am going to pray for them. It is helping the missionary financially and in other ways, if I am going to pray for their success. It is perhaps going to Russia and endeavoring to convert Russia, or doing something that costs me if I am going to pray for Russians. A little son of a very wealthy man heard his father daily pray for the needs of a neighbor who had little. One day, after such a prayer, the little lad said, "Daddy, you could answer that prayer if you wanted to."

#### **Prayer Is a Magical Process**

Prayer is a kind of magical process by which we manipulate God and get things. I remember my daughter when she was approximately seven or eight years of age wanting a bike that was being given away at a drawing in a local clothing store. She was going to put in an appearance at that store and be ready for the drawing to bring her name from the basket. Before she left, she

wrote a little prayer pertaining to her getting the bike and put it in her pocket. She referred to it as magical. The magic didn't work, however, and her brother who couldn't have cared less won the bike. We need to remember that the statement "all things for which you pray and ask, believe" simply tells us that God is able to do all things. There is nothing we need to withhold asking for, thinking that He is not able.

### Prayer Is Autosuggestion

Prayer is merely "autosuggestion" (believing that thinking about something will make it happen) and this explains how answers seem to come. This idea is ridiculous. Believing in autosuggestion is as much as to say that God does not answer prayer, or that He does not even exist. Only an atheist would suggest that there is not another person at the end of the line who hears and responds.

### Stereotyped Ideas about Answers

Answers to prayer come at once, or they don't come at all. This is simply not true. God may not answer all at once but in installments. After all, it is He Who knows our needs best. Only He can determine "how" and "when" needs need to be met.



### Life Application

Begin to get your prayer life organized. Begin a prayer journal. Develop "prayer" pages for immediate and permanent prayer requests.

Read: *Meditative Prayer* by Richard Foster, InterVarsity Press, 1983 or *How to Get Results Through Prayer* by Jerry Bridges, NavPress, 1975.

*Notes*

# HOW GOD ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS

## The Wheel

- 14 The Wheel: General Presentation
- 15 The Value of the Scriptures
- 16 Prayer
- 17 **How God Answers Our Prayers**
- 18 Witnessing: Sharing Christ with Others
- 19 Sharing Christ: — Getting Started
- 20 Fellowship
- 21 Review Questions

**Purpose:** This second session on the subject of prayer is to help you understand God and what He does in hearing us and answering our prayers. The material is to bring encouragement and help you trust God explicitly when you call upon Him. It should help you understand what kind of God we serve and how He loves us to come before Him.



## Objectives

1. The disciple will understand that persistence when we really believe is the will of God, and He will respond.
2. The disciple will understand that God is a giver of good gifts.
3. The disciple will be encouraged to pray.

## Scripture Memory

*So I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.*

Luke 11:9-10



## Agenda

1. Mutual sharing and prayer.
2. Discuss the parables.
3. Discuss the questions.

## Introduction

The word “parable” comes from two Greek words, *para* and *ballo*. *Para* means “alongside of” and “ballo” means “to throw.” A parable then is a story thrown alongside of a truth to be taught to help us better understand it. In these two closely related parables there are two basic truths taught that will greatly aid us in the time we spend before the Father. The first teaches us that when we know we are praying in the will of God, we honor Him by taking firm hold of our requests and persisting in His presence until the answer comes. The second parable teaches us that the Father knows well what we need and will not give us something that is contrary or less than what that need is. We need to look carefully at the teachings of these parables and heed their words of instruction. Knowing and understanding this is an encouragement for us all.



## Worksheet

### The Parable of The Persistent Neighbor

Read Luke 11:1-10

Jesus had just finished telling His disciples how to pray, Luke 11:2-4, in response to their query. The words in Luke are somewhat abbreviated from those found elsewhere. But sensing the need to tell them how to pray, He went on and told them these two parables: Luke 11:1-10 and Luke 11:11-13, that related profoundly to what He had just said. He concluded the first parable with the statement that includes three basic words.

1. Ask - letting the request be known. The answer may or may not come simply as we ask. God is, of course, One who desires us to depend on Him. So often we will...
2. Seek - suggests that we begin to implore Him.
3. Find - His response is coupled to our asking and seeking.

Two of these statements are our movements and the third is up to God. We are told to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and the result will be that we \_\_\_\_\_.

There are many places in Scripture where we are urged to pray. Read some of them once again. First the words of Jesus:

Matthew 21:22 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:24 \_\_\_\_\_

What does this first parable teach us? What is the thing we are urged to do? Before you try to answer, read Matthew 15:21-28 slowly and then see if you can give the proper response. What did the Canaanite woman do in vs. 22?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did the disciples respond to her need in vs. 23 ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does this show the difference between God and us as men? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why did Jesus say what He said in vs. 24? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How would you characterize this Canaanite woman in vs. 25? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

She said \_\_\_\_\_ ! What is going on in vs. 26 and 27 that can help us in our prayer life?

\_\_\_\_\_

What two characteristics did she demonstrate? \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_.

This is an actual story involving a Syrophenician woman. It is a live demonstration of the teaching of Jesus in the parable we are considering. With this in mind, read the parable we are considering once again slowly.

The first story or parable is simply that a neighbor has someone coming to him from a journey at midnight and he has nothing to give him to eat. So he goes next door to his neighbor who is a friend and asks him for three loaves. His neighbor knows it is his friend, but is reluctant to get up and give him what he is asking.

Describe in your own words what follows (vs. 8). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This parable teaches us that God and the Lord Jesus are pleased when we persist because of our confidence in His promises. How can we translate this learning to our lives today? Here are a few suggestions.

Philippians 4:19 - Is what I am asking something I really \_\_\_\_\_?

There is often quite a difference between a need and a want. We have a problem sometime in our asking because we ask \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ so we can spend it on \_\_\_\_\_,

James 4:3. It is sometimes difficult to determine if we are truly praying in the will of God. All of us have asked for things that have not been God's will for us, and He has graciously withheld what we are asking for. Let's always look carefully at our requests.

But what if we feel we truly need, and are trusting God for what we are asking? See if you can think through a scenario of your own that might place you in the shoes of the neighbor who got up at midnight and went next door. Write this in some detail.

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Insight on prayer from the author's perspective:

Over many years I have developed a pattern of coming to God for what I need. First, I must validate the fact that it is a "need" by going to the Scriptures.

When I believe I have a valid need, I realize that this need is uniquely and individually mine, and therefore I would tell very few people, if any, and seek only the Lord's provision.

Finally, I would go to the Scriptures where the promises abound as in Psalm 37:3-7, and list the principles in this passage.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord and cultivate \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself in the Lord, (vs. 4) and claim the promise.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ your way \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Him and He \_\_\_\_\_.

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1. The teaching of this first parable then would mean what in my prayer life with respect to how I am asking?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Would it ever be right to remind God about Who He is and what He has promised? \_\_\_\_\_  
How might one do this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What action is taught in this first parable about you and me as those who ask? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How is faith demonstrated in a situation like the one described in the first parable? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Does God really need to be begged for answers to prayer? Who is this really for? God or us? \_\_\_\_\_

### The Second Parable

Read Luke 11:11-13

This is a prayer parable also. The previous parable taught that God is delighted when we persist in prayer which demonstrates that we acknowledge Him, have faith in Him, and come to Him with our genuine need.



With this in mind, what does the second parable teach us? Eph. 3:20

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Our Father knows how to give \_\_\_\_\_ gifts. Since He is \_\_\_\_\_, which is one of His attributes, He knows before we pray. An all-knowing God surely knows what we need and will \_\_\_\_\_ Eph. 3:20. God delights to hear us call upon Him and trust Him for everything. If we ask for a \_\_\_\_\_, He will not give us a snake (Luke 11:11). Can you recall incidents when this has been true for you? List them.

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

#### Questions for Review and Discussion

1. Why do we not act like believing Christians when it comes to our prayer life? \_\_\_\_\_
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2. What feelings should go into being “steadfast in prayer”?

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3. What is the difference between faith that God will answer, and distrusting Him in giving us an answer?

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4. If we decide to persist in prayer, what steps should we take when we do this?

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5. What in your own life have you wanted to persist in prayer over, and why have you gone the way you have gone?

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6. What does the second prayer parable teach us?

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**Summary and Key Concepts**

These two parables deal with prayer. God desires that we come to Him and ask and trust Him for our needs. It does not mean that we would be not helped if we do not pray. He surely watches over us and often sees our need more clearly. But He desires that we have a part in what He wants to do for us as far as our daily needs are concerned. Because of this, He has taught us to be steadfast if we are sure what we ask for is not contrary to His Word. He is de-

lighted when we “pound His door,” and we can do this from time to time. We can also be certain that His gifts are good gifts.

In this session, we have attempted to teach two things about God and our praying to Him. The first thing is that He is delighted to have us approach Him. We need to be certain that our requests are in line with His will, however. And He is God that appreciates our persistence and is delighted when we put Him to an actual test to prove the answer is from Him.

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### **Group Conversational Prayer - an Addendum**

#### **I. What is conversational prayer?**

- A. Conversational prayer is prayer that proceeds by topics rather than by stated individuals who pray.
  - 1. An individual may pray several times.
  - 2. A topic is dealt with only once and prayer is offered by all those in the group. (The usual method is for a topic to be dealt with many times with individuals praying only once.)

B. In this kind of prayer, topics become the center of activity of prayer rather than an individual.

C. There will be simple phrases or sentences offered for the topic rather than orations.

Some suggestions:

- 1. Limit your prayer to one topic or request. This may be adoration, thanksgiving, confession or intercession.
- 2. Allow others to add to what you have said.
- 3. Introduce a new topic only as presented topics are well covered.

#### **II. The value of “conversational” prayer.**

- 1. It is easier to maintain attention during conversation prayer time.
- 2. It is easier to organize what you are asking for with this style of group prayer. There is some difficulty in praying long prayers.
- 3. It gives opportunity to pray more than once when one remembers something to ask for concerning the topic.

# WITNESSING: SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS

**Purpose:** To make sharing Christ a day-to-day experience.

## The Wheel

- 14 The Wheel: General Presentation
- 15 The Value of the Scriptures
- 16 Prayer
- 17 How God Answers Our Prayers
- **18 Witnessing: Sharing Christ with Others**
- 19 Sharing Christ:— Getting Started
- 20 Fellowship
- 21 Review Questions



## Objectives

1. The disciple will know the conditions for success.
2. The disciple will see new reasons to show genuine love for your neighbor.
3. The disciple will receive encouragement to witness.

## Scripture Memory

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

Romans 1:16



## Agenda

1. Personal prayer and sharing.
2. Discuss the questions.
3. Review Scripture verses.

## Sharing Christ with Others

### I. A plan to follow to reach others.

- A. Make a friend. Do this for the sake of knowing him for who he is.
- B. Win his confidence with genuine love and friendship.
- C. Be authentic—a genuine person.
- D. Live your life before him in all faithfulness to God.

### II. A few facts (though some are hard to embrace).

- A. People are unfitted naturally to fellowship with God, Romans 8:8.
- B. God desires the salvation of all people, 2 Peter 3:9.
- C. People, in God's plan, are to be reached through other people.
- D. Every believer is to share in winning souls, John 15:16; Matthew 28:19-20.
- E. This is the most blessed service to people, Daniel 12:3.

### III. Conditions of success

- A. Our own personal experience of salvation, John 15:4-5.
- B. Lives that are exemplary, 2 Timothy 2:21.
- C. A working knowledge of the Word, 2 Timothy 2:15.
- D. A life of prayer, Matthew 21:22.
- E. A love for souls, Romans 10:1.
- F. Perseverance, Galatians 6:9.

### IV. Some "don'ts" for witnessing

- A. Don't be messy or have poor personal hygiene.
- B. Don't assume the attitude of knowing it all.
- C. Don't be afraid of anyone.
- D. Don't lose your temper or begin to argue.
- E. Don't get overly personal, especially with those of the opposite sex.
- F. Don't have confidence in your own personal ability.
- G. Don't interrupt others.
- H. Don't try to control a conversation.
  - I. Don't leave a person without giving him an appropriate verse or something to think about.
  - J. Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

### What is Evangelism?

[from The Sword of the Lord  
by John R. Rice]

It is the sob of God.

It is the anguished cry of Jesus as He weeps over a doomed city.

It is the cry of Paul, "I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to my flesh."

Evangelism is the heart-wringing plea of Moses, "Oh, this people have sinned...yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin...; if not, blot me I pray Thee, out of the book which Thou hast written."

It is the cry of John Knox, "Give me Scotland or I die."

It is the declaration of John Wesley, "The world is my parish."

It is the prayer of Billy Sunday, "Make me a giant for God."

It is the sob of a parent in the night, weeping over a prodigal child.

It is the secret of a great church.

It is the secret of a great preacher and of a great Christian!

*My faith in  
Christ can  
never be private*



### Worksheet

#### The Importance of Sharing Christ with Others

This is a worksheet prepared for individual study on the subject of witnessing for Christ. Many people will have some difficulty with this spoke of the wheel, saying "my faith is a very personal thing," and will use this idea as an excuse not to witness. There is no denying that my relationship with Jesus is very personal. For each of us there must be a personal decision—a very individually-oriented commitment to Jesus and His Lordship, if I am to enter into life. But personal is not private. My faith in Christ can never be private. Salvation is a universal matter that relates to Good News which is the meaning of the word "Gospel." The purpose of this session is to help us see that we are to share our faith with the world, beginning with our neighbors and friends. Our Father has never meant for us to co-exist in a world with those who do not believe. He would have us win them.

People often want to say what is most important when their time to be with friends and loved ones is about over. What was the Lord Jesus most concerned about just before He returned to heaven? Acts 1:4-9

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The Greek word for witness is the word *marturion*. From this word, we get the word "martyr." What does this imply as far as the will of Christ for us is concerned? \_\_\_\_\_

See also Luke 9:23.

A witness is one who "*says what he knows and knows what he says.*" Where did Jesus say we were to be witnesses? Acts 1:8

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Where is your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and entire world?

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Matthew 28:19-20 records words of Jesus just before He ascended into heaven. What was His commandment to His disciples?

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It is important to note that the imperative is to disciple. What is involved in the making of disciples as urged by Jesus?

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Mark 16:15 says the Gospel is to be preached to whom?

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Luke 24:46-48 says what was to be preached to all nations? \_\_\_\_\_

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To summarize the teaching of these verses, we can say that Jesus wants each of us to be \_\_\_\_\_. This means that I will say what I \_\_\_\_\_ and that I \_\_\_\_\_ what I say. Doing this certainly involves sharing my faith with another because I am commissioned to take the Gospel to \_\_\_\_\_. I am first responsible to \_\_\_\_\_ and then to \_\_\_\_\_ until the whole world knows. In the witnessing I am to do, I am first responsible to make \_\_\_\_\_, to encourage them to be \_\_\_\_\_, and then to \_\_\_\_\_ them.

It is important to look at some basic realities that make my being a witness and willing to share Christ a genuine priority. The first reality is found in Romans 8:8 where the condition of man is discussed. Paul says that an unregenerate man cannot \_\_\_\_\_ God. Of course, the unregenerate or natural man can be good and can do many right things, but what does God say is the nature of man's righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_, Isaiah 64:6. It is apparent that all men outside of Christ will never be able to fellowship adequately with the Father unless they experience \_\_\_\_\_.

Another reality is that \_\_\_\_\_, 2 Peter 3:9. That men experience regeneration is in keeping with the will of \_\_\_\_\_. There is no man on earth whom God does not desire to \_\_\_\_\_. This He can do because His atoning work was for how many? \_\_\_\_\_, 2 Corinthians 5:19. Revelation 22:17 assures whom of the availability of eternal life?

What are some of the ways that men hear the Gospel today?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

According to John 15:16, what is a Biblical and universal way for the Gospel to be spread? \_\_\_\_\_

What does this passage say about the fruit remaining?

How do we help this become a reality? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Daniel 12:3 speak of concerning the sharing of Christ with others? \_\_\_\_\_

There are many joyful things about the Christian life. One of the chief things is the joy of sharing Christ with others. What does Paul say about those we win to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_,

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20.

Sharing Christ is not only a gift of the Spirit (evangelism), but also an art. Though the Holy Spirit is the One Who energizes, witnessing is something we must **learn** to do. There are some conditions that must be met if we are to be maximally successful in doing this.

John 15:4-5 speaks of the "fruit of the Spirit," but what else do these verses imply in relation to one who is to be an effective witness?

2 Timothy 2:21 speaks of another condition for usefulness. What is this condition? \_\_\_\_\_ Yet another condition is found in 2 Timothy 2:15. This verse says I am to \_\_\_\_\_ to present myself approved as a workman. What is "accurate handling" of the Scripture?

Yet another condition or aid in witnessing is to develop \_\_\_\_\_ which means I will not give up easily, Galatians 6:9. Anyone who has never shared Christ with another will probably not be too successful the first few times he attempts to do this. According to Galatians 6:9, what is he likely to do? \_\_\_\_\_ What promise of encouragement is in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

There is a final condition or necessity. We are to be \_\_\_\_\_, Romans 8:14, if we are to be successful. This is because He must prepare the heart to receive the witness and His leadership will be in connection with the work He has done.

Read Acts 8:26-40 and from this text indicate all of the ways the Holy Spirit prepared the situation and led both Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

It is important that each of us actively trust the Holy Spirit to direct us in our way and prepare the hearts of men as we seek to share Christ. It is also important that we pray specifically for individuals with whom we share our Savior. As we earnestly seek His leadership and pray for people without Christ, we will develop a "love for souls." This is also an active condition that must be present if we are to be effective witnesses.

Fill in the names of two or three people you will actively pray for, and witness to, as God gives you the opportunity.

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

An angel was involved in the directing of Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch. Not only will the Holy Spirit direct, empower, and convict, but angels apparently have a part in bringing men to Jesus.

## The Parable of the Marriage Feast

Matthew 22 and Luke 14

Encouragement for Persons Interested in Effective Witnessing

These are two parables in the Synoptic Gospels that obviously refer to the same occasion and subject. This is the marriage feast of salvation which involves God, our Father, choosing a Bride for His Son the Lord Jesus. We often see similar accounts in the Synoptics as those that teach identically the same thing. And it is true that in this account, it is the marriage feast (the calling of a bride for His Son), that is the sole issue. The Bride, of course, is made up of those who share personal faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus.

For those of us who believe in inerrancy of Scripture, everything said is significant. The tense of the verb, the number of the case, and everything in the language is important. In the present parable under consideration, there are some striking differences not readily apparent to the casual reader, and these differences are connected practically to our service in ways that are significant and far-reaching. Understanding these can make the difference between discouragement and the correct perspective when we share Christ with others.

It is the purpose of this discussion to elaborate on these differences in practical ways that relate to our witnessing or sharing Christ with others. Understanding the fundamentals will not only make reproducing ourselves in the lives of others a more efficient thing, but will keep us from hindering the work of God through us.

Let's look at the texts:

These are felt by Bible teachers to be comparable and referring to the same subject and occasion.

### Matthew 22

Wedding is the involvement.

Servants are sent forth to call the invited ones.

The work of the servants is to

1. Vs. 3—Call
2. Vs. 4—Tell the invited of the feast that has been prepared.
3. Vs. 4, 9—Invite by saying "come to the wedding."

### Luke 14

The Great Supper is the involvement.

The Servant is sent at supper time to the invited ones.

The work of the Servant is to

1. Vs. 17—Say “come.”
2. Vs. 21—Bring in the poor, maimed, blind.
3. Vs. 23—Compel them to come in.

### Practical Teaching and Observations

The work of the Servant is much more **active** and **authoritarian** than the work of the servants. Actually, the work of the Servant becomes forceful, while the work of the servants is to be quite different. It is more the simple dispensing of information...the sharing of good news!

Many of the servants were ridiculed and spitefully used. Some were even killed. This is not true of the Servant. But to Him, excuses were made. (Excuses are never made to the servants, so don't take things personally.)

Servants represent you and me as we labor in the vineyard. Note that when the work of the servants is described, one appeared at the wedding feast who was definitely out of place—he had no robe of righteousness, and he was cast out, vs. 11-13. Servants can, if sufficiently persuasive, get a person to say "yes," or they can get them to say the "sinner's prayer." But only the Holy Spirit, the Servant, can do the true work of regeneration that clothes a man in the righteousness of Christ. This should teach us that we should not be "pushy" or overbearing when we witness. We might rather wait for cracks of light which indicate to us that the Holy Spirit is genuinely dealing with the individual. Only as the Servant has prepared the heart, can there be a true work of righteousness in the life.

A final simple truth taught in the Matthew 22 account is that which pertains to the absolute mute condition of one who stands in his own righteousness. Note that the guest without a wedding garment was speechless. There was nothing he could say. Surely this teaches us that for those who choose to stand in their own righteousness before our Heavenly Father at the marriage supper of the Lamb, there will be no more excuses, nor will there be anything that justifies the presence of such a one. "I never understood clearly," "you are a God of love," or "I have been a truly moral person," will have no place before the Lamb. Let's not be overly enthusiastic in pushing people to make decisions.

A general truth that can be inferred relates to the mental condition of many who attempt to witness, and who are enthusiastic about doing it. We certainly want to share Christ with others. The last thing Jesus said before He ascended into heaven had to do with sharing the message with the world. "You shall be my witnesses ..." We often become discouraged in witnessing when we mistakenly try to do the work of the Father and fail to see the kind of results we want to see, or find people generally unresponsive.

Remember THIS! I will always succeed when I do the work of one of the servants.

**Questions for Review and Discussion**



1. To witness is a Biblical mandate. What are the chief reasons Christians do not share Christ with others?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

2. It is obvious that God deals with certain people in ways different than with others. How should this affect me in my witnessing?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What part does the Holy Spirit play in my witnessing?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How does prayer play an effective part in my sharing Christ with others?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. In what way can I claim Acts 16:31 for the salvation of members of my family?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Key Concepts and Thoughts

Sharing Christ with another person is one of the chief goals of the Christian life. Many will say their faith is a very "personal" thing. This is true. It is not private, however, and it is the privilege first, and duty secondly, to witness to others and share the One Who has transformed lives and given purpose for living.

Doing this is a matter of obedience. Jesus spoke of our being witnesses of Him just before He left the earth. A witness is one who "says what he knows and knows what he says." The word witness comes from the word from which we get the word "martyr." I should be willing to die in the process of sharing Him with others.

The condition of man is one of the motives for sharing Christ. Men are alienated from God in their natural state. They cannot please Him. They cannot fellowship with Him. It is also important to emphasize the joy of being a winner of souls. It surpasses anything I might be involved with in my present life, and it has lasting value as far as eternity is concerned. Be sure to read 2 Timothy 2:19-20.

The reading on the parables of Matthew 22 and Luke 14 cannot be emphasized too greatly. These are readings that deal with the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the one who wants to be a true servant with maximum effectiveness. Be sure that the work of the Servant (the Holy Spirit) is differentiated from the work of the servants (you and me). Each would be in their rightful place. I can never do the work of the Servant. This knowledge will give lasting peace and allows me to develop a sensitivity to His involvement in my sharing Christ with others. With the Spirit of God, Whose place in all of this is to acknowledge and point men to Christ, I can never fail in my witnessing.



## Life Application

Review the Bridge from Session 3. Share Christ with someone and make an honest effort to introduce them to the Savior. Make it a lifelong effort to share the Good News with others. Remember: Salvation is a very personal matter, but it is not private. Christ died for the whole world. Everyone has the right to hear at least once!

*Notes*

# SHARING CHRIST— GETTING STARTED

## The Wheel

- 14 The Wheel: General Presentation
- 15 The Value of the Scriptures
- 16 Prayer
- 17 How God Answers Our Prayers
- 18 Witnessing: Sharing Christ with Others
- **19 Sharing Christ—Getting Started**
- 20 Fellowship
- 21 Review Questions

**Purpose:** In this continuation of the prior session on sharing Christ, the disciple is encouraged to share Christ with others.



## Objectives

1. The disciple will understand common reasons for sharing Christ.
2. The disciple will identify special problems often encountered in witnessing.

## Scripture Memory

*And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.*

Acts 4:12



## Agenda

1. Personal interaction with disciple—prayer and sharing.
2. Discuss the questions.
3. Review Scripture verses.
4. Discuss last session's Life Application assignment.

In this continuation of our discussions of sharing Christ, we'll look at getting started and special problems encountered in witnessing.

Jesus knows our hearts, including our trepidations. He wants people to come to a saving knowledge of Him, and we who trust in Him are to tell others about Him. In the previous session we said that the Holy Spirit empowers us to witness. He calls those whom He will to hear the Gospel. We also saw that the Gospel is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."

Here, we will see that we can overcome embarrassment or shame we may have in witnessing. The root cause of this shame is not being prepared on two counts: 1) The inadequate handling of Scriptures; 2) Disbelief of God's Word when He says He will empower us as His ambassadors.



## Worksheet

### How To Get Started

Getting started is the most difficult thing in sharing Christ with a friend. Yet we must begin to "break the ice" and make an effort to do this if we are ever to find we can do it effectively. Let's look at some of the reasons it is difficult.

1. Probably the basic reason is that most are unequipped to do this. It is absolutely necessary to have a working grasp of the Scriptures if I am to be an effective witness among men. 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us that learning to \_\_\_\_\_ the word of truth will keep us from being \_\_\_\_\_. Two things are implied that are problems in openly and regularly sharing Christ. What do these seem to be?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus must have anticipated that this would be a problem. In Mark 8:38, he states that being ashamed of Him will result in His \_\_\_\_\_ of whomever is \_\_\_\_\_ of Him—when He comes. Paul says he was not ashamed because the Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_, Romans 1:16. Again to Timothy he writes, \_\_\_\_\_, 2 Timothy 1:8-9.

Surely, as much as one might not want to admit, \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the chief reasons we are not aggressive in our witnessing. The second reason which is also implied in the verses above is simply our lack of equipment. We are not prepared adequately to do this with ease. In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter tells us we should be ready to do what?

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Proverbs 22:18 tells us that keeping His words in our hearts results in \_\_\_\_\_.

Again, Psalm 119:42 says that involvement in His Word will enable us to \_\_\_\_\_.

So we would like to encourage you to be faithful in your efforts to train yourself to share Christ. If you become adept at handling the Scriptures, there is no reason for you to lack confidence or have shame. Shame rises basically from being unable to adequately state your position and talk clearly of Christ and the Gospel. Always remember: "For the word of the cross is for those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18.

## 2. Where can we find people to witness to?

A word has been used which represents the group of individuals available to each of us. It is called our "*oikos*". Our *oikos* represents all the people around us in our everyday life.

List some of the people you regularly come in contact with who are not followers and believers in Jesus.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

Now look at this list of people. Some of them are perhaps people who live near you. Others may include the postman, your hairdresser, or barber. There are those you meet regularly at the gym. Some you see regularly at work. All of them are part of your oikos—the group of people to whom you are called to witness.

### 3. How to begin your personal evangelism.

- a. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:2, "You are \_\_\_\_\_." This means that before I ever say anything to these people, it is important that my life is a message of \_\_\_\_\_ which causes Him to be more clearly ex\_\_\_\_\_, Philippians 1:20.

2 Corinthians 5:17 implies that my life will demonstrate \_\_\_\_\_

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- b. The second thing I must do under any circumstances is to make a move of some kind, Matthew 28:19. There may be some need to plan or strategize as to how we will courteously share Christ. We may pray and decide whom we are going to befriend first. One thing is supremely important. When we set out to get acquainted, it should always be with the idea of truly valuing the uniqueness of another person and genuinely becoming a friend to him...not simply for the purpose of winning him to Christ.
- c. Learn the plan of salvation well. Learn it forward and backward. Know the verses **by heart**. Practice giving it to a friend over and over. You have become familiar with the "Bridge," use it. If you would prefer the four spiritual laws of Campus Crusade, use them. But you must be familiar with what you use and use it often until you can use it almost without thinking. It is acceptable to present the Bridge on a napkin at lunch, a piece of paper in the park, or anywhere else. You may illustrate Isaiah 53:6 by using one hand for yourself with your load of sin represented by your Bible, and the other hand for Jesus. Transfer your Bible to the other hand and let this represent Jesus taking your sin on Himself.
- d. Let the person you are witnessing to see the verses in your Bible. Remember, it is not what you say that is ultimately important, but rather what the Scripture says in speaking to the person's heart.

### 4. Things to remember.

- a. Avoid arguing. Never allow yourself to be drawn into an argument over things you are talking about. Christian courtesy is important. If the individual is not receptive, it is probably because the Holy Spirit has not prepared him to receive. Hang it up until another time.

- b. Times of crises are unique opportunities for sharing the Gospel. If a person is hurting and wants to talk with you, this can be a very natural time to introduce the Friend of Friends Who desires to come into the life and bring joy, as well as give eternal and abundant life.
  - c. Go an extra mile with the individual. Be ready to help him in practical ways. Show genuine love. Let all of your involvement with others be tempered with a natural spirit that is characterized by humility.
5. Leads for a beginning.
- a. "How have you tried to find spiritual help for your life?"
  - b. "Would you like to take some time and let me explain how we can have a relationship with God?"
  - c. "What kinds of things are really important to you?"
  - d. "Let me share some wonderful things that have happened to me!"



## Special Problems Often Confronted

### Genuine Blocks to Conversion

In this session, we are going to talk about some of the special problems the personal evangelist will often have to deal with. These are not, of course, all-inclusive. But these are some of the more common statements one will hear as he attempts to present the Gospel. Special verses that speak to the problem will be included.

1. "I am such a great sinner. You don't know how bad I really am."

Appropriate responses:

- a. **Never** say, "You are really not that bad." If the Holy Spirit has helped the individual see they are estranged from God and sinful, let that stand! A person can't be saved until they know they're lost.
- b. "You are just the person, then, for whom Christ died." See 1 Timothy 1:15. For whom did Jesus come to save? \_\_\_\_\_ Who was the chief of sinners? \_\_\_\_\_ Was he saved? \_\_\_\_\_ Read also

Isaiah 1:18. What are scarlet sins? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What will these sins be like when one receives Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. "I want to get my life in order before I make a decision to become a Christian!" This seems to imply that one's life must be a certain way before he can come to Christ.

Two things may be involved when a person says this:

- a. They honestly feel that their life must be a certain way before they can come to Christ. The previous point (#1) may be helpful here. Jesus seems to speak to this group of people in Matthew 11:28-30. What classes are invited by Him in this passage?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Some may simply be delaying because they feel there is lots of time. There has always seemed to be an urgency about coming to Christ. How do the following verses address this urgency?

Proverbs 27:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 3:7,15 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 1:18 (one word emphasizes the urgency) \_\_\_\_\_

It is obvious that life is fragile and death sure. Circumstances are unpredictable and uncertain.

- c. A third observation is offered. Those who want to clean up their lives before they come to Jesus are desiring to do themselves what the Son of God has promised to do when one comes to Him. See 2 Corinthians 5:17.

3. "I have a hard time believing the Bible. To me it's just like any other book."

- a. Try to present Jesus as the central issue. He is an historical figure and the resurrection is supported by much evidence. At this point in the person's experience, what he does with Jesus is the important issue. Psalm 34:8 says, " \_\_\_\_\_ and see that the Lord is good." This implies that we should do what? \_\_\_\_\_

b. If believing the Bible is a sincere difficulty, present the information on "External Evidences" found in session 53.

This should be followed up by John 7:17 which tells us that doing the \_\_\_\_\_ assures us of \_\_\_\_\_. The point of this is that if one is truly willing to do what God wills for us to do, he will know or be certain about the Bible and its teachings.

4. "There are many roads, but they all lead to the same place—God." This is, of course, simply not true. See the following verses and answer this excuse from Scripture.

a. Acts 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

In whom alone is salvation?

b. John 10:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus' claim here is exclusive.

c. Matthew 7:13-14 says that the gate that leads to life is \_\_\_\_\_ and the numbers who find it are \_\_\_\_\_.

d. Hebrews 9:22 says that there is no remission of sins without the \_\_\_\_\_. Christianity is the only approach to God that offers salvation freely and through substitution. There is no other approach.

5. "I don't understand very much about religion or Christianity."

Sometimes this is an honest excuse. People have preconceived ideas about what they must and must not know before coming to Christ, or making a decision for Him.

a. How much Biblical knowledge one has prior to conversion will vary from individual to individual. The dying thief on the cross knew very little, but was able to acknowledge belief in the Lordship of Christ, His resurrection, and life to come. That was enough for the Son of God to give him a place in His coming kingdom.

b. Look at John 5:24. What is involved in this verse that brings us to

the simple basics?

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c. Romans 10:9-10 says that \_\_\_\_\_ brings salvation.

Again, 1 Corinthians 1:21 tells us that \_\_\_\_\_ is not involved in our knowing God. Indeed, God has chosen the

\_\_\_\_\_. One need merely know and understand the plan of \_\_\_\_\_.

Though redemption was complicated as far as God was concerned, it is simple for man.

6. "I am a good person and lead an upright life."

It may very well be that the individual is a good person in the eyes of mankind. There is such a thing as human righteousness. The problem is that God requires a righteousness that has **never** deviated from \_\_\_\_\_, Galatians 3:10.

Responses to statements like these should include something of the following.

a. "It may very well be that you have attained a high level of goodness in your life, but see what God requires." In James 2:10 it says that "\_\_\_\_\_ in one point" makes me \_\_\_\_\_ all.

This means that coming by my own works makes it necessary that I be \_\_\_\_\_.

b. In Isaiah 64:6, God says that all our righteous deeds are like a \_\_\_\_\_ . See also Titus 3:5. This shows that we are unable to do anything righteous by ourselves.



## Questions for Review and Discussion

1. Who does God want to save? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the believer's part in salvation?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How does "quenching the Spirit" relate to sharing the Gospel?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What if a believer does not tell a friend about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What reasons do I have not to witness? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. React to this statement: "Some leaders in a church I know do not witness. Therefore, I don't need to witness."

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Summary and Key Concepts

Please reread the summary from the prior session.

It is essential to realize that believers are empowered by God to witness, He wants us to witness, the Holy Spirit enables individuals to hear the message of salvation, and the good news of salvation is the "power of God." We are to study and keep His Word in our hearts. We will be ready when we do this! God will put His words on our lips (Proverbs 22:18).



### Life Application

Did you share Christ this week? If so, jot down a few notes about it:

1. Circumstances \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did you move towards a discussion about salvation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In what way did you use the Bridge? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What follow up do you think is needed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you didn't share Christ this week, jot down a few notes about that:

1. What opportunity came the closest to sharing Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Would someone being there with you to share Christ have made a difference? How?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What things are you unsure about in relation to sharing Christ (Scripture, Bridge, workplace rules, reaction of another, etc.)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What about the term "oikos" promotes daily opportunity to share Christ with an unbeliever?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Write about your confidence in God's power in the sharing of Christ with others? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FELLOWSHIP

**The Wheel**

- 14 The Wheel: General Presentation
- 15 The Value of the Scriptures
- 16 Prayer
- 17 How God Answers Our Prayers
- 18 Witnessing: Sharing Christ with Others
- 19 Sharing Christ: Getting Started
- **20 Fellowship**
- 21 Review Questions

**Purpose:** This session focuses on fellowship and its importance in the Christian life.

**Objectives**

1. The disciple will see that fellowship is restorative.
2. The disciple will understand the elements of biblical fellowship.
3. The disciple will know how to create fellowship for his own spiritual needs.
4. The disciple will understand why fellowship is important to the Father.

**Scripture Memory**

*What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

1 John 1:3

**Agenda**

1. Mutual accountability and prayer.
2. Scripture memorization.
3. Discuss session material.
4. Discuss questions.
5. Discuss any new terms.
6. Report on Life Application assignment.



## Worksheet

There is a unique quality to the Christian life, which relates to our interpersonal relationships with other believers. We are seen as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the world, 1 Peter 2:11. This means that this \_\_\_\_\_ is not my true home. One of the ways I know I have eternal life is that I \_\_\_\_\_ my brothers and sisters, 1 John 3:14. What we can experience with them is truly unique, and this we call fellowship. It is truly “koinonia,” a term that can be applied only to the fellowship and relationships of fellow believers.

The writer to Hebrews admonishes us to \_\_\_\_\_, Hebrews 10:25. See also Psalm 55:14. Where is one place we can experience sweet fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_

Fellowship is important and necessary in the Christian life. The verses we will consider in this session do not present an exhaustive review of fellowship, but they are enough to give one an idea of the importance of this experience as far as growth and support in a complex world is concerned.

Remember that one of the ways we know we have eternal life is \_\_\_\_\_, 1 John 3:14. Yet this does not seem to be an entirely adequate basis for fellowship. 1 John 1:7 tells us that \_\_\_\_\_ is necessary if we are to have fellowship with each other. There seem to be two additional bases for fellowship. Romans 12:5 speaks of the reality of our being members of \_\_\_\_\_. And 1 John 1:3 says that there must be a willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ with each other. This speaks of openness or willingness to share myself with others. It is doubtful if \_\_\_\_\_ can become a reality unless I am willing to let others know what is happening in my life.

### Practical Benefits of Fellowship

Look up the following passages and identify what they say concerning the positive things that happen when we have fellowship with one another.

1. Galatians 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_

List some ways that this can become a reality for one under a heavy burden.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

What does Paul say must ultimately be true, however, Galatians 6:5?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Ephesians 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_

How would this soften the way we often speak to one another?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Hebrews 10:24 \_\_\_\_\_

What motivation have you gotten recently from Christian fellowship?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. James 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

What would encourage this benefit? \_\_\_\_\_

5. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 \_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the practical ways we could fulfill this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 \_\_\_\_\_

How can we build each other up? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. 1 Peter 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_

What are ways you can effectively serve your brothers and sisters?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In order for these things to become a reality, it is necessary that certain conditions be created and exist. The following verses speak of what creates an optimum climate for Christian fellowship. See if you can analyze each verse and state in a word or two what that condition is.

- 1. Romans 12:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Romans 12:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Romans 14:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Romans 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. 1 Thessalonians 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Hebrews 3:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. James 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. James 5:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Ephesians 4:32 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Colossians 3:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. 1 Thessalonians 3:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Philippians 2:3, 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. 1 Peter 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_

In summarizing the importance of fellowship, try to put into your own words and personalize the value and significance of this in your own life, as you have both experienced it and now studied the value of it from Scripture.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Questions for Review and Discussion**

1. Describe your most memorable time of Christian fellowship?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What attitudes are specific hindrances to Christian fellowship?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

3. How can you best facilitate Christian fellowship in your local assembly?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

*What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

1 John 1:3



### Summary and Key Concepts

This is a session on the fourth spoke of the Wheel. Fellowship is a vital part of our Christian walk. We are members of one body, the Church. This makes us members one of another. We are a heavenly people, though we continually face many problems that have to do with our earthly nature. But because of this unity, which is made a reality by the Holy Spirit, there is a uniqueness in the bond that binds us together. We love each other and therefore need one another.

One basis of our fellowship is found in our “walk in the Light, as He Himself is in the Light,” 1 John 1:7. Another basis is in the Holy Spirit. Yet another is to be found in my willingness to share with my brothers what the Lord has done for me.

Fellowship has many positive results. It enables us to bear each other's burdens. It encourages and motivates us. We are edified or built up. And in fellowship, we can effectively serve one another.

There is a broad list of things that facilitates fellowship. These include such things as kindness, acceptance, thinking of others first, and a spirit of prayer for one another.

We are specifically commanded to not neglect fellowship. This means that in some way I am to be involved with the Body of Christ, or in groups of His children as they meet together systematically.



### Life Application

This week do two of the following, or something the Lord has put on your mind.

Write a note of encouragement to someone in your church.

Take a meal to someone in need.

Write a note of thanks to you pastor.

Clean your teenagers room.

Plan a family project that ministers to someone in your Body.

Think of someone who has hurt your feelings, see to it that God has cleansed you from bitterness, and do something nice for that person.

Plan a special date with your spouse.

# REVIEW QUESTIONS

## The Wheel

- 14 The Wheel:  
General  
Presentation
- 15 The Value of the  
Scriptures
- 16 Prayer
- 17 How God Answers  
Our Prayers
- 18 Witnessing:  
Sharing Christ with  
Others
- 19 Sharing Christ:  
Getting Started
- 20 Fellowship
- 21 **Review Questions**

**Purpose:** It is the purpose of this session to review all of the significant information learned in the section involving the Wheel.



## Objectives

1. The disciple's understanding of the material in this section will be reinforced.
2. The disciple will be able to experience faithfully the spokes of the Wheel and thereby have a fruitful life.
3. The disciple will have a growing confidence in the reality of the Christian life.

## Scripture Memory

*The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*  
Philippians 4:9



## Agenda

1. Mutual accountability and prayer.
2. Discuss the question on the Wheel.
3. Review Scripture memory.

1. How does the teaching of the Wheel translate into an "obedient Christian life"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What feature or aspect of the Wheel seems most important to you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Relate what you've learned from the Wheel diagram to specifics in your life.  
Time management \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Marriage or family relationships \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Setting Goals \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. From your study of Psalm 119, list why Scripture is valuable to you.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. In your own words, why is Scripture important in the lives of not only new believers, but also those who have known the Lord for some time?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Write 2 Timothy 3:16-17, from memory. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. List the three kinds of prayer and what they include.

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8. List some things that hinder a prayer life.

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9. What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name?" \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What are the benefits of keeping a prayer journal ? \_\_\_\_\_

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Specifically how has it helped you? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Discuss your part and God's part in bringing someone to Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

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12. What if a believer does not tell a friend about Christ?

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13. React to this statement; "My salvation is a very personal matter with me and I don't care to talk about it with anyone!" \_\_\_\_\_

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14. What conditions for success are indicated in your studies as far as sharing Christ is concerned? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. React to the following statement. "It is important for me to control any conversation I have with a person who does not know the Lord Jesus."

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. What are the implications of the words "servant" and "servants" in the parables of Matthew 22 and Luke 14?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. What are the bases for Christian fellowship?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. What does our Father feel about our involvement in Christian fellowship? Base your ideas upon biblical principles.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# THE HAND ILLUSTRATION— FIRST FINGER: HEARING

**Purpose:** The purpose of this session is to better understand the Bible through the use of “The Hand” analogy. The first step is to learn how to listen.

## The Hand

- 22 Hand Illustration-  
First Finger:  
Hearing
- 23 The Second Finger:  
Reading
- 24 The Third Finger:  
Study
- 25 The Fourth Finger:  
Memorization
- 26 The Thumb:  
Meditation
- 27 Review Questions



## Objectives

1. The disciple will look at their hand and use it as a visual reminder of how to better grasp an understanding of the Bible.
2. The disciple will retain more of what they hear of the Word of God.

## Scripture Memory

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

Romans 10:17



## Agenda

1. Mutual prayer and sharing.
2. Discuss the readings.
3. Review Scripture Memory.

How do we learn about God, His truths, His will, His way? In these sessions we will use a physical metaphor for firmly grasping God's Word: The Hand. The first finger, hearing, will prepare us for improved recollection of Scripture.



The “Hand” shows us the five methods of learning from the Bible. Each of these methods is important.

- Hearing** Hearing the Word from godly pastors and teachers provides us insight into others’ study of the Scriptures and stimulates our own appetites for the Word.
- Reading** Reading the Bible gives us an overall picture of God’s Word. Many find a daily reading program helpful to take them systematically through the Bible.
- Studying** Studying the Scriptures leads us into personal discoveries of God’s truths. Writing down these discoveries helps us organize and remember them better.
- Memorizing** Memorizing God’s Word enables us to use the Sword of the Spirit to overcome Satan and temptations, to have it readily available for witnessing or helping others with a “word in season.”
- Meditation** Meditation is the thumb of the Hand, for it is used in conjunction with each of the other four methods. Only as we meditate on God’s Word — thinking of its meaning and application to our lives — will we discover its transforming power at work in us.

## Hearing — The First Finger

### Three Problems of Hearers

There are problems related to hearing. These are well known to us all. We do not listen to our children, spouses, or to our friends. The simple matter of listening is a crucial problem in society today. Yet we are urged in Revelation to **listen** if we have ears to hear. Perhaps in listening to God we should play like we are a big ear. We should “open the pores of our skin” and listen. Yet we are simply poor listeners. How different this should be in relation to Scripture. We need to be ready and able to hear everything our Father would have us hear.

1. We remember only one half of what we hear immediately after hearing.
2. We remember less than 25% in a week.
3. The mind can think four times faster than we can speak. Therefore there is much leisure time and this contributes to the difficulty of being a good listener.

The Word makes the difference between mediocrity and productivity in the life. From the Book revival is born! Babies are made adults by the **milk** and **meat** of the Word.

### Concerns in Handling the Word

1. Hearing the Word and not being a doer, James 1:22-25. Understand that hearing brings great responsibility for action. Study this passage carefully and prayerfully.
2. Studying and not rightly dividing, 2 Timothy 2:15. It is important to learn to interpret Scripture as correctly as possible, and not simply to pull out passages to support a pet theory.
3. Handling the Word of God deceitfully, 2 Corinthians 4:2 (without honesty).

Get, and make what you get to be your own. You will grow in terms of what you put into your life and being. Only what is yours will be significant.

### Becoming a Good Listener

Here are some ideas for being a good listener.

1. Anticipate points. What is the speaker saying to you?
2. Weigh evidence for accuracy.
3. Listen between the lines.
4. Summarize what is said.
5. Listening is an active process—not passive. It is much different from watching television or looking at pictures. Your mind must be aggressive and active if you are to listen well. Make it aggressive!

*So faith comes  
from hearing,  
and hearing  
by the word of  
Christ.*

Romans 10:17



#### Worksheet

Hearing is the first way we begin to get a grasp of the Word. Scripture related to hearing includes the following verses. What do they say?

Romans 10:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

James 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 3:6, 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

James 1:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Analyze each of the previous verses and indicate in your own words the importance they attach to hearing the Word of God.

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### Summary and Key Concepts

In “The Hand” we learned a framework for personally gripping God’s Word: Hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture. In “Hearing” we found that involving ourselves actively in listening best prepares us to understand the Bible, and then to be obedient and “show you my faith by my works,” James 2:18.



### Life Application

Outline the sermon and Sunday School lessons you hear this coming Sunday. Practice some of the ideas we have suggested in this session. Immediately following the sermon and lesson, see if you can write a summary in your own words of what has been said. Try to get together with someone and discuss the learning.

*Notes*

# THE SECOND FINGER: READING

## The Hand

- 22 Hand Illustration-  
First Finger:  
Hearing
- **23 The Second  
Finger: Reading**
- 24 The Third Finger:  
Study
- 25 The Fourth Finger:  
Memorization
- 26 The Thumb:  
Meditation
- 27 Review Questions

**Purpose:** The purpose of this session is to give guidance in the development of a year's reading program.



## Objectives

1. The disciple will begin or confirm his annual Bible reading program.
2. The disciple will lay out a program for Bible-related reading.

## Scripture Memory

*He who 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 will disclose Myself to him.*

John 14:21



## Agenda

1. Mutual prayer and sharing.
2. Discuss the worksheet.
3. Review Scripture memory.

## Introduction

There are three different basic types of reading material shown below, that a Christian should be involved with regularly.

The first, of course is the Bible. There is a reference found in many Bibles: a calendar for reading through the Bible in one year. Your first objective is to conclude a reading calendar and begin reading according to the calendar for this week.

The second set contains Biblical dictionaries, handbooks and the like. If you have not already purchased these, you should consider purchasing them all at this time.

Finally, the last sets consists of books on discipleship, the Christian life and Biblical doctrine.

## Bible Reading in One Year

Your Bible or a calendar available at the church will guide you through the Bible on an annual basis.

## Bible Dictionaries and Handbooks

1. *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*, Everett Harrison, Baker Book House.
2. *Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible*, David Alexander, and Pat Alexander, Eerdmans Publishers.
3. *Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity*, Tim Dowley, Eerdmans Publishers.
4. *Eerdmans' Handbook to the World's Religions*, R. Pierce Beaver Eerdmans Publishers.
5. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, Walter Elwell, Baker Book House.
6. *The New Topical Textbook*, R. A. Torrey, Revell.
7. *PC Study Bible*

## Books on Discipleship

1. *Call to Discipleship*, Juan Carlos Ortiz, Logos International.
2. *Disciples Are Made, Not Born*, Walter Henrichsen, Victor Books.
3. *Disciples in Action*, Leroy Eims, NavPress.
4. *Discipleship*, Billy Banks, Jr. and William Shell, Zondervan.
5. *Jesus Christ Disciple Maker*, Bill Hull, NavPress
6. *The Cost of Commitment*, John White, IVP.
7. *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Collier Books.
8. *The Essentials of Discipleship*, Francis M. Crosgrove, NavPress.
9. *The Lost Art of Disciplemaking*, Leroy Eims, NavPress.
10. *The Master's Plan for Making Disciples*, Win and Charles Arn, Baker Book House.
11. *The Navigator*, by Richard Foster, NavPress.

## Books on the Christian Life

1. *Assurance*, R. Gene Reynolds, Tyndale.
2. *Balancing Life's Demands*, J. Grant Howard, Multnomah Press.
3. *Beyond Easy Believism*, Gary Collins, Word.
4. *Decision Making and the Will of God*, Gary Friesen, Multnomah Press.
5. *From Here to Maturity*, David Augsburger, Tyndale.
6. *Forgive and Forget*, Lewis B. Smedes, Harper, San Francisco.
7. *How to Grow*, Kenneth Taylor, Oliver Nelson Press.
8. *Keeping in Step with the Spirit*, J. I. Packer, Revell.
9. *Lifestyle Evangelism*, Joe Aldrich, Multnomah Press.

*“But, of course, there was the Bible, in a class all by itself. This was the The Book in our home, and we heard it read everyday... The resonance of the Books of Moses, the cadence of the Psalms, the lucidity of the Gospel of John, the soaring rhapsodies of Paul on the love of God, and the strange figures of the Book of Revelation, all sank deeply into my heart and mind. Everything in life, I believed had meaning as it related to what I knew of The Book.”*

Elizabeth Elliot,  
All That Was Ever  
Ours

*He who 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 will disclose  
Myself to him.*

John 14:21

10. *Living at High Noon*, Gordon McDonald, Revell.
11. *Mere Morality*, Lewis B. Smedes, Eerdmans.
12. *Money, Sex, and Power*, Richard Foster, Harper and Row.
13. *The God Who Hears*, W. Bingham Hunter, IVP.
14. *The Practice of Godliness*, Jerry Bridges, NavPress.
15. *The Simple Life*, Vernard Eller, Eerdmans.
16. *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, Dallas Willard, Harper San Francisco
17. *Today's Tentmakers*, J. Christie Wilson, Tyndale.
18. *Designed to Be Like Him*, J. Dwight Pentecost, Moody Press.
19. *Run with the Horses*, Eugene Peterson, IVP.

#### **Books on Biblical Doctrine**

1. *Basic Christian Doctrine*, Henry, Baker Book House.
2. *Beauty Care for the Tongue*, Leroy Koopman, Zondervan.
3. *Beyond the Battle for the Bible*, J.I. Packer, Cornerstone Books.
4. *Chosen by God*, R.C. Sproul, Tyndale Publishers.
5. *Demons in the World Today*, M. Unger, Tyndale.
6. *Evangelism and Sovereignty*, J.I. Packer, IVP.
7. *Inerrancy*, Norman L. Geisler, Zondervan.
8. *In Understanding Be Men*, Hammond and Wright, IVP.
9. *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer, IVP.
10. *Predestination and Free Will*, Feinberg, Geisler, Reichenbach and Pinnock, IVP.
11. *The Attributes of God*, A. W. Pink, Baker.

12. *The Battle for the Bible*, Harold Lindsell, Zondervan.
13. *The Rapture*, Archer, Reiter, Moo, et. al., Academie Books.
14. *The Rapture Question*, John F. Walvoord, Zondervan.
15. *The Sovereign Spirit*, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Shaw Publishers.
16. *Those Controversial Gifts*, George Mallone, IVP.
17. *Union with Christ*, Lewis B. Smedes, Eerdmans.
18. *Gospel and Law*, Daniel Fuller, Eerdmans.
19. *The Second Coming*, David Hubbard, IVP.

This is a partial list of books you can read or tools you may use in helping you become a discipler and one who walks effectively in your life. There will be many books you will read during your lifetime, and by the time you exhaust these, you will have a better knowledge of Christian literature.



## Worksheet

1. Identify the program you have chosen for yourself for reading through the Bible in one year:

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2. Put together a reading list for yourself for the next twelve months. This should include four significant paperback or hardback books dealing with essential aspects of the Christian life. List those here:

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3. Other choices may be made which are optional, i.e. biographies of missionaries, martyrs, pastors, or for some, perhaps Christian novels. Tapes of readings are also available in selected cases. List your selections here:

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### Life Application

If it isn't your practice already, begin reading the Bible and classics to your children.

*“Children and books go together in a special way. I can't imagine any pleasure greater than bringing to the uncluttered, supple mind of a child the delight of knowing God and the many rich things He has given us to enjoy. This is every parents privilege, and books are his keenest tools. Children don't stumble onto good books by themselves; they must be introduced to the wonder of words put together in such a way that they spin out pure joy and magic.”*

Gladys Hunt, Honey For A Child's Heart.  
Zondervan

(This book is a good resource for choosing books for children)

# THE THIRD FINGER: STUDY

## The Hand

- 22 Hand Illustration, First Finger: Hearing
- 23 Second Finger: Reading
- **24 Third Finger: Study**
- 25 Fourth Finger: Memorization
- 26 The Thumb: Meditation
- 27 Review Questions

**Purpose:** The purpose of this session is to learn the methods of investigation and analysis to personally grasp Scripture better.



## Objectives

1. The disciple will be able to use two investigational and analytical methods.
2. The disciple will develop a more organized method of study.
3. The disciple will develop a more personal method of study.

## Scripture Memory

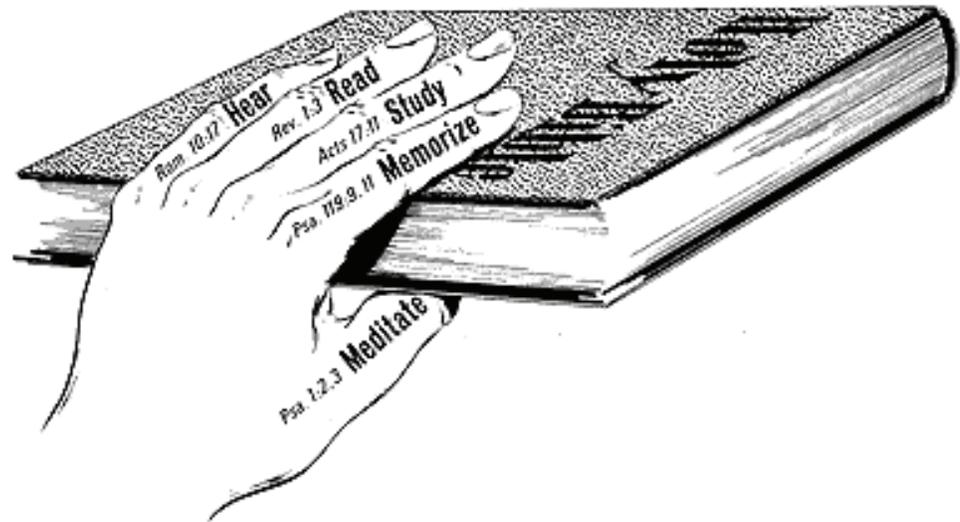
*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15



## Agenda

1. Mutual prayer and sharing.
2. Discuss the questions.
3. Review Scripture memory.



The third finger on the Hand is Study. Study involves some things far more than simply reading the Bible. These include:

1. Original investigation—not something someone else has done. We go at a desired goal with our own unique resources and seek something for ourselves.
2. Written reproduction—paper and pencil or pen are involved.
3. Study involves that which is systematic and consistent. It is not haphazard either in method or occurrence.
4. Study is to be personally applicable. There is to be practical value for the learner. Nothing is learned if there is only content. There is also to be behavior change if it is true learning.
5. What we learn is something we can share—it is to be pass-on-able.

“Knowledge that is self-discovered is stored in the deepest part of the mind and remains the longest in the memory. There is no jewel more precious than that which you have mined yourself.”

Howard Hendricks



## Worksheet

### Types of Study Methods for Beginners

#### Verse Analysis

Date of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Verse Analyzed \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the thought preceding this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the thought immediately following this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. State in your own words what this verse means. What is the writer saying?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Indicate in writing how you can apply this to your own life.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Project: Analyze four of the following verses during your quiet time, using the pages provided.

Isaiah 41:10

Romans 3:24

Hebrews 12:1-2

Hebrews 10:14

Luke 9:62

Date of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Verse Analyzed \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the thought preceding this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the thought immediately following this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. State in your own words what this verse means. What is the writer saying?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Indicate in writing how you can apply this to your own life.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Date of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Verse Analyzed \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the thought preceding this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the thought immediately following this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. State in your own words what this verse means. What is the writer saying?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Indicate in writing how you can apply this to your own life.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Verse Analyzed \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the thought preceding this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the thought immediately following this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. State in your own words what this verse means. What is the writer saying?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Indicate in writing how you can apply this to your own life.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Date of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Verse Analyzed \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the thought preceding this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the thought immediately following this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. State in your own words what this verse means. What is the writer saying?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Indicate in writing how you can apply this to your own life.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### STS Search the Scriptures

The following is a format to follow for a plan of Bible Study called STS, or Search the Scriptures.

**Passage:** (List the particular passage you are going to analyze.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Point** of the Passage: (What is it really saying?)

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**Parallel Passages:**

**Vs. Reference**

**Key Thought**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Problems of the Passage:** What is difficult to understand or deal with?

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**Profit** of the Passage: How is this applicable to me? Make as many practical applications as possible.

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## Questions for Review and Discussion

1. In terms of organization, depth of analysis and personalization, how do the two study methods presented in this session compare to other methods you have used in the past?

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2. Which of the two methods, Verse Analysis or STS, did you prefer? Why?

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3. Research has shown that study dramatically increases retention. Will you adopt a method of study? Which?

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4. How will you organize and retain your study materials for future reference?

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*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15



## Summary and Key Concepts

Bible study does not simply involve reading the Scriptures. It also involves analysis and contemplation. The two methods described in this session provide the disciple with useful tools for regular, systematic Bible study focused either on topics or on a given book of the Bible. Adopting one or both of these methods and using them in your daily/weekly study will substantially enhance your understanding of Scripture and make it more personal.

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*Notes*

# THE FOURTH FINGER: MEMORIZATION

## The Hand

- 22 Hand Illustration-  
First Finger:  
Hearing
- 23 The Second Finger:  
Reading
- 24 The Third Finger:  
Study
- **25 The Fourth  
Finger:  
MemORIZATION**
- 26 The Thumb:  
Meditation
- 27 Review Questions

**Purpose:** The purpose of this session is to enable the disciple to keep God's Word ready for use in everyday life. The disciple will learn reasons for Scripture memory and see how to be successful at memorization.



## Objectives

1. The disciple will be able to overcome obstacles associated with memorization.
2. The disciple will realize the vitality of memory activities.
3. The disciple will begin to look forward to doing memory work.

## Scripture Memory

*Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not  
sin against Thee.*

Psalm 119:11



## Agenda

1. Mutual prayer and sharing.
2. Discuss the questions.
3. Review Scripture memory.

At this point in the ministry, you should be memorizing consistently and enjoying the process, as well as the results. There is nothing more gratifying than having the Word of God written on the tablets of our heart. As Jeremiah 15:16 says, it becomes the *"joy and the delight of my heart."* It equips us to meditate day and night, as well as to give an answer to everyone that asks us a reason for the hope that is in us. It is the method for making the Word a permanent and inherent part of our lives.

### **How to Be a Success at Scripture Memory**

- \* Ask God to better enable you to memorize His Word, and ask Him to increase your desire for this discipline.
- \* Work at it every day. Train your memory. It is good to try to set aside the same time and meet at the same place to work at Scripture memory.
- \* Don't overload yourself. Be content to do a little.
- \* Take pleasure in what you do... enjoy involvement with the Scripture.
- \* Learn with the idea of never forgetting. Don't cram just to be able to quote a verse to someone you are accountable to.
- \* Never take up a verse to memorize until you have thoroughly mastered a previous one.

### **Principles of Memory**

- I. Fixity of thought or attention.
  - A. Learn something you are going to use in the future. Be sure that what you memorize has practical value for you.
  - B. Close your eyes.
  - C. Practice reading the verse with the idea of concentration.
- II. Have a clear concept of what you are memorizing—understand it. It may help to write it out in your own words.
- III. Analyze what you want to learn.
- IV. Use associations.
- V. REVIEW!!!!!!!!!! Develop a system in which you review daily, weekly, and monthly. Always return to daily review any verses you fail to quote correctly.

### How to Succeed!

- I. Recognize that there is no magic way to do it.
- II. Realize that the average mind is lazy and must be stirred to action.
- III. Determine to make the mind an obedient servant.
- IV. Understand that first attempts are the most difficult.
- V. Do thorough, rather than slipshod, work.
- VI. Retain by review, review, review.
- VII. Consider it a joy and pleasure to get the Word of God within you.

“It’s hard for the flesh to think God thoughts. It’s hard to concentrate on spiritual concepts. The brain doesn’t like to think, especially if its on spiritual matters. We like to sit down in a nice, soft chair in a cool breeze and float to heaven on a flowery bed of ease. I’m that way and I know that in life, there are a lot of things that come easy, but getting the Word of God on your heart through memorization isn’t one of them. Its spiritual. Anything spiritual is work, and my flesh and blood doesn’t like work. But it can be done, and we can do it!”  
Dawson Trotman

Project: Get your memory verses in systematic order.

### Scripture Memory Problems

#### The Back Review

- I. Major Issues
  - A. You may have memorized too many verses on the same topic. Varied topics and their verses is best.
  - B. Your interest in Scripture memory wax and wane—it varies.

*Thy Word I have  
treasured in my  
heart that I may  
not sin against  
Thee.*

*Psalm 119:11*

C. Review is not your priority. You're still trying to "catch it on the run".

D. Feelings of guilt. Not knowing all of your verses adequately, lack of consistency, poor review, you are embarrassed.

## II. Building a Solid Back Review.

A. Set adequate objectives.

B. Retain the "right verses."

1. Those that have continued to be significant to you.
2. Those that apply to your ministry.
3. Those that you know will always be helpful in what you most want to do for the Lord.

C. Two parts of your review packet.

1. Those verses you really know perfectly.
2. Those verses you are still working on.

## III. Objectives in Memorizing New Verses.

A. Why do you want to memorize this verse, passage or chapter? This understanding will help you in your choice as well as your memory.

B. Verses should have practical meaning for you.



## Questions for Review and Discussion

### 1. First steps:

Have you selected a time each day for memory work? Jot it down and look back in a week or two to see if this is the optimal time for you. \_\_\_\_\_

Pace yourself. Overloading will frustrate you. Have you decided upon the number of verses you'll memorize each week? \_\_\_\_\_

Organize yourself. Have you selected a memory system? If not, how are you organizing your efforts? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you want to memorize? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? What are your objectives? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What readings have you selected to support your memory objectives?

4. How will you document or keep track of the verses you memorize?



*Notes*

# THE THUMB: MEDITATION

**Purpose:** The purpose of this session is to realize that meditation is “soaking up” God’s word.



## Objectives

1. The disciple will receive biblical instruction for meditation.
2. The disciple will experience meditation on Psalm 1.
3. The disciple will be prepared to meditate in Scripture.

## Scripture Memory

*I will meditate on Your precepts, and regard Your ways. I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.*

Psalm 119:15-16

## The Hand

- 22 Hand Illustration-  
First Finger:  
Hearing
- 23 The Second Finger:  
Reading
- 24 The Third Finger:  
Study
- 25 The Fourth Finger:  
Memorization
- **26 The Thumb:  
Meditation**
- 27 Review Questions



## Agenda

1. Mutual prayer and sharing.
2. Discuss the worksheets in this session.
3. Review Scripture Memory.

## Introduction

The thumb represents that which enables us to grasp firmly and get the most from the Word. This is the ongoing practice of meditation. It is interesting how meditation is central in the practice of many Eastern religions, and is also practiced by many for relaxation, etc. This is not what we are talking about. Meditation, in the sphere of our study of the thumb on the hand, is meditation on the Word of God and the Person of Jesus. It is not ambiguous but directed and focused.

Years ago, during the ministry of Dawson Trotman, I heard him give the following illustration of meditation. "A cow eats grass as it grazes early in the morning. When the sun gets hot, it will lie in the shade of a tree, and through the use of a unique elevator system it will bring up the grass from one stomach and thoroughly masticate it. When this is finished, it will put it into another stomach, having gotten from it everything possible in the way of nutrients." In some sense, this is a crude illustration of meditation. It is more than perusal. It is beyond rigorous study. It is literally living in a thought or verse from Scripture, allowing it to bathe us, to infiltrate our thinking and very being. It is soaking it up, drawing nourishment from it, and allowing it to become a part of us. It is filling our thoughts with our Savior's Person. In the passages that follow, there are biblical statements about meditation and the value in our lives that comes from this practice.



## Worksheet

1. Joshua 1:8 tells us that we should meditate \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. What is the result of meditating on the Word, according to this passage of Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Psalm 1:1,3 talks about the blessed or happy man. What does the "happy man" do? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is the description of this man? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Psalm 19:14 speaks of our inner condition. What is the reference to meditation in this verse?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can this become a reality for us? Philippians 4:8; Psalm 119:89.

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4. Psalm 104:34 describes the quality of our meditation upon God and Christ. In your own words, write what the Psalmist says.

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5. When is a good time to meditate in the Scriptures, Psalm 1:2; Psalm 63:6?

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What is necessary for this kind of meditation on the Person of Christ, the Father, and Scripture?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

6. What progression of behavior is taught in 1 Timothy 4:13-15 that might relate to meditation? \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Timothy 4:15 seems to imply that following meditation there should be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Project for Meditation

Passage: Psalm 1

Read Psalm 1 twenty times slowly. Check the spaces off as you read.

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( This is a blessed exercise, please don't miss the value of it because of the time it takes.)

*I will meditate on  
 your precepts, and  
 regard Your ways.  
 I shall delight in  
 Your statutes;  
 I shall not forget  
 Your word.*

Psalm 119: 15-16

List the key words that impact you as you read this Psalm. You may want to use a dictionary to get a more expanded understanding. Think deeply about these words. What meaning do they have for you?

Words	Personal Meaning
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____

Read the Psalm again slowly five times. \_\_\_\_\_ Check when finished.

In your own words, summarize the significant meaning(s) of this portion of Scripture.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To people experiencing what kind of circumstances would you highly recommend this Psalm and the exercise you have just gone through?

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

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

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

4. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Passages for Future Meditation

Romans 8:1-4	Psalm 34
Psalm 37	John 15:1-14
Philippians 4:5-9	Colossians 3:1-4
Psalm 91	Hebrews 12:1,2
John 1:1-14	James 4:11-17
1 John 5:9-13	Romans 12:1,2
Matthew 11:28-30	Galatians 6:1-5
Isaiah 53	John 10:27-30



### Summary and Key Concepts

Meditation is not a study, as we have seen. Rather it is living in a thought or verse from Scripture. Our study can enhance our meditation, and vice versa. Memorization enhances both. Draw nourishment from God's Word through the meditation He calls us to perform.

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## *Notes*

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

## The Hand

- 22 Hand Illustration-  
First Finger:  
Hearing
- 23 The Second Finger:  
Reading
- 24 The Third Finger:  
Study
- 25 The Fourth Finger:  
Memorization
- 26 The Thumb:  
Meditation
- 27 **Review Questions**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this session is to review the components of “The Hand.”

**Objective**

1. The disciple will review what has been learned of how to use your hand as a visual reminder of how to better grasp the Bible.

**Scripture Memory**

*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Hebrews 4:12

**Agenda**

1. Personal interaction with disciple — prayer and sharing.
2. Discuss the Review Questions.  
At this point, encourage regular Bible study using verse analysis and S.T.S. methods of study, as a lifestyle from this point on.
3. Review Scripture memory.

1. List four or five things that can help you be a better listener.

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2. What is the most ineffective way of getting a grasp of the Scriptures?

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3. How does **study** differ from **reading**?

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4. What are some of the chief problems in building an ongoing satisfactory system of Scripture memory?

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5. We have sought to teach you ways of meditating in Scripture. What are some of the problems inherent in meditation without Scripture?

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6. Why is meditation in Scripture important?

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7. What are "cross references" and why are they helpful?

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8. Define and illustrate meditation.

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9. Please answer this question in a global sense: Why is getting a grasp on the Scripture so terribly important?

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10. React to the following statement: "I have read the Bible through a couple of times. Now I want to read something new that will bring me new challenges."

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*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Hebrews 4:12

Suggested Reading: *Feeding Your Soul*, Jean Fleming, NAVPRESS

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## *Notes*