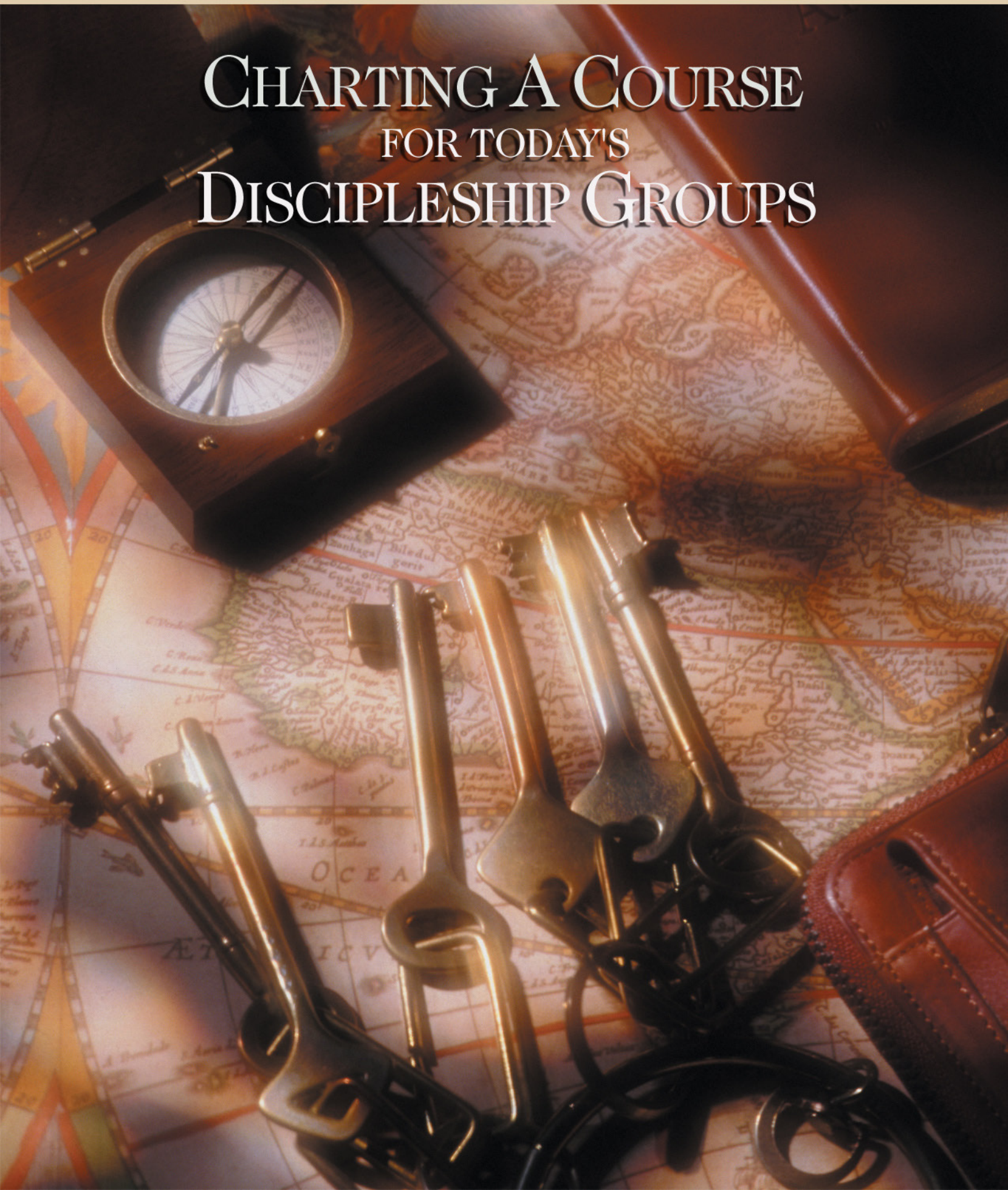


# F I E L D G U I D E

## CHARTING A COURSE FOR TODAY'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS



CORE Discipleship is a faith-based, Christian organization. Our mission is to help you make disciples of Jesus. We provide a simple and reproducible discipleship process based on Jesus' "inner circle" or "core" comprised of Peter, James, and John. We also provide discipleship training and free discipleship resources as free downloadable eBooks.

Just like you, Father God is using the many events and circumstances of life's journey to mold and shape me into the person He desires. Occasionally, I've cooperated completely. It's in those rare moments when something extraordinary takes place - Heaven touches earth, mountains are moved, a part of me is transformed.

Through His infinite patience and unfathomable love I am learning to become the man He created me to be. As I daily surrender my life to Him through His precious Holy Spirit, I see more clearly life eternal.

My hope and prayer for you are that you too will discover God's purpose and become exactly what He has planned for you all along - His son or daughter.

May God grant that we become His disciples by His grace,

*Doug Morrell*

We charge absolutely nothing for our resources. We do require that you use the content in a non-commercial manner in an effort to "lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ." In other words, you are not allowed to use our resources and charge people for them. We're not interested in our name or brand on the resources. We would love to hear back from you. Let us know how our resources are helping people grow in Christ. God bless you as you live His life.

Doug is a seasoned discipler and small group leader. Since graduating from Texas Tech University in 1984, he's worked in a dual capacity -- working within for-profit businesses around the country while also serving the church in various pastoral roles. Additionally, he and his wife Suzie are the founders/directors of CORE Discipleship, a ministry dedicated to making disciples who make disciples. Doug and Suzie have three children: Katheryn, Hannah, and Nathaniel.

Published by: [CoreDiscipleship.com](http://CoreDiscipleship.com)

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers. Other Scripture quotations in this publication are from the King James Version (KJV). Public domain. Scripture taken from THE MESSAGE. Copyright by Eugene H. Peterson, 1993, 1994, 1995. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group. Foundations of Faith adapted and used by permission from Harvestime International Network. Discipleship research used by permission - Barna Research Ltd.

# INTRODUCTION

The journey you are on is the greatest known to man - the discovery of who you are in light of who God is.

At the outset, I want to make this perfectly clear: this study will have absolutely no impact in your life unless you are willing to receive it and act on it. As equally important, this study was designed to be administered under the supervision and direction of a seasoned, mature Christian. As you will learn, the journey of faith is to be lived out alongside another more spiritually mature believer.

This study and curriculum is based on the Great Commandment, the Great Commission, the writings of the apostle John found in 1 John 2:12-14, and the essentials of our faith found in Hebrews 6. The Field Guide provides a step-by-step process of instruction designed to take a believer from conversion into spiritual maturity. As such, it includes:

- An overview of biblical discipleship;
- A spiritual life stage assessment tool;
- An introduction and overview of the three stages of spiritual maturity: childhood, adulthood, and parenthood;
- An overview of the elementary teachings essential for all believers to understand as provided by the author of Hebrews;
- A study for growing in spiritual maturity (for those in adulthood and fatherhood spiritual life stages);
- A practical and proven 3-strand process to integrate a cohesive, integrated discipleship process in your church;
- An overview for home group development;
- A plan to develop both home groups and dynamic Core Group discipleship.

## Field Guide Index

Section One: Discipleship - An Overview .....	6
• Biblical Principles of Discipleship .....	10
• Discipleship Evaluation: 42 points from the Book of Ephesians .....	15
Section Two: An Introduction to Spiritual Life Stages .....	18
Section Three: A New Testament Based Discipleship Model .....	38
Section Four: Integrating A Home and Core Group Network .....	43
Recommended Reading .....	54
Knowing God Through His Word .....	55
Whatever It Takes .....	59

**Upon completion of the Field Guide you will be able to:**

- Understand the value of discipleship by relationship;
- Determine where you are spiritually according to God’s Word;
- Launch a Home and Core group ministry in your church;
- Develop a one-on-one discipleship ministry that will continue to multiply itself through many spiritual generations;
- Assimilate more of the people who visit your church;
- Use home groups to make your church more “visitor friendly”;
- Change your church focus from an inward focus to an outreach focus;
- Use home groups to integrate people into your church;
- Add opportunities for deepening healthy relationships;
- Develop “side doors” into your church for those who might not otherwise come to feel welcomed;
- Offer new avenues for application-oriented Bible study;
- Identify and raise up effective leaders;
- Increase a kingdom perspective in your church;
- Offer a “safe place” for the unchurched to visit and begin building relationships;
- Identify felt needs among each generation, and care for them through their various life-stages.

**This Field Guide will help you:**

- Develop a working plan to implement a discipleship network in your church;
- Target and draw new crowds from your community;
- Identify leaders in your church;
- Develop and release ministers to do the work of the ministry in your church;
- Develop a Christ-centered support system in your church;
- Use home groups to give care to everyone in your church;
- Take a traditional church and give it new energy and purpose;
- Overcome the key barriers to church growth.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:**

The Field Guide is an important study for new believers and those wanting a refresher course on biblical foundations. It provides a course overview of the basic doctrines of Jesus so that you can go on to spiritual maturity (Hebrews 6:1-3).

Here is a two-step process of how you can integrate this material into your current processes:

**One:**

Just after a person has received Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, they should receive a personal contact from a mature believer. This provides the new believer with these key elements:

- To let the new believer know that he or she has a Christian friend who cares.
- To answer questions he or she may have.
- To pray with him or her regarding any personal needs.
- To enroll him or her in the “Field Guide” as described in Step Two.

**Two:**

Continued teaching after conversion was the pattern set by Jesus and followed by the early church. There are two ways this can be done:

1. Form a class for all new believers. This should be taught by a mature Christian and should be offered continuously in the church.

The advantage of this method is that new believers are taught in a group setting with other new Christians. They become acquainted with people on their own spiritual level with similar needs and questions, they begin to understand the value of gathering together in a smaller group setting, they learn firsthand the importance and necessity of studying God’s Word, fellowship, communion, and prayer (Acts 2:42), and this initial experience sets the stage for more intimate discipleship.

Or...

2. A mature believer is prayerfully assigned to each new believer (no more than 4 new believers with any seasoned Christian at any one time). This is the heart of discipleship and the preferred manner which this material is based. Men should train men only and women should train women only.

This Field Guide has been given to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**My personal covenant:**

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord, Master and Savior, believing that He, along with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are One, and being in agreement with my local church mission, vision and values, I commit myself to Almighty God and to the following:

I realize God's ultimate goal for me is to make me like Christ (1 John 3:2). As I become more and more like Him, I will discover my true self, the person I was created to be. I desire to be conformed to Christ's likeness by reading and obeying God's Word, by studying Jesus' life on earth through the Gospels, by being filled with and daily walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, to my becoming a student, to be challenged to become spiritually mature, and by doing God's work in the world. I believe that Jesus commands me to tell others the Good News and that I must first be a disciple before I can make disciples of others for the Kingdom. As such, I am being disciplined by the following person:

My mentor/coach/discipler/pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

This course was started on: \_\_\_\_\_

This course was completed on: \_\_\_\_\_

I am praying for and praying that these individuals will come to be disciples of Jesus and that I may be their discipler:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# DISCIPLESHIP: AN OVERVIEW

*“Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.” (1 John 2:6)*



“THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.” (MATTHEW 28:19,20)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Most Christians are familiar with Jesus’ parting exhortation to makes disciples (Matthew. 28:19-20):

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19,20)*

However, according to noted Christian researcher George Barna, the Christian Church in America is comprised of “many converts, but shockingly few disciples.” This conclusion is based upon two years of research Barna conducted regarding the current state of discipleship. Barna’s research revealed that:

- When Christian adults were asked to identify their most important goal for their life, not a single person said it was to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ, or to make disciples of Christ;
- Less than one out of every five born again adults had any specific and measurable goals related to their personal spiritual development;
- Less than 1% of all believers perceived a connection between their efforts to worship God and their development as a disciple of Jesus;
- The most widely-known Bible verse among adult and teen believers is “God helps those who help themselves” - which is not in the Bible, and actually conflicts with the basic heart of Scripture;
- A minority of adult and teen believers contends that absolute moral truth exists;
- Less than one out of every ten believers possess a biblical world view as the basis for his/her decision-making or behavior;
- When given thirteen basic teachings from the Bible, only 1% of adult believers firmly embraced all 13 as being biblical perspectives;
- Research revealed specific and significant problems related to core spiritual practices such as worship, evangelism, stewardship, community service, and life-styles.

Barna noted that most believers stated that their church does little to help them grow as a true disciple. “Few believers said that their church lacked programs, but most Christians complained that little is done to effectively motivate and facilitate their development as genuine, fervent followers of Christ. Our surveys among pastors showed that they dismissed such views as excuses and as inaccurate, but the bottom line remains unchanged: most Christians are simply not making progress in their personal spiritual development.”

The research also identified substantial obstacles that seem to prevent individuals and churches from having a more satisfying discipleship experience. Among the barriers to spiritual growth described by Barna are:

- The tendencies to focus on Bible knowledge (i.e., memorize verses, know the stories of key biblical personalities) but not character development;
- The lack of a clear and specific idea of what meaningful discipleship is;
- Unrealistic expectations regarding the role of discipleship groups in the disciple-making process.

Barna acknowledged that most churches have many programs and classes that represent the discipleship effort. “Offering programs is not the issue. We discovered that surprisingly few churches have a well-conceived model of discipleship that they implement. The result is that churches feel they have fulfilled their obligation if they provide a broad menu of courses, events,

and other experiences, but such a well-intentioned but disjointed approach leaves people confused and unbalanced.”

**Growing Authentic Disciples of Jesus:**

Discipleship is a common term in our churches, but how well are we developing Christ-like people? With millions of born again Christians suffering from biblical illiteracy and culture-accommodating life-styles, we must review again how we train people to be true followers of our Lord. The writer of Hebrews presented the following overview:

*“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so.” (Heb. 5:11-6:3)*

“The Bible maintains a consistency of having at least two or three of the principles confirmed prior to moving out in faith. Most errors occur when any one of the seven is overemphasized above another.”

If we have a Church full of believers who have been saved and converted to the new life in Christ Jesus and yet we see believers who live lives basically unchanged from their past we must ask ourselves what is causing this?

**The Core Issue:**

- Far too many Christians are not attaining the new life of Christ:

*“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)*

- Christians that were baptized into the hope of both eternal life and to be raised in newness of life are often not successful in practical, every day affairs.
- Too many believers are stuck in the sad existence of living a life remarkably unchanged from before their conversion. Being redeemed and reborn by Christ is a life-changing event and should be appropriated today and for all eternity.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Trends limiting a Christian’s ability to be conformed to the image of Christ:**

- Biblical foundations of our faith are not demonstrated, taught, learned and applied;
- Lack of “spiritual parents” to assist in the development of a new believer;
- Learning to be “Spirit-led and empowered”;
- Tendency to be an “average” Christian, i.e., new believers comparing to those around themselves (2 Cor. 12:10);
- Believing that faith has limited practical relevance;
- Selfish Christianity - lives so busy that we don’t have time to “seek first the kingdom of God” on a moment-by-moment basis;
- The Biblical concept of “teaching” having evolved into more of a “telling” or “pointing” to available resources rather than providing living witnesses of our faith;
- Focusing on changing a few obvious external behaviors and not searching the heart;
- Baptism being viewed as the measuring stick for success.

**To what can all of these trends be attributed?**

Lack of biblical discipleship as presented in the New Testament.

**Where Are We?**

Most church discipleship processes contain some or all of the following:

- Sunday and midweek sermons;
- Sunday Bible classes;
- Youth groups, camps, retreats, etc.;
- Observation and imitation of others actions;
- Some personal devotions and prayer time.

We have done a good job of telling and explaining how a believer’s life should be. Based on the Biblical guidelines there are additional considerations:

- Believers, like a new born babies, if left on their own to grow will either die or if they live, will tend to remain in their infancy and not grow in their life or faith.

## Biblical Basis for Discipleship:

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Tim. 2:2)*

- Become a disciple of Jesus (Mth. 11:28);
- Learn of Him (Mth. 11:29);
- Complement with additional learning times with mature believers (2 Tim. 2:2);
- Teach others to know and observe Christ’s commands (Mth. 28:20);
- Go into the world and preach the Gospel (Luke 9:60).



“BUT I, WHEN I AM LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL MEN TO MYSELF.” (JOHN 12:32)

### Biblical Examples of Discipleship:

- The 12 disciples of Jesus (Mth. 10:1-4);
- The 70 disciples sent forth by Christ to witness and teach (Luke 10:1);
- Disciples of John the Baptist (Mth. 11:1-3);
- All disciples were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26);
- Jesus, the Apostles, Barnabas, Paul, Timothy and Titus as a life-chain of discipleship (see 1 Tim. 1:1-4; 2 Tim. 2:1, 2).

*“As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ.” (2 Cor. 8:23)*

*“We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God’s fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith” (1 Thess. 3:2)*

## We Are Commanded to Teach God’s Principles:

*“and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Mth. 28:20)*

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.” (1 Cor. 4:17)*

*“Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2)*

*“Command and teach these things.” (1 Tim. 4:11)*

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Tim. 2:2)*

*“And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.” (2 Tim. 2:24)*

*“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children” (Titus 2:3, 4)*

## LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What does it mean to “walk as Jesus walked” as it relates to you (1 John 2:6)? Are you walking as Jesus walked? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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



2. Are you being disciplined as Jesus modeled? Are you discipling another as Jesus commanded? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. What are some of the reasons why discipleship is not being followed as Jesus commanded? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. What is the biblical basis for discipleship (5 keys)? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

“Most people live their lives wearing a mask. You don’t really see the “truth” of their lives behind the disguise. You simply see the image that they think you want to see.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ACTION ITEM:**

1. Write out and commit to memory the following scriptures (John 13:34,35; Matthew 28:19, 20; 2 Timothy 2:2): \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP



“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED” (MTH. 5:6).

After we have learned to “walk as he walked” then we are to teach others to do the same.

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Col. 2:6, 7)*

### How Jesus Taught:

Jesus ministered to the multitudes at least 17 times according to the Bible. However, there are approximately 46 mentions in the Bible where He spent His time in private with His disciples. In those smaller group settings He trained His committed followers for their own ministries. He ministered one-on-one, one-on-two, and one-on-three. At other times His ministry was conducted one-on-twelve. He also provided on-the-job training with the 70; and spent some apprenticeship time with the 120 as well as placing some emphasis with the 500 in Galilee.

In his book, “The Holy Spirit”, Billy Graham states the following as vital to the biblical process of establishing new believers in their faith: “One of the first verses of Scripture that Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators, made me memorize was, “The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). This is a little like a mathematical formula for spreading the gospel and enlarging the Church. Paul taught Timothy: Timothy shared what he knew with faithful men; these faithful men would then teach others also. And so the process goes on and on. If every believer followed this pattern, the Church would reach the entire world with the gospel in one generation. Mass crusades, in which I believe and to which I have committed my life, will never finish the Great Commission; but a one-by-one ministry will.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Show, Tell, Release, Supervise:**  
The great commission has two parts. The first is for us to go and make disciples. The second is of no less significance, but most often set aside to secondary importance if used at all. It is to teach them (apprentice disciples) to obey. In fact, there cannot be a disciple without this training. And there cannot be training without relationship, transparency, and mutual accountability.

The primary objective of the believer today as outlined by Jesus is for disciples of Jesus to develop other men and women into disciples. Discipleship should be at the forefront of our efforts. Everything we do, say and teach should be placed beneath the umbrella of discipleship.

The most effective manner to train and equip people for any skill is by providing effective models and opportunities to practice the skill itself. Jesus used a show, tell, release, and supervise model of training. After calling the disciples He took them along with Him, teaching and healing the sick as He went. Then, after He thought the disciples had seen and learned enough to try for themselves, He commissioned, empowered, instructed, and sent them out to do the same things. This model of training should be no different for those desiring to bring others into a complete understanding and walk in Christ likeness.

If we consistently follow Jesus’ principles, the Church would expand exponentially as well-taught believers would teach others and commission them, who in turn, would teach still others.

**Disciples need to be equipped to pass on their faith; our work is not done until new believers are able to make disciples of others.**

**Discipleship Is A Process:**

Discipleship can be defined as a life-for-life relational process wherein the Holy Spirit molds a believer into Christ-likeness as he or she is shown, told, released, and supervised by a spiritually mature saint of God.

When you think of “making a cake” you probably think of a process and not a program. Likewise, making disciples is a process and not a program. As previously presented, discipleship research indicates the need for a biblically-based process of transferring the basic principles of Christ’s teaching and His methods. Jesus said:

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Mth. 5:6).*

Often times, in our zeal to teach God’s Word, we exchange programs for process; we give fish instead of teaching others to become fishermen. Based on the Great Commission, the apostle Paul established a pattern for the preservation and transmission of the gospel. Teaching is to be passed on to successive generations without addition or alteration.

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Tim. 2:2)*

**Discipleship by Relationship:**

The life and teachings of Jesus are the standard for our behavior. The love Jesus taught embraces more than obedience. For obedience to be real it should not be our first goal. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord, not to obey Him; if we don’t obey Him out of love our obedience will not be from our hearts. For discipleship to take place there must be a very sincere desire not to just know God’s truth, but to live by His holy standard.

- Discipleship is the New Testament bridge between conversion and growing in Christ-likeness.

**What is Discipleship?**

Oswald Chambers wrote, “If we get away from dwelling on the tragedy of God on the Cross in our preaching, our preaching produces nothing. It will not transmit the energy of God to man; it may be interesting, but it will have no power. However, when we preach the Cross, the energy of God is released . . . it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe...we preach Christ crucified...” (see 1 Cor. 1:21, 23 ).

Likewise, the process of discipleship cannot be separated from the basis of our salvation; namely, the Cross of Jesus Christ, which is the passion of God illuminated. If we purpose to live our lives as disciples of Jesus as Master Teacher apart from His Holy Spirit, it will have no effect.

Having received and now continuing daily to be led by His indwelling Holy Spirit, discipleship as a process is to continue the pattern as presented by Jesus so that the energy of God is preserved and transmitted through the gospel.

With Jesus, we know that righteousness no longer consists in observance of an external legal code. Jesus defined it as an apprenticeship to Himself as Master Teacher through the Holy Spirit. It must be absolutely understood that true discipleship requires a total commitment without distraction or compromise.

“No one can make himself pure by obeying laws. Jesus Christ does not give us rules and regulations - He gives us His teachings, which are truths that

“We must believe that God’s view of everything is true regardless of popular opinion. If God says something is good, and we say it is bad, we can never experience freedom. If God says something is bad, and we say it is good, we are deceived.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



“DIRECT MY FOOTSTEPS ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD; LET NO SIN RULE OVER ME.” (PSALM 119:133)

can only be interpreted by His nature, which He places within us. The great wonder of Jesus Christ’s salvation is that He changes our heredity. He does not change human nature - He changes its source, and thereby its motives as well.” -Oswald Chambers

To live Christ deliberately we must be wholly devoted to Christ and Him alone; true discipleship demands total commitment without compromise.

**The Role of the Church:**

- To teach and preach Jesus Christ:

*“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.” (Acts 5:42)*

Every meeting held in the church building should be aimed at the instruction, training, or worship of Christians together. Entire home group networks or Sunday school departments should be set up to equip the saints, of all ages, to do the work of the ministry. The work of expounding and applying the Scriptures should begin with the pulpit and continue in every class, in every gathering, and in the homes of Christians. Stress should be laid upon confronting life as it is really lived in the trenches of life, so that the insights of Scripture can be applied to real situations, and so that believers can discover how to draw upon the resurrection power of an ever present Lord. Christians should be taught to welcome contact with the world but to live distinctive lives in the midst of it, “sheep in the midst of wolves,” as Jesus put it.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**The Role of Teachers and Leaders:**

- Study and rightly divide the Word of God:

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)*

**LIFE APPLICATION:**

1. Jesus spent most of His time ministering to small groups. What does this suggest to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the second part of the Great Commission? What does it mean to you? Are you learning to be obedient to the Word of God? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Jesus used a show, tell, release and supervise model for discipleship. Explain each and provide an example of how this model can be applied to your life: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the biblical basis for discipleship (5 keys)? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

5. The kind of discipleship Jesus modeled understands that legalism, which teaches that justification or our ongoing sanctification depends upon a person's own efforts, thus denying the sufficiency of the Cross, is the most persistent enemy of the gospel of grace. Trusting Jesus' provision for wisdom and the word is the only means of overcoming such a ferocious enemy of the loving "life" of the kingdom of God (read Matthew 10:17-20). Explain how this applies to your life: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

6. The kind of discipleship Jesus modeled understands and teaches that being a disciple of Jesus requires a loyalty to Him greater than loyalty to any human being or activity. Discipleship means submitting our own interests in favor of God's (read Matthew 10:37-39; Luke 14:26, 27). How does this apply to your life? In what ways are you not fully committed to being a disciple of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

7. The kind of discipleship Jesus modeled recognizes and teaches that personal discipleship and commitment to Jesus can result in division and rejection (Matthew 10:34-36; Luke 12:51-53). What does this mean to you? In what ways might you find yourself rejected? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

8. The kind of discipleship Jesus modeled understands and accepts that all selfish personal ambition must be forsaken and demands that every true disciple must take up his or her own cross (Matthew 16:24-26; Mark 8:34-36; Luke 9:23-25). What does it mean to take up your own cross? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

"Our joy, prayers, and thankfulness should not fluctuate with our circumstances or feelings."

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## ACTION ITEM:

### Spirit-Filled Discipleship:

The key to imitating Christ is found Ephesians 5:18, "Be filled with the Spirit." Being filled with the Holy Spirit is both an initial experience and an ongoing provision of God that takes place as we yield our lives completely to His control, confessing and repenting of any conscious sin. We also open our lives to the Holy Spirit when we spend time with God, praying and reading His Word. As "being filled with the Spirit" becomes a normal, moment-by-moment part of our daily walk with God, gracious virtues known as "fruit of the Spirit" are produced in our lives (read Galatians 5:22-23).

The following keys are all found in the book of Ephesians and embrace what it means to be a disciple. Here you will need to look up each Scripture reference, think about each of the provided statements and evaluate yourself based on the provided scale.

Instructions: On a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 = weak and 10 = walking as Christ walked, where would you say you are? Circle the number that best represents how you rate yourself in each area compared to Jesus, not someone else. Be honest and transparent. To promote accountability, let your mentor verify your responses.

1. Daily, I put off my old self (Eph. 4:22)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

2. I am being made new in the attitude of my mind (Eph. 4:23)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

3. I am putting on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:24)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

4. I am putting off falsehood and speaking truthfully to my neighbor (Eph. 4:25)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

5. In my anger not sinning (Eph. 4:26)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

6. Not giving the devil a foothold (Eph. 4:27)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

7. Stealing no longer, working, doing something useful with my own hands, that I may have something to share with those in need (Eph. 4:28)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

8. Not letting any unwholesome talk come out of my mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen (Eph. 4:29)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

9. Not grieving the Holy Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

10. Getting rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice (Eph. 4:31)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

11. Being kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave me (Eph. 4:32)

Weak    1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9    Strong

"At one and the same time we are our Father's sons or daughters and our brother's servants. We feel both the presence of Christ and the pressure of sin. We enjoy the peace that comes from being made right with God, but we still face daily problems that often help us grow."

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



“MY PURPOSE IS THAT THEY MAY BE ENCOURAGED IN HEART AND UNITED IN LOVE, SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE THE FULL RICHES OF COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING, IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY KNOW THE MYSTERY OF GOD, NAMELY, CHRIST, IN WHOM ARE HIDDEN ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.” (COLOSSIANS 2:2, 3)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 12. There is not even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people (Eph. 5:3)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 13. No obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving (Eph. 5:4)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 14. Not deceived with empty words (Eph. 5:6)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 15. Not partnering with deceivers (Eph. 5:7)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 16. Finding out what pleases the Lord (Eph. 5:10)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 17. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather exposing them (Eph. 5:11)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 18. Being very careful how I live -not as unwise but as wise (Eph. 5:15)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 19. Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil (Eph. 5:16)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 20. Not foolish, but understanding what the Lord’s will is (Eph. 5:17)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 21. Not getting drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, being filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 22. Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Singing and making music in my heart to the Lord (Eph. 5:19)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 23. Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:20)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 24. Submitting to others out of reverence for Christ (Eph. 5:21)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 25. If married, submitted to my spouse as to the Lord (Eph. 5:22)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 26. If married, as the church submits to Christ, so also I am submitted to my spouse in everything (Eph. 5:24)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 27. If married, as a husband, I love my wife, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her (Eph. 5:25)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong
- 28. If married, I love my spouse as I love myself, and respect my spouse (Eph. 5:33)  
Weak      1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9      Strong



29. I obey those in authority (Eph. 6:1)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

30. Honor my father and mother (natural and spiritual) (Eph. 6:2)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

31. I do not exasperate my children; instead, bringing them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

32. Obey my earthly authorities with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as I obey Christ (Eph. 6:5)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

33. Serve wholeheartedly, as if serving the Lord, not men (Eph. 6:7)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

34. Treat all others with respect and fear. Not threatening them, since I know that He who is both their Master and mine is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him (Eph. 6:9)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

35. I am strong in the Lord and in His mighty power (Eph. 6:10)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

36. Daily I put on the full armor of God so that I can take my stand against the devil's schemes (Eph. 6:11)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

37. I put on the full armor of God each day, so that when evil comes, I am able to stand my ground, and after I have done everything, to stand (Eph. 6:13)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

38. I understand what it means to stand firm, with the belt of truth buckled around my waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place (Eph. 6:14)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

39. I understand what it means to take up the shield of faith, with which I can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one (Eph. 6:16)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

40. I understand what it means to put on the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph. 6:17)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

41. I understand what it means to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests; being alert and always praying for all the saints (Eph. 6:18)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

42. I give grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love (Eph. 6:24)

Weak 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 Strong

“Anything or anyone that violates your peace is usually not of God. The unsaved cannot have peace with God. And the redeemed (saved) can lose God’s peace if they violate His righteousness.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Based on your responses, commit yourself to understanding what God’s directive is in each of those areas you discovered were “weak”. Allow your mentor to assist you in this process.

# AN INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL LIFE STAGES



“SO I SAY, LIVE BY THE SPIRIT,  
AND YOU WILL NOT GRATIFY THE  
DESIRES OF THE SINFUL NATURE.”  
(GALATIANS 5:16)

For true discipleship to take place, we must invest our lives in the life of another just as a father and mother does with a newborn baby - this includes nurturing, equipping, and eventually releasing that person once they have come to maturity. They must be grounded in the faith until Christ is formed in them, and they must come to the understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. They must fully comprehend that they have a destiny apart from their own eternal rights with God - they are here to minister to God and for God.

Discipleship is one of five key purposes of God. Jesus modeled the process of discipleship with His disciples, and commands us to do the same. We learn in Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus’ final instruction called the Great Commission:

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Without trying, we model our values - we are what we believe. Parents in particular demonstrate to their children what they consider important and valuable. ‘Like father, like son’ is not just a well-worn cliché; it is a truth repeated in our homes. Experience proves that children often imitate the life-styles of their parents, repeating their successes and mistakes. Likewise, the preservation and transmission of the gospel as intended by God is from one person to another, without addition or alteration.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It must be understood that every Christian is in a continuing education program - it is a journey, a process. The more we know of Christ and His work, the more we can choose to “walk in the Spirit,” the more we will become like Him. This process is a lifelong journey - we must never stop learning and obeying. There is no justification for drifting along, but there is an incentive to find the rich treasures of growing in Him (see John 10:10).

*“and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” (Colossians 3:10)*

What does it mean to “put on the new self”? It means that our conduct should match our faith. Simply put, if you are a Christian, you should act like it. To be a Christian means more than just making good resolutions and having good intentions; it means taking the right actions. This is a straightforward step that is as simple as putting on your clothes.

*“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2)*

As Christians, we are called to “not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,” with its behavior and customs that are selfish and corrupting. We must go beyond the superficial level of external behavior modification. To be truly “renewed” we must “be transformed by the renewing of our minds.” It is possible to be a Christian for a lifetime, avoid most worldly customs and still be angry, proud, covetous, selfish, stubborn, and arrogant. It is only when we willingly surrender our will to the control of the Holy Spirit that He then can renew, reeducate, and redirect our minds. It is then that we can be truly transformed.

*“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” (Romans 8:5)*

Moment-by-moment we must consciously choose to center our lives on God. To continuously move forward through the various levels of spiritual maturity we must ask ourselves, “What would Jesus have me do?” It is precisely at that moment, when the Holy Spirit points out what is right, that we do it eagerly (Romans 6:6-8, Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:3-15; Galatians 5:16-25). It is then that we can discover God’s will.

“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”  
(Galatians 5:16)

As believers, we are to be led by the Holy Spirit. Being Holy Spirit-led involves our desire to hear, the readiness to obey God’s Word, and the sensitivity to discern between our subjective feelings and the Holy Spirit’s promptings. We are to live each moment controlled and guided by the Holy Spirit. It is then, through the disciplines of our faith, growing in Christ-likeness, that the words of Christ can be in our minds, the love of Christ behind our actions, and the power of Christ available to help curb and control our very selfish natures.

“We Are What We Think: “As a man thinks so he becomes. As he continues to think so he remains.”

**The maturing process includes these basic steps:**

- 1) Learning to stand (childhood stage where we learn our position in Christ);
- 2) Learning to walk (adulthood stage where we learn to practice what we’ve learned in Christ);
- 3) Learning to engage in battle (fatherhood where we teach others what we’ve learned in Christ - the process begins again with another believer).

True spiritual power comes only as we obey God’s Word, His Holy Spirit, and as we maintain right relationship with both God and man. Your conduct is the single most evidence of a transformed life.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Godly character is essential for growth. When we are born again, we are spiritual newborn babies. If we are healthy, we will desire to grow to become spiritual “fathers” or “mothers” in the faith. Once we see our need for God’s Word and begin to find nourishment in Christ, our spiritual appetite will increase, and we will begin to mature.

**True Spiritual Power & Authority Comes Only As We Maintain Right Relationships:**

- Godliness is living the way God wants us to (Ephesians 4:1; 5:1, 2; 5:18-20; 6:18-20).
- Our behavior - how we act especially when no one else is around - should be just like Jesus.
- A healthy, balanced life is both vertical (with God) and horizontal (with man).

Now that we’ve laid the biblical groundwork for discipleship, let’s find out where we are...

**“Where am I in my spiritual growth?”**

A passage we will use that will help evaluate where you are spiritually is found in 1 John 2:12-14:

*“I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”*

The apostle John divided spiritual growth into three stages: children, young men, and fathers. We also learn from the writer of Hebrews 5:11-14 that knowledge of God’s Word, our experiences, or time does not guarantee spiritual maturity. From the apostle John’s writings, we can identify where we are in our spiritual growth.

# 4 KEY CONCEPTS



“SO I SAY, LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, AND YOU WILL NOT GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE SINFUL NATURE. FOR THE SINFUL NATURE DESIRES WHAT IS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT, AND THE SPIRIT WHAT IS CONTRARY TO THE SINFUL NATURE. THEY ARE IN CONFLICT WITH EACH OTHER, SO THAT YOU DO NOT DO WHAT YOU WANT.” (GALATIANS 5:16, 17)

**1. The Christian life (spiritual) parallels the physical life (natural):**

- a. There are definite stages in life;
- b. Each stage of life in the Christian journey builds upon the other;
- c. Just as there are natural parents, there must be spiritual parents;
- d. Only through “growth” does a person pass from one stage to the next;
- e. When growth does not occur, it is a sign of a serious problem.

**2. There is a major difference between physical growth and spiritual growth:**

- a. Physical growth usually takes place with little to no effort on our part;
- b. Spiritual growth must be nurtured and overseen by more spiritually mature “fathers” or “mothers” who understand the process as being intentional, relational and that the process is 100 percent spiritual.

**3. From the mature writings of the apostle John we discover several truths (1 John 2:12-14):**

*“I write to you dear children...young men...fathers”*

- a. There are different stages in the Christian life not necessarily dependent upon chronological age. The apostle John provided three stages of spiritual maturity:

- Children (boys and girls in the faith - “childhood” those just entering the journey of faith).
- Young Men (young sons and daughters in the faith - “adulthood” those growing in the faith).
- Fathers (fathers and mothers in the faith - “parenthood” those who are spiritually mature).

- b. In each stage there are blessings to be enjoyed and instruction/virtues to be realized and learned.
- c. Children need to become young men or young women, and young men or young women need to become fathers or mothers.

**4. Spiritual Transformation:**

- a. Simply getting people to go to church regularly is not the answer to becoming a spiritually mature Christian.
- b. Spiritual transformation requires a more extensive investment in one’s ability to interpret all life situations in spiritual terms.

## LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Thinking about discipleship, what does it mean “like father, like son”? Why is it important to have a seasoned, mature “father or mother” in the faith discipling others? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you submitting to the control of the Holy Spirit in your daily walk with Jesus? Why or why not? Give some examples where you are failing to walk in the Spirit: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# SPIRITUAL LIFE/CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



“MAY THE LORD DIRECT YOUR  
HEARTS INTO GOD’S LOVE AND  
CHRIST’S PERSEVERANCE.” (2  
THESSALONIANS 3:5)

No one is perfectly perfect - each of us have weaknesses as well as strengths. The following Spiritual Life Stage Assessment is a tool that can help you determine where you are spiritually by using the qualifications that the apostle Paul provided for those in the final stages of spiritual maturity (qualifications for overseers). These are character qualities to which all Christians should aspire, but which should be modeled by those being considered for leadership and especially elders (at home or in the church). The cultural setting, size, age, and current understanding of God’s Word by the individual or the church will all have a bearing on what is or is not acceptable and level of adherence. It is not to be used as a “pass or fail” test.

As a tool, it is designed to help you realize where you are on your journey compared to Christ Jesus. It can also be used to assist in the selection of leadership in the church, to determine educational resources for ministry, and for strategic planning. These 22 immutable characteristics are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 and are the “measuring stick” for a believers speech, life, love, faith and purity. All believers should desire these virtues because they are consistent with what God says is true and right; these are the “end product” of a life lived in the fullness of God’s Holy Spirit.

## Instructions:

1. On a scale from 1 to 9 where 1 = weak and 9 = strong, circle the number that best represents how you view yourself in each area compared to Jesus, not someone else. Be honest and transparent.
2. Ask at least three others who know you best (mentor, pastor, spouse, a close friend, others in ministry, your oldest son or daughter if they are no longer in your home) to complete an evaluation about you, too. This helps promote accountability.
3. To allow for an honest evaluation, ask each person to complete an evaluation about you and have them anonymously forward their evaluation to a third party (your mentor or other spiritually mature person such as your pastor).
4. Your mentor or pastor should then tally all the responses, taking the overall average, and can then assist you in areas of needed growth.
5. Assessments should be held in the strictest of confidence and used only as a tool of identifying areas of needed growth and affirmation of strengths. It should be used to restore, build up and never, ever used as weapons against character.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am above reproach: I am someone marked by honesty and integrity in my approach to life, especially in dealing with people. I am trustworthy and careful to be perceived as such. I earn respect by how I conduct myself, but at the same time, I am not a victim of my insatiable desire for the approval of others. I am well thought of. I have a good reputation among people in general. I am not aware of anything that anyone could use as an accusation against me. I have forgiven any and all who have offended me and those I’ve offended. I do not know of any broken relationships in my life. I stand blameless before God and man. When I discover that I’ve hurt or offended someone, I deal with him or her immediately, openly, and humbly giving every indication of desiring to be a godly, righteous person, someone who is above reproach.

weak    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    strong

2. I am the husband of one wife: If married, I am a committed spouse to my partner. I am not flirtatious. I am committed to meeting the needs of my marriage partner physically, emotionally and spiritually. I enjoy my spouse’s company and speak tenderly and gently. I develop and maintain an atmosphere of encouragement and acceptance through continual affirmation. I love my spouse deeply and express that love in every possible way. My marriage exhibits the grace of God. I have one spouse (the opposite sex). I am not physically or mentally promiscuous. If single, I am not promiscuous and I am not overly attracted to the opposite sex, i.e., I am not a philanderer, not attracted to every guy or girl that walks down the street, not constantly eyeing the opposite sex. My physical and mental life is pure. (\*This quality does not exclude divorced, single or widowers, etc., but is designed to describe the quality of a person’s relationship with their spouse).

weak    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    strong

3. I am temperate: I am someone who is not carried away to extremes, but whose life is marked by balance and stability. I am not swayed by adulation nor crushed by criticism. I am not volatile but even-tempered. I am not carried away by power, title, or position. I am easily regenerated and refueled for ministry. I am a well-balanced, well-adjusted person who is not flighty or nervous, constantly jumping from one thing or project to another. I do not overdo anything in my life. My life is balanced. I am not excessive in any area of my life. My response to most of life’s situations would be considered by others to be average, normal, calm.

weak    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    strong

4. I am sensible: I am a prudent person whose judgment enables me to discern the effects of extremes. The foundation of the decision making process in my life is humility, a recognition of God's grace and a desire to be a good steward of what God has given. I have committed my position as subordinate to God's authority and my prudence is seen in my continuing commitment to make God look good and never myself. I show good judgment in my life and I have a proper perspective regarding my abilities and myself. I don't take myself too seriously. People see me as a humble person (that I know God is God and I am not). I am self-controlled; a kind of "inner peace" governs my life. My life is pretty much level and steady.

weak    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    strong

5. I am respectable: I am a person who lives so as to be respected by others. I have a well-ordered life which, when interfacing with others, attracts them rather than repels them. I am perceived as being winsome and my life adorns the Gospel; it does not detract from it. Because my life is ordered, it reflects that God is a God of order. As a respectable person, others find my being with them a joy and a blessing. I conduct my life, work, and ministry in an honorable way, and people have and show respect for me. My life is orderly and not helter-skelter. I am aware of what's going on around me and I am not overly moved by life's events and circumstances.

weak    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    strong

6. I am hospitable: I understand that what I enjoy in stewardship is really a gift from God and that my role is a custodian of His resources. I administer these resources given to me by God in such a way as to reflect the character of God. I use my home for the benefit of others to show God's love and display a freedom from the accursed love of possessing. I have come to terms with the difference between earthly possessions, which are temporary, and spiritual possessions, which are eternal. I use my home and resources as a place and opportunity to serve and minister to Christians and non-Christians. As the Holy Spirit leads, I open my home to strangers and to the people of the church.

weak    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    strong

7. I am able to teach: I have a teachable spirit, modeling God's truth in a humble and sensitive way. I am not quarrelsome but kind, patient and gentle, especially in correcting those who are in opposition. I am secure in Christ and secure in myself and in control of my personality (mind, will and emotions). I love God's Word and live by it and eager to help others understand the freedom of its principles. Others would say that I am an encourager, not a discourager. When I teach God's Word, I show an aptitude for handling the Scriptures with care and reasonable skill. I have a good understanding of the essential, foundational truths of God's Word. I am able to communicate the Scriptures to others in such a way that they "see" God and not me. I am able to gently and firmly correct those who are misusing God's Word and recognize error when it appears.

weak    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    strong

8. I am not addicted to wine: I understand that this quality has to do with inappropriate use more than a requirement to abstain from alcoholic beverages. I have learned to control my body and appetites so that I am not driven by any desires where excess would be perceived as improper behavior. I understand that any overindulgence could corrupt and cause another brother or sister to stumble in their walk of faith and as such, is always avoided because the welfare of the body of Christ is of higher importance than my personal freedoms. I am careful to encourage rather than discourage people in their walk with God. I am not addicted to alcohol or drugs of any kind. The Holy Spirit controls me - I am sober in my spirit. If I do drink alcoholic beverages or indulge in other legally acceptable but potentially addictive practices, I do so in moderation, never violating known, legal standards or God's commandments. I do not overindulge in anything. I fully understand that my body is not my own and is representative of the temple of God.

weak    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    strong

9. I am not violent: I know that physical violence will never mark a mature Christian. I understand that to be pugnacious is to exercise an uncontrolled personal vindictiveness toward another person, taking the form of physical attacks or even verbal or emotional abuse. I deal wisely with offences that might otherwise result in abusing the offender. I am in control of my own spirit. I am not someone who criticizes or attacks another person, family, business, or ministry either verbally or physically in any way. I am under control. I do not lose control to the point that I scream at another or strike another or cause harm to another person or their property. I do not resort to verbal, physical, emotional, intellectual, or spiritual abuse or violence. I do not engage in gossip or defame another person's character.

weak    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    strong

*"To go on to maturity in our understanding, we need to move beyond (but not away from) the elementary teachings to a more complete understanding of the faith."*

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



“BROTHERS, I COULD NOT ADDRESS YOU AS SPIRITUAL BUT AS WORLDLY - MERE INFANTS IN CHRIST.” (1 COR. 3:1)

10. I am gentle: Others regard me as mild-mannered, characterized by meekness, forbearance and a servant’s heart. I act and speak gently so that people are actually relaxed in my presence. I listen more than I speak. I am able to resolve problems without losing control of my emotions. I am not viewed as being authoritarian. I never retaliate when wronged. I have such a high view of other people that I would never abuse or take advantage of others. I am solution-oriented rather than problem-oriented. I am a kind, modest, patient person who does not insist on my rights. I am not someone who resorts to any form of violence (verbal, physical, emotional, spiritual).

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

11. I am not quarrelsome: I do not do or say anything that would destroy unity. I am more interested in achieving consensus than forcing my own way. I am not threatened by competition. I am willing to bend and compromise when necessary. I lead with a servant’s heart and do not resort to an authoritarian style of leadership. I am not stubborn insisting on my own point of view at all costs. I am not argumentative. I am not divisive. A spirit of competition does not drive me. I am someone who upholds peace.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

12. I am not a lover of money: I am free from the love of money; my priorities are straight. I seek first God’s kingdom and I see things as gifts from God. I am not devastated by the loss of things. I hold everything loosely and live by heavenly values. I have learned the meaning of contentment for, like Paul, I know how to be content in every circumstance. My happiness is not the result of material possessions. I am not allured by money. I have achieved a balance between excessive frugality and excessive spending. I do not see money as a status symbol. I do not find my security in money. I do not measure other people by material things or by external measurements; like God, I look at the heart. I am not lazy but a diligent worker realizing that even my employment is a gift from God. I believe God owns everything and that I am simply a manager of His resources. I do not try and keep “up with the Jones’”; my life-style is simple. There is no evidence of undue affluence in my life. I am not money-hungry. I do not hoard up money. I do not spend an inordinate amount of time and resource attempting to make a lot of money. I am not attracted to get-rich-quick schemes. I fully believe that God is my provider. I have no problem disclosing my finances with more spiritually mature believers. Others recognize me as a giver.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

13. I manage my family well: All the members of my family have a mutual respect and love for each other. My home is an expression of God’s love and peace. Because I understand that this text assumes that my children are still at home, it is not to be applied to my children who have launched out on their own. I understand that because each child has a will to choose my values or not, the real evidence is how these times are managed. I have created an environment of peace in my home. It is a place where life’s lessons are learned and the big decisions are made in the context of love. I fully understand that my children’s experience with me at home determines their view of God. Therefore my home reflects the character of God. I understand that this does not suggest that a spiritually mature person must have a family in order to qualify as a leader, but that it simply refers to how my household is managed under God. If married and with children at home, I have a well-managed family and home. My children are obedient and courteous in their responses, learning how to address life. I am a parent who does not avoid family problems, but I gently, lovingly address my family concerns. I do not run from problems or refuse to face them. I learn how to deal with problems, and discover how to work things out in love and grace. If single, my home is well managed, I address problems head-on, I am a good steward of God’s resources.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

14. I am not a recent convert: I have learned the full effect of pride and other sins of the heart and how to cope with them. I understand that pride includes a thirst for attention and recognition and that immature believers are more susceptible to this, especially in positions of leadership. I have been tested and proven morally and ethically through my life-style and the handling of relationships. I understand that learning and applying Biblical principles and heavenly wisdom takes time. I understand that some will do it more quickly than others. I do not depend upon my strength to bring forth success. I do not control others to get my way. I do not manipulate, intimidate, or dominate others in any way. I do not count upon my personality, my magnetism, my education, my finances or my intelligence to achieve what I think God wants. I fully believe and practice “that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God”. I have learned that God works with people of a humble and a contrite heart, who have learned not to exalt themselves. I am a servant to all, trusting in Christ.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

15. I have a good reputation: I have a good reputation with outsiders and within my community. My neighbors, coworkers, acquaintances outside the church, business owners - though perhaps lost people who may not agree with my spiritual convictions - still respect me as a person.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



16. I am not overbearing: I am not self-willed and I easily submit to legitimate authorities in my life. I am recognized as a team player. I readily admit when I am wrong, gladly forgive and hold other people in high esteem. I am more oriented toward others than myself. I practice an honest piety rather than a pretentious self-righteousness. I am secure in myself and do not have to continually validate or justify myself in the eyes of others. I am not stubborn, or arrogant. I am not domineering nor controlling. Others find it easy to discuss their opinions and seek my counsel because they realize I attempt to be impartial and fair.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

17. I am not quick tempered: I understand that anger can never achieve the righteousness of God. I am not a person easily threatened (hence insecure). I am not quick to retaliate, and never use anger to intimidate and control others (physically, verbally, emotionally, financially, etc.). I do not hold grudges against others and do not have a bitter spirit toward any person. I have learned to release to God feelings that cause anger. I choose not to be offended when wronged, and never seek revenge. I am not inclined toward anger (an angry person), and I do not easily lose my temper. I do not have sudden outbursts of anger when something does not go my way. Others in my home, work, business, or church would say that I am not given to sudden outbursts of anger.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

18. I am not pursuing dishonest gain: I do not earn my living by producing, distributing, or selling anything that clearly violates God's Word, His character, or will or legal authority. I am neither fond of nor involved in any wrongful practices that could result in fraudulent gain.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

19. I love what is good: Because I love God passionately and because God is good, I love what is good. I love the beauty of what God has made and what God has done. I enjoy His creation and am in awe of His plan of salvation. Because I love what is good I beautify my environment and am committed to making beautiful the inner person. I focus my every day on what is good. I love the things that honor God; I hate what God hates. I entirely agree with God's Word.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

20. I am upright: I am known as being fair in my dealings with people and am always concerned that others perceive me as fair. I am concerned about giving a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. I am concerned that each transaction in my life is fair to all concerned. I am respected and capable of making wise judgments and regarded as spiritually mature by those in my community.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

21. I am holy: I go through life with a moment-by-moment awareness of the presence of God. My life is marked by a love for God that embraces each activity in life through Kingdom lenses. I am always sensitive to sin and avoid unholy behavior, while at the same time I enjoy being salt and light in the world. I know that it is possible to be in the world without being part of it. I walk through this world as though it were the temple of God. I carefully abstain from any and all things that could cause harm to my body, mind, or spirit. I fully believe and practice moderation in all things knowing that my life and body is not mine, but belongs to God. I live a disciplined life. I am a devout person. My life is generally pleasing to God. I walk in the Spirit with the demonstrated evidence that my life is servant-like and selfless (John 13:34, 35). The degree to which I've allowed the Holy Spirit to control my life is measurable by an ever-increasing depth of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22, 23).

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

22. I hold firmly to the faith: I understand, hold to, and attempt to conserve God's truth. I also encourage others while refuting those who oppose the truth. Because I know God's love (vertical), I express that love to others (horizontal). My commitment is to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. I know that the pattern for the preservation and the transmission of the Gospel is to make disciples. I am either being disciplined or I am discipling others, teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded, until Christ is fully formed in them.

weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 strong

“Jesus was the first Spirit-filled believer. He became the very Word of God. He trained for ministry for 30 years, the Holy Spirit came upon Him, and then He began His ministry for a period of just over three years.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# YOUR PERSONAL INVENTORY



“FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES, AGAINST THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD AND AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS.” (EPHESIANS 6:12)

Now that you’ve completed your spiritual assessment and have received at least two other evaluations from those closest to you, tally each assessment and take the average of all three.

1. Average assessment rating: \_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_ / 3 = \_\_\_\_  
Overall Avg. Assessment Rating

2. Use the following assessment rating to discover which spiritual stage you are in:

**Assessment:**

(22 - 87: Child in the faith - the key areas of growth needed are in the areas of understanding your position in Christ (chosen, blameless, adopted, accepted, forgiven, predestined, and sealed with the Holy Spirit {Eph. 1} as well as foundational essentials of our faith {Heb. 6}).

(88 - 153: Young Adult in the faith - at this stage you should be actively engaged in ministry of some kind; you have learned how to be strong and defeat the enemy; you have learned that God is in control and have relinquished control to Him; walking more in the fullness of the Holy Spirit).

(154 - 198: Adult in the faith - you sincerely desire to be like Jesus; to do what Jesus did; daily, you are being conformed to His likeness; He is your focus and your bread for life; mostly walking in the Spirit; you are reproducing the life of Christ in others).

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

With this understanding, we can now begin moving forward building upon biblical foundations. Remember, there is no condemnation. If you uncovered areas where you and others indicate areas needed for growth, you are not alone. As said, the Christian faith is a journey and we all are in a continuous education process! These are opportunities for growth, not failure.

Let’s move on to the next section where you’ll discover the three spiritual life stages and practical instruction, guidance, and application opportunity...

# I. CHILDHOOD

*"I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name." (1 John 2:12)*

## A. The Stage In Which Christians Are Spiritual "Boys and Girls"

1. Those who are new Christians, or immature Christians, are often times referred to as "babes in Christ". This is not a negative term for EVERY Christian has been in this stage. The point is that no Christian should remain in this stage. Regardless of chronological age, these "boys and girls" in the faith are learning about Christ and are just beginning their spiritual journey. As spiritual children learn about Christ, they grow in their ability to win battles with temptation.

*"We must remember that gifts of the Holy Spirit are what God does; the fruit of the Holy Spirit is who He is - both are needed in balance for us to become all God desires of us."*

2. This can be a difficult time for both you and your mentor because:

a. Though saved, a "child" in the faith lives much like an unregenerate person, is childish, and is evidenced by a selfish, jealous and divisive spirit. Newborns are very much "worldly," controlled by their own desires:

*"Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ." (1 Cor. 3:1)*

Spiritual children are not yet spiritually healthy and mature. The evidence of infancy is:

- Quarrelsome, divisive, competitive, self-centered;
- Worldly attitudes, words, or behavior (controlled by their own desires);
- Not in tune with God's desires;
- Led by natural response (subjective feelings) more than the Holy Spirit.

b. Can be a source of anxiety for those trying to lead them along:

*"My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you," (Gal. 4:19)*

The apostle Paul led many people to Christ and helped them mature spiritually. Perhaps one reason for his success as a spiritual father was the deep concern he felt for his spiritual children; he compared his pain over their faithlessness to the pain of childbirth. We should have the same intense care for those to whom we are spiritual parents. Just as is true in the birth, growth and release of natural children, spiritual dads and moms are to stand by their spiritual children throughout life until Christ Jesus is fully formed in them.

c. Characteristics of those in spiritual childhood. These are the areas we will begin to address in later sections:

- Marginal desire for God's Word (very little Bible knowledge);
- Walks in the flesh; does not know the difference between walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit;
- Few works of faith, i.e., no evidence of being filled with God's love to serve others, giving, etc.;
- Easily swayed or deceived by false doctrines;
- Stuck in the basics - no growth;
- Limited desire for fellowship with other believers; would rather pursue "worldly" activities;
- Strong desire for worldly possessions; selfish ambitions; spirit of competition;
- Difficulty in repenting/forgiving others;
- Lacking compassion for the lost;
- Not actively assisting in the spiritual development of others;
- Limited sense of God, His character or His will;
- Life filled with fear, anxiety, absence of peace;
- Often covetous, boastful, prideful, manipulative, etc.;
- Ongoing financial difficulties; living far beyond means; out of balance debt;
- Seekers of pleasure;
- Lives marked by lack of discipline (physically, mentally, and spiritually);
- Partial victory over sin;
- Nonexistent or lackluster prayer life;
- Little or no time or sincere interest in worship;
- Not accountable to anyone for anything;
- Small degree of grace and mercy toward others or self.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Needs to focus on the “milk” of the Word:

*“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.” (Hebrews 5:12, 13)*

In order to grow from infant Christians to mature Christians, we must learn discernment. We must train our consciences, our senses, our minds, and our bodies to distinguish good from evil. The most important lesson at this point in your spiritual development is to understand your position in Christ - you are forgiven. Mentors, you should be teaching your student how they can begin to recognize temptation before it entraps them as well as being able to discern between a correct use of Scripture and a false one.



“I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN JUST ONE THING FROM YOU: DID YOU RECEIVE THE SPIRIT BY OBSERVING THE LAW, OR BY BELIEVING WHAT YOU HEARD? ARE YOU SO FOOLISH? AFTER BEGINNING WITH THE SPIRIT, ARE YOU NOW TRYING TO ATTAIN YOUR GOAL BY HUMAN EFFORT?” (GALATIANS 3:2, 3)

**B. Nurturing & Encouragement:**

1. Because their sins have been forgiven in Christ.

*“I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.” (1 John 2:12)*

- a. Forgiveness is not based upon maturity or perfection.
- b. Forgiveness is based upon the blood of Jesus, and upon our willingness as Christians to confess our sins:

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Confession frees us to enjoy fellowship with Christ. It eases our consciences and lightens our cares. Most Christians at this stage have not learned how this works. They feel so “guilty” that they confess the same sins over and over; then they wonder if they might have forgotten something. Other new Christians believe that God forgives them when they confess, but if they died with unconfessed sins, they would be forever lost. These new believers do not understand that God wants to forgive us. He allowed Jesus to die just so He could offer us pardon. They must be instructed that when we come to Christ, He forgives all the sins we have committed or will ever commit. They must understand that we don’t need to confess the sins of the past all over again, and we don’t need to fear that God will reject us if we don’t keep our “slate” perfectly clean. They must be assured that we should continue to confess our sins, but not because failure to do so will make us lose our salvation. They must fully realize that their relationship with Christ is secure. These should know that confession provides for maximum fellowship and joy with God and man.

True confession also involves a commitment not to continue in sin. We wouldn’t be genuinely confessing our sins to God if we planned to commit them again and just wanted temporary forgiveness. We should also pray for strength to defeat temptation the next time we face it.

If God has forgiven us for our sins because of Christ’s death, why must we confess our sins? In admitting our sins and receiving Christ’s cleansing, we are:

- 1) Coming into agreement with God that our sin truly is sin and that we are willing to turn from it;
- 2) Making sure that we don’t conceal our sins from Him and consequently from ourselves, and;
- 3) Recognizing that our tendency is to sin that we are truly dependent upon God and His power to overcome it.

2. Because they have “known the Father”

*“...I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.” (1 John 2:13)*

a. They have fellowship with the Father, which is John’s definition of “eternal life”:

*“For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17:2,3)*

- Knowing God the Father Himself is realized through a living relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Eternal life requires entering into a personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- Christ’s love lives in us by the Holy Spirit.

b. They may be “babes”, but they have “eternal life” in Christ:  
*“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:11,12)*

- Whoever believes in God’s Son has eternal life.
- Eternal life is not something to wait for; it begins the moment you believe.
- Don’t work for eternal life, it is already received.
- Don’t fret and worry about your salvation; you have been given eternal life by God Himself - it is guaranteed.

c. John wants “children” in the faith to continue to believe:

*“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)*

It is in this stage that a “babe in Christ” should receive from a more spiritually mature father or mother in the faith:

- Instructional nurturing/feeding upon the milk of the Word;
- An understanding and use of the cleansing power of the blood of Christ;
- Remaining in fellowship with the Father and sharing in “eternal life”.

“If you’ve received Jesus as your Lord, Master and Savior, you have the Holy Spirit and are saved, forgiven, and cleansed.”

### LIFE APPLICATION:

It is necessary that believers in this stage be taught and become thoroughly grounded in sound Biblical doctrine and that they learn that all teaching must be tested by God’s inerrant, infallible Word. It must be understood that a person’s character, behavior and future are all shaped by what a person believes to be truth (review Acts 2:42; 5:28; 13:12; 17:19). They must understand that they have been forgiven and are accepted by God.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Forgiveness:

1. Do you really believe that you have been forgiven by God for all your sins? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you experiencing a deep level of intimacy and joy with God that comes from walking blamelessly in forgiveness as you confess your sins to Him?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you quickly forgiving others? Are you holding any kind of offense or grudge against anyone? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there anyone whom you are not forgiving fully and openly? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Is there anything from your past which you think about often and which you have difficulty forgiving yourself for? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# FORGIVENESS: REPENTANCE, RESTITUTION & RESTORATION - THE 3RS



“BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL. AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW.” (GALATIANS 5:22, 23)

As believers we are called to a daily walk of victorious and freedom-filled living in Christ Jesus. Why is it then that so many of us live seemingly powerless and stagnant spiritual lives? One reason is that our enemy, Satan, stands constantly before the throne accusing us of our sins (Rev. 12:10). These are sins that are under the blood of Christ and are forgiven. Why is it that we bow down to the enemy’s constant accusation (intimidation/ domination/ manipulation) or under our own self-condemnation? In this portion of our course, we’ll explore ten steps that will help you discover spiritual freedom and an abundant life of intimacy with Christ Jesus.

## Three Reasons Why Satan Is Successful:

1. We Are Not Able To RECEIVE Forgiveness And Cleansing Through The Blood Of Jesus. Many times and for various reasons we take our sins to God and know we’re forgiven, yet, we continue to feel “guilty”. The truth is that it’s not enough for us to be forgiven if we still feel guilty. As a result, if we still feel guilty (this is not really guilt, but conviction), we can’t enjoy the truth of Romans 8:1:

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

Because of this “condemnation” we don’t feel reconciled to God and we can’t effectively minister to others (read 2 Cor. 5:18).

2. We Are Not Aware Of What God Has Done For Us Through Jesus. Satan is happy to keep us in the dark about God’s truth. To be forgiven but not know about it greatly limits our potential:

*Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).*

Let’s pay close attention to what Jesus taught here - He did not say that the truth will set you free...it is KNOWING the truth that sets you free. If we don’t really know and experience the following truths, we are easy prey for our enemy’s tactics. Instead of enjoying a personal relationship with God, we will spend our time continually questioning the validity and sincerity of the relationship. So, to experience freedom from Satan’s lies, we must KNOW that:

- a. God forgives our sin(s) and cleanses us (read Psalm 103:3; 1 John 1:9)*
- b. God removes our sin(s) and redeems us (read Is. 44:22).*
- c. God forgets our sin(s) and buries our sins in the depths of the sea (read Jer. 31:34; Mic. 7:19).*

Let’s review the great truths of what Jesus has done:

- a. He took our sins on Himself (read Is. 53:6).  
God wants to forgive our sins, but because He is just, righteous and holy, He cannot forgive sin unless the penalty for sin is paid. Jesus took our place. The Bible tells us that Jesus took our sins in his own body on the cross (read 1 Peter 2:24). He became the atoning sacrifice for our sins and all the sins of the whole world (read 1 John 2:2). Father God made Jesus His Son who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (read 2 Cor. 5:21).
- b. He covered our sins with His blood (read Ps. 85:2).  
He blotted out our sins (read Is. 43:25a) - to Him, it is as if we had never sinned! He forgets our sins “and remembers our sins no more” (read Is. 43:25b; Jer. 31:34). When it comes to our forgiven sins, God is graciously forgetful.
- c. He cleanses us from all unrighteousness (read 1 John 1:9).

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Regardless of what you've done, there is no sin too big for God to forgive. He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west. He buries them in the depths of the sea (read Ps. 103:12; Micah 7:18,19). Forgiveness is made available by God on the grounds of Christ's death; it's not something you earn. All you have to do is believe that God has forgiven you and simply rejoice - Jesus paid it all!

3. We Have Never Fully Declared Our Independence From Satan's Kingdom Of Darkness And Our Dependence On God's Kingdom. If you've received Jesus as your Lord, Master and Savior, you have the Holy Spirit and are saved, forgiven, and cleansed. However, most of us have never specifically broken off our old relationship with our previous life-style which was apart from God's Kingdom. Many of us decide that our old life is no longer what we want, we choose Christ, but we don't close the door of our old life-style. It's easy to forget that our enemy is an outlaw and he'll do anything to ruin our intimacy with God. It's also easy to forget that Satan is a liar and his single largest strategy is to keep us blinded to the truth (deception). The following 10-Steps to Biblical Restoration will greatly increase your intimacy with God.

"The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the spontaneous work of the Holy Spirit in us. The Spirit produces these character traits that are found in the nature of Christ. They are the by-products of Christ's control - we can't obtain them by trying to get them without His help any more than we can become a car by sitting in a garage."

### ACTION ITEM:

You'll need about 90 minutes of uninterrupted time in a place where you can speak out loud in a private place (your mentor should be present). You'll may also need additional paper if necessary.

#### Step One:

List the generational sins of your family. Basically, these are the sins of your father and mother, their fathers and mothers, etc. Here you'll want to include their participation in cults, the occult or ungodliness of any sort. The enemy often extends unholy ties from one generation to the next.

*The Bible says, "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and upon the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." (Ex. 34:7)*

The word "iniquity" suggests the idea of us being predisposed or our leaning toward a certain direction. The outcome of our forefather's "iniquity" may include such tendencies as: attitudes, actions, and/or addictions. The Bible teaches, "As a man thinks, so he becomes." All of this stems from the fact that we don't wholly present ourselves as "living, holy, acceptable sacrifices to God as our reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1, 2). Instead, we have been conformed to the world's image (Satan's kingdom) and have not been transformed or renewed in our minds toward God's image (God's Kingdom). Some family sins are very obvious. Some are not. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything He wants you to renounce. You'll want to consider things you may have acquired through your family such as:

- Attitudes: for example, fear, anger, rage, rebellion, lust, sickness, disease, demonic oppression, etc.
- Actions: for example, an ongoing lack of obedience to do God's will, living in isolation, remaining unfruitful in your ministry, sudden outbursts of anger, ongoing resistance toward recognized authority, ongoing sexual perversion (adultery, fornication, masturbation, hidden lusts directed toward the same or opposite sex, pornography, etc.), ongoing physical problems (heart trouble, high blood pressure, cancer, etc.), spiritual weaknesses, emotional weaknesses, demonic bondage, familiar spirits, etc.
- Addictions: for example, alcoholism (substance abuse) or anything that you simply believe you must have or do to make it through the day.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Sins: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



“THEREFORE CONFESS YOUR SINS TO EACH OTHER AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER SO THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED. THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE.” (JAMES 5:16)

**Step Two:**

List areas of unforgiveness.

List any person(s) living or dead that you have unforgiveness, hatred, resentment, or bitterness toward. Jesus taught that refusing to forgive someone for something they have done to us prevents God from forgiving us.

*(Jesus) said, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt. 6:14-15).*

Unforgiveness Sins: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Step Three:**

List any personal involvement in the occult, a cult or false religion or those your family has been involved in.

This includes such things as Ouija boards, fortune telling, horoscopes (astrology), seances, witchcraft, satanism, eastern religions, demonic video games, Mormonism, Unitarianism, Freemasonry, Buddhism, Unity, Jehovah’s Witnesses, New Age, etc.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Occult/Cult Sins: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Step Four:**

List other sins you have committed.

It is true that when God saved you, He forgave your sins. This list is not about guilt. The blood of Jesus took care of that once and for all! Instead, this list is about false guilt coming from self-condemnation and satanic accusation. Don’t put much thought in the degree of the sin or the age you were when you sinned. Allow the Holy Spirit to bring to your attention the offenses. Don’t rush this very important step! This list may be lengthy.

Other Sins: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Step Five:**

Confess the truth about these sins.

Starting with the first list and continuing through lists two, three and four, confess OUT LOUD the truth about each sin. The Bible teaches that each of us can come boldly into God’s presence and that He is faithful and righteous to forgive us. Still, there are times when some of us need the assurance of someone else to agree with us as we confess sin and receive forgiveness from these sins. In the case of family sins, agree with God that your relative committed (or may have committed) the sin. Regarding your own sins, agree with God that you committed them. Confess them individually. Receive His cleansing by praying OUT LOUD with your mentor present something like:

*“Father, (name each sin) is a sin. I confess it to You here and now. Thank You for forgiving me from this sin. I accept Your forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ.”*



**Step Six:**

Break "covenant" with our enemy.

As Jesus spoke ALOUD to Satan in the wilderness in Matthew 4, you speak ALOUD to the spirits of darkness and break any "covenants" you may have made with them (this is basically "giving ground" to the enemy, in other words, these are areas which you've left the door of your heart open and our enemy has come and gone as he desires). In the case of family sin, break any generational or soul ties that exist between you and your forefathers. Say OUT LOUD with your mentor present something like:

*"Spirits of darkness, I break any agreement, contract, or covenant promise with you and take back ground I may have given to you in (name of the sin). I have been forgiven, and I am cleansed of this sin. Today I am freed from your power and your condemnation by the blood of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name you no longer have any rights to my life!"*

"The life of the New Testament Church is intended to be blessed by the presence of the gift of prophecy (speaking forth the mind and counsel of God)."

It's equally important to also ask forgiveness from the one against whom you have sinned. Take great care in not hurting an innocent person with your confession. God requires us to make restitution for sins we have committed, things we have stolen and legal debts we have refused to pay.

I Will Go To And Ask Forgiveness List: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I Will Go To And Make Restitution List: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I Will Go To And Pay Legal Debts I Owe To List: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When I discovered and went through this process, my wife and I went through our entire home and discarded any and all personal possessions that had anything tied to our past lives of sin. For example, we gathered anything and everything in our home that reminded us of our "old life" and tossed it all in the trash. Things like albums or cassettes or CDs, demonic video games, pornography, or other possessions that were related to sin were gathered and discarded. As God's Holy Spirit instructs, go through all your belongings including gifts you've received such as photographs, love letters, diary, and journal accounts - anything tied to past sins. In the same way, ask the Lord to show you what possessions you should discard or destroy. There may be items that you do not want others to see or have. In those instances, you might want to burn them. Don't throw away or give away to anyone else anything that might hinder their relationship with God.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Step Seven:**

Surrender everything in your possession to Christ.

The Apostle Paul described himself as, "having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (2 Cor. 6:10). Make a list of all of your possessions, including things like your house, furniture, investments, savings, car, spouse, children, business, work, everything. Then go through this list one item at a time and transfer the right of ownership of everything to God. Pray OUT LOUD something like:

*"Lord, from this day forth (name the item or person) belongs to You. Forgive me for not surrendering all that I have been given and all that I am to you. Do with it (them) whatever brings You the greatest glory and honor. All I am and all I have belongs to You. Glorify Yourself in and through me."*



“BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS FORMED AT GOD’S COMMAND, SO THAT WHAT IS SEEN WAS NOT MADE OUT OF WHAT WAS VISIBLE.” (HEBREWS 11:3)

Personal Possession List: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Step Eight:**

Surrender your position to Jesus. All of us have various roles or positions we fill in life - husband or wife, father or mother, son or daughter, brother or sister, aunt or uncle, employer or employee, neighbor, church member, minister, etc. List the positions that apply to your life. Now give Jesus every position you’ve held.

*The Apostle Paul wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Gal. 2:20).*

We are crucified or “dead” with Christ. “Dead” people don’t have possessions or positions! OUT LOUD, say something like:

*“Lord, You be (name the position) in my place. I have tried long enough to fill this position. From this moment on I choose to let You do so. In the future, when there is an action to take, a decision to make, or a word to speak, You do it. Jesus, live Your life through me.”*

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Position List: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Step Nine:**

Confess the Lordship Of Jesus. Finally, as you walk in obedience to the Lord and in the forgiveness of your sins, make this three-part confession on a daily basis:

- *I am crucified with Christ.*
- *Jesus is Lord of my life.*
- *I am filled with the Holy Spirit.*

**Step Ten:**

Once you’ve completed all these steps, take a big marker and mark through each sin as a symbol of Jesus’ blotting out your sin.

Once you’ve gone through your lists, receiving forgiveness and proclaiming your freedom, go back and mark through each sin. When you finish, rest assured and know that God has totally removed your sins. From this moment forward, take any sin you may commit (we all sin) or any accusation that comes from Satan (he will continue to accuse you) and quickly go through this same process. By doing this, Satan’s efforts to unseat you will actually serve to drive you to the Cross of Jesus. Satan’s accusations will become the very tool leading you to freedom and forgiveness and abundant life.

The following are the elementary basics of getting to know God we'll cover in the next section. Review each and let's move on to the next section:

- Repentance from dead works: what this means practically
- Faith toward God: what this means practically
- Baptisms: what this means practically
- Laying on of hands: what this means practically
- Resurrection from the Dead: what this means practically
- Eternal Judgement: what this means practically
- Perfection: what this means practically

“We walk by faith not by sight. Sometimes we speak to our circumstances. Sometimes our circumstances speak to us.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH: AN OVERVIEW



“FOLLOW THE WAY OF LOVE AND  
EAGERLY DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS,  
ESPECIALLY THE GIFT OF PROPHECY.”  
(1 CORINTHIANS 14:1)

In his letter to the church at Ephesus, the apostle Paul affirms the position of the believer - the glorious fact that those who are in Christ Jesus have been showered with God’s kindness, chosen for greatness, marked with the Holy Spirit, filled with the Spirit’s power, freed from sin’s curse and bondage, and brought near to God. As part of God’s ‘household,’ we stand with the prophets, apostles, Jews, Gentiles, and Christ Himself (Ephesians 2:19 - 3:13).

We now have peace with God. Peace with God means that you have been reconciled with Him. There is no more hostility between you and God, no sin blocking your relationship with Him. Peace with God is possible only because Jesus paid the price for your sins through His death on the cross.

As Christians, we must always keep in mind the two-sided reality of the Christian journey. On the one hand, we are complete in Christ (our acceptance with Him is secure). On the other hand, we are continuously growing in Christ (we are becoming more and more like Him). You will feel both the presence of the Holy Spirit and the pressure of sin. You will enjoy the peace that comes from being made right with God, but you will still face daily problems that are approved by God and serve to help you grow in spiritual maturity. If you remember these two sides of the Christian life, you will not grow discouraged as you face temptations and problems. Instead, you can learn to depend on the power available to you from Christ, who lives in you by the Holy Spirit.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Overview**  
“Foundations Of Faith” is an important study for new believers (those in “childhood”) or those in the latter stages of spiritual maturity who need a refresher course. It provides a Biblical basis of the basic doctrines of Jesus so that you can go on to spiritual maturity (Hebrews 6:1-3).

*“Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrines of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, with instruction about ablutions, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.” (Heb 6:1-3)*

The writer of Hebrews urges people to graduate from milk to meat, from an immature diet to solid food, for, he says, it is this that is the mark of maturity. “Solid food is for the mature.”

Maturity is produced by practice. “Those who have their faculties trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.” It is produced by acting on what you believe, stepping out upon it, and putting it into practice.

**Elementary Teachings**  
The basic doctrines of the Christian faith are the subject of this next portion of our study. Doctrines are a collection of teachings on a certain subject. The basic doctrines of the Christian faith are the teachings of Jesus Christ recorded in the Bible.

The basic, elementary teachings of our faith are presented in the Bible in the book of Hebrews:

*“Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrines of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, with instruction about ablutions, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.” (Heb 6:1-3)*

The foundational doctrines of Hebrews 6:1-3 we will review are:

- Unit One: Building According To Code
- Unit Two: Repentance from dead works
- Unit Three: Faith toward God
- Unit Four: Doctrine of baptisms
- Unit Five: Laying on of hands
- Unit Six: Resurrection of the dead
- Unit Seven: Eternal judgment

Unit One: Foundations

The author of Hebrews (most likely the apostle Paul) mentions several foundation-principles. Just as is true of any good foundation, these must be established first, and then built upon. Once these foundational principles are laid, we should continue building, not forgetting what has already been established.

Unit Two: Repentance From Dead Works

Repentance from dead works deals with conversion and regeneration; repentance from a spiritually dead state and course. We are to take care that we do not return to sin again.

Unit Three: Faith Toward God

Faith toward God embraces the existence of God, His nature, attributes, and perfections, the trinity of persons in the unity of essence, the whole mind and will of God as revealed in His Word, particularly what relates to the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance from dead works and faith toward God are connected.

Unit Four: The Doctrine Of Baptisms

The doctrine of baptisms is that of being baptized by a minister of Christ with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. It is the initial sign or seal of the covenant of grace. It is the symbol, just as a wedding ring is in marriage, that a person is in covenant and will adhere to that covenant. This also includes the doctrine of an inward baptism, that of the Holy Spirit sprinkling the blood of Christ upon our souls for justification as well as the graces of the Holy Spirit for our sanctification.

Unit Five: Laying On Of Hands

Laying on of hands is simply confirmation; whether those initiating baptism or the ordination of those into ministry.

Unit Six: The Resurrection Of The Dead

The resurrection of the dead deals with the reunion of dead bodies with their souls.

Unit Seven: Eternal Judgment

Eternal judgment deals with the eternal states; the wicked to everlasting punishment, the righteous to life eternal.

“The main purpose of prophecy is to communicate God’s message to people, providing insight, warning, correction, and encouragement.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## FOUNDATIONS: ESSENTIAL OF OUR FAITH

**The entire Foundations Workbook can be ordered at: [CoreDiscipleship.com](http://CoreDiscipleship.com)**

# A NEW TESTAMENT BASED METHOD AND MODEL FOR DISCIPLESHIP



“DO YOUR BEST TO PRESENT YOURSELF TO GOD AS ONE APPROVED, A WORKMAN WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED AND WHO CORRECTLY HANDLES THE WORD OF TRUTH.” (2 TIMOTHY 2:15)

The great commission has two parts. The first is for us to go and make disciples. The second is of no less significance, but is often times set aside to secondary importance if used at all. It is to teach people (apprentice disciples) to obey. There cannot be a disciple without this training. And there cannot be training without accountability. The primary objective of the believer today as outlined by Jesus is for disciples of Jesus to develop other men and women into disciples. We must understand that God is never concerned about the size of a group. Size has nothing to do with success. Success is always based on a relationship that produces lasting fruit.

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19,20)*

The Great Commission maintains one imperative and that is to “make disciples.” The other action verbs are all subordinate to this main idea to make disciples. Jesus tells us, “Having gone, make disciples by baptizing and by teaching.” He tells us what is involved in making disciples. The main idea in this passage is to make disciples, not friends for Jesus, not fans, not to develop a large following, because Jesus says there will never be many who will follow. To follow involves a cross, and a cross means cutting off our own goals and purposes, the things for which we live, and settling once and for all the issue in our life that Jesus Christ is going to be Lord of our lives, and we are going to serve Him.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What follows is an overview of the current discipleship process found in many churches today with one major addition. This one addition can greatly enhance your discipleship efforts, increase the depth and quality of leadership, and provides for a safe and caring environment for those to whom you are discipling. This biblical process provides for the establishment of new converts in the faith, the equipping (preparing, repairing, repentance, restitution, restoration, restoring to Kingdom dynamics, and releasing) of disciples for ministry, the enlistment of all to follow Jesus’ plan for discipleship, and the expansion of the kingdom of God throughout the world.

*“As such, when you lead people to Christ, you must have a process in place to stand by them to help them grow until Christ is fully formed in them.” (Galatians 4:19)*

As Christians, we are called to a lifelong process of growth in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus called this process being His disciples. Though Jesus ministered to the multitudes on many occasions, He spent the majority of His time with a smaller group of 12, and especially one-on-one, one-on-two, and one-on-three. This last group became the inner or “core group.” There is no greater privilege than to participate willingly and joyfully in His plan and process. This endeavor, which is called discipleship, is part of the biblically shaped fivefold purpose of the Church (worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, and ministry).

The directive of Christ’s call to discipleship is threefold - it is intentional, relational and spiritual. If we are to follow the New Testament model of discipleship, we should review our discipleship efforts so that we can provide more effective discipleship opportunities for all the members of our church family. What follows is a proven and practical process which has produced disciples into the fourth generation and one in which not only offers an overview, but provides the why, what, and when of the discipleship model.

**A New Testament Discipleship Model:**

God's plan includes our bringing others into spiritual maturity. We are to present others perfect in Christ Jesus. The word perfect does not mean flawless; it means mature or complete. Like the apostle Paul, we must work wholeheartedly toward helping others become spiritually mature. If we consistently follow God's plan for discipleship, the church will expand exponentially as well-taught believers would teach others and commission them, in turn, to teach still others. Disciples must be equipped to pass on their faith; our work is not done until new believers are able to make disciples of others (see Ephesians 4:12, 13).

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19,20)*

*" We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ." (Colossians 1:28)*

*" And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2:2)*

*"God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love - like Christ in everything." (Ephesians 4:15a, The Message).*

*"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." (John 8:31).*

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30).*

"Once you get into the joy of prayer, things begin to happen. There's something about opening ourselves to God that changes the way we look at the world and each other. It's harder for me to be mean to someone when I remember that God actually watches and hears everything I say."

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus has invited us to come and be His disciples; to follow Him and become more like Him. His joy is overwhelming as we take on discipleship according to His plan and as we do so in a joyously intentional way (Matthew 9:9, Romans 8:29).

We must realize that true spiritual maturity (power and authority) comes only as we maintain right relationships:

- Godliness is living the way God wants us to (Review Ephesians 4:1; 5:1, 2; 5:18-20; 6:18-20).
- Our behavior - how we act especially when no one else is around - should be just like Jesus.
- A healthy, balanced life is both vertical (with God) and horizontal (with man).

1. The Christian life (spiritual) parallels the physical life (natural):

- There are definite stages in life;
- Each stage of life in the Christian journey builds upon the other;
- Just as there are natural parents, there must be spiritual parents;
- Only through "growth" does a person pass from one stage to the next;
- When growth does not occur, it is a sign of a serious problem.

2. There is a major difference between physical growth and spiritual growth:

- Physical growth - usually takes place with little to no effort on our part;
- Spiritual growth - must be nurtured and overseen by more spiritually mature "fathers and mothers" who understand the process as being intentional, relational and that the process is 100 percent spiritual.

3. From the mature writings of the apostle John we discover several truths (1 John 2:12-14):

*"I write to you dear children...young men...fathers"*

- There are three different stages with various shades within each stage in the Christian life which are not necessarily dependent upon chronological age - childhood, adulthood, and parenthood;
- In each stage there are blessings to be enjoyed and instruction/virtues to be realized and learned;
- Children need to become young men or young women, and young men or young women need to become fathers or mothers.

We should adhere to God's New Testament discipleship model so that we can be pleasing to God. That attempt to build according to code is captured

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

in the following threefold purpose statement:

- A desire to provide the opportunity for more children to have quality Bible study and deeper worship experiences, to begin and develop a living relationship with Jesus Christ and to begin to understand that Christ’s love lives in them by and through the Holy Spirit.
- A desire to provide the opportunity for more youth to have meaningful time in God’s Word, develop and increase relational development within the context of a smaller group setting; learn to become less influenced by self desires and learn to place an ever increasing measure of value in the well being of others; become more desirous of allowing God’s plans to be realized rather than self goals; becoming more led and controlled by the Holy Spirit as opposed to fleshly desires.
- A desire to provide adults with biblically based scriptural and relational development opportunities in smaller group settings; provide opportunities to continue growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and to encourage, equip, and release spiritually mature believers into an ongoing discipleship role.



“HE PREDESTINED US TO BE ADOPTED AS HIS SONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS PLEASURE AND WILL” (EPHESIANS 1:5)

**The key components of the New Testament Discipleship Model - A Cord Of Three Strands:**

The apostle John addressed three levels of spiritual maturity – three stages of growth. Likewise, the following 3-Strand discipleship model is an enhancement to current programs and processes. Most churches have done well with “corporate” Sunday gatherings. A great number have integrated some form of small groups into their church life. Level three, however, is largely absent and is necessary for true discipleship to take place. It is within this third strand, termed “Core Groups” that:

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Discipleship can be greatly accelerated;
- A discipleship ministry can be developed that will continue to multiply itself through many spiritual generations;
- Provide a process for the discipling of a new convert and helps to establish him/her in the basics of the faith, and helps him/her develop and grow in their knowledge of God, forgiveness, ministry, and spiritual warfare.

**1. Strand One (for Jesus this was the “multitudes”): Corporate Worship/Gathering**

• Each corporate meeting held in the church building should be aimed at the instruction, training, or worship of Christians together. Entire classes or Sunday schools should be designed to equip the saints, of all ages, to do the work of the ministry and to bring them into Christ-like maturity. The work of expounding and applying the Scriptures should begin with the pulpit and continue in every class, in every gathering, and in the homes (or class rooms) of Christians. Emphasis should be laid upon confronting life as it is really lived in the trenches of life, so that the insights of Scripture can be applied to real situations, and so that believers can discover how to draw upon the resurrection power of an ever present Lord. Christians should be taught to welcome contact with those in the world but to live apart from the world.

• An enhanced Children’s Church experience for grades Pre-K through 5. Noted Christian researcher George Barna recently reported, “What you believe by the time you are 13 is what you will die believing. Of course, there are many individuals who go through life-changing experiences in which their beliefs are altered, or instances in which a concentrated body of religious teaching changes one or more core beliefs. However, most people’s minds are made up and they believe they know what they need to know spiritually by age 13. Much of their focus in absorbing religious teaching after that age is to gain reassurance and confirmation of their existing beliefs rather than to glean new insights that will redefine their foundations.” We must understand that those individuals who will become the church’s leaders two decades from now are probably already active in church programs today. For these reasons, it is critical to develop and build upon biblical foundations, and it is also necessary to enhance or add a thorough discipleship/worship experience for this age group. One recommendation is to have a dedicated Children’s Church simultaneously with the Sunday morning adult worship experience.

• Student discipleship ministry for middle schoolers and high schoolers. Continue to add to the work that has been developed as a result of your current youth group efforts. Core Leader Teams can augment youth Bible study and fellowship opportunities to address the discipleship, fellowship, and service needs for students in middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12).



The most obvious shift for most churches would be from a traditional Sunday School program, as the church has known it for the recent past, to a more purpose-driven and effective discipleship process.

Adults and teenagers would find their Bible study opportunities in the discipleship groups and children would get their discipleship opportunity in the enhanced children's church.

## 2. Strand Two: Home Group Network (these are also called cell groups, focus groups, small groups, or life groups)

- Each qualified/commissioned person (especially elders, pastors, and staff persons) should lead or co-lead a home group. Home groups provide for biblically-centered relationship development in a way that no other setting can provide. Jesus and the early church modeled this approach of gathering a smaller number of people together for the express purpose of more concentrated instruction, worship, communion, fellowship and prayer.

## 3. Strand Three: Core Groups

- This grassroots discipleship level is seen in the “inner group” of Christ (Peter, James and John) and produces the basis of successive leadership development. These one-on-one, one-on-two, or one-on-three Core Groups represent the most powerful tool available to the church. This tool empowers and models Jesus’ call to discipleship at a foundational level. These groups meet once each week for an hour or two, but because of the intensity of the relationships, accountability, in-depth study of God’s Word, prayer, and transparency Core Group members develop an ongoing line of communication throughout the week. These groups are gender specific. There is no “curriculum”; it is a “father or mother” in the faith who intentionally, relationally, and spiritually births and/or nurtures a “son or daughter” in the faith until Christ is formed in them. They, in turn, are equipped and released to repeat the process. The actual process involves the developing and maintaining of lifelong relationships, intense and in-depth study of God’s Word, focused prayer, and mutual accountability.

“Without God’s grace, no person can be saved. To receive it, we must acknowledge that we cannot save ourselves, that only God can save us, and that our only way to receive this loving favor is through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Integrating this new 3-Strand Discipleship Model:

Pray. Seek leadership input. Seek God’s timing. Cast the vision. Enlist several mature believers who catch the vision and who then can begin seeking out faithful, younger believers to disciple. Begin the process.

One of the most convincing and compelling evidences from this New Testament Model is the lasting fruit it produces. I have personally been involved in this third strand of “core discipleship” for 14-years and have had the great privilege and honor of walking alongside and discipling many men.

“While there have been volumes of books written on corporate worship and small group ministry, comparatively very little has been put in print regarding CORE Groups. Doug Morrell fills in the gap with the CORE Group Manual. It is a “hands on” book that will allow the third missing strand of the church to gain much needed momentum. Use this book as a field guide, not a theology textbook. Commit yourself to be a doer of the word and never look back. Make way for the “three-strand” church!” -Phillip Hearn, Senior Pastor, New River Fellowship

“Doug Morrell is one of the few people I know who has a firm grasp of what constitutes true Biblical discipleship. His knowledge does not come from the ivory towers of teaching, but from the crucible of ministry and a life dedicated to the discipling of men and women in the local church. Doug has carefully studied the life and ministry of Jesus as it relates to the training of disciples. Through the CORE Discipleship Ministry and “three-strand” church model and resources he explains the training process Jesus used and guides you week-by-week in how to disciple people. The CORE process beautifully balances the Great Commandment - love God, with the Great Commission by involving people in evangelism and discipleship as a part of their training. CORE becomes an on-the-job training process so that people learn how to do the work of ministry and participate in the accomplishment of the Great Commandment objectives. Doug understands the intricate process of how to get people to study Scripture for themselves, so that the Holy Spirit brings conviction that makes disciples eager to make application to the Biblical principles that transform their lives into the likeness and image of Jesus. Doug’s CORE discipleship plan is a process that produces Biblical disciples. I highly recommend it to you. It is the straw you’ve been searching for. Grab it!” -Dave Dawson, Founder and Executive Director of Equipping The Saints Ministry. Dave is an experienced teacher and conference speaker. He has taught at Denver Conservative Baptist Seminary, Dallas Bible College, and at Southwestern Baptist



“WE ALL, LIKE SHEEP, HAVE GONE  
 ASTRAY, EACH OF US HAS TURNED  
 TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD  
 HAS LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF  
 US ALL.” (ISAIAH 53:6)

Theological Seminary, under Dr. Roy Fish. For twelve years he conducted a yearlong internship on training believers to do the work of ministry for the Field Education Department of Dallas Theological Seminary. Dave served as the National Director for The Navigators for twelve years in Singapore.

“Doug has developed a very practical and useful resource that serves both as a leader’s training manual and a year’s curriculum of the essential elements needed to mature believers into obedient and fruitful disciples. The CORE training manual is based upon the 3-Strand Church Model (Ecc 4:12). The 3-Strand Church Model teaches that the first strand of a healthy church is a dynamic, corporate worship gathering. The second strand is made up of various small groups within the church, such as cell groups, Sunday School, and home Bible studies. The third strand is made up of CORE discipleship groups where the discipleship process is accelerated and is able to multiply itself through many spiritual generations. CORE groups go beyond small groups in that they are more than a social gathering or a cursory overview of a devotional book or reading. CORE Groups are designed with growth, mutual accountability and spiritual maturity as each member’s goal. The CORE manual contains a comprehensive presentation of what is expected of those who call themselves “disciples” and a series of practical lessons to help develop strong and obedient believers. Within the pages of the CORE manual you will find leaders instructions, application forms, weekly journal sheets and a series of lessons that allow for individual participation and discussion. I highly recommend this resource for those who are looking for a “No-Nonsense” tool that will help them fulfill the master’s plan for discipleship.” -Dr. Gary B. Zustiak, Director of Youth Ministries and Resources, Christ In Youth

**The Core Workbook can be ordered through [CoreDiscipleship.com](http://CoreDiscipleship.com)**

In the next section, we will provide an overview and practical plan you can use to develop a Home Group Network in your church...

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# HOME GROUPS & CORE GROUP DEVELOPMENT

Why home groups? So the Church can once again become an irresistible Christian community where people can be loved and learn to love, be known and learn to make Him known, and be served and learn to serve.

When we join together in a home group setting, we can strengthen one another through fellowship, prayer support, and times of worship. Though each home group will be unique in style and format, they provide a place for people to connect with people, developing meaningful relationships.

God has given His Church an enormous responsibility and passion - to make disciples in every nation (Matthew 28:18-20). This involves preaching, teaching, healing nurturing, giving, administering, building, and many other assignments. If the Church had to fulfill this command alone, we might as well give up without trying - it would be impossible. But God calls us as members of His body to extend this ministry into the lives of others through personal relationships.

As extensions of the local church, operating under the oversight and supervision of church leadership and through the Holy Spirit's guidance, home groups can quicken the process of preparing God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up. In essence, both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission are embraced and integrated.

## The Great Commandment

*"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)*

## Corporate Worship: "Love the Lord Your God"

In the recent past, the large group ingathering and worship times we experience typically on Sunday mornings is the place and time we focus on our personal relationship with God. This is also where we receive sound Biblical instruction, a degree of fellowship, take communion together, and pray as a body. This experience helps fulfill the first portion of the Great Commandment to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

## Home & Core Groups: "Love your neighbor as yourself"

Afterwards, the Sunday corporate gathering disperses and then gathers together in smaller, more intimate groups meeting in the homes of Church members throughout the week. The focus of home groups can be to discuss and make application of the teaching from the previous weeks' message or other pre-approved materials, and serves as the vehicle for people to become connected (fellowship). Fellowship and expression of our faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of the home group community. Home groups meet throughout the local community in the homes of members of the church who have been equipped and released, willing and able to open their hearts and homes to each other and to the unchurched. In this inviting, nonthreatening environment, people are more readily able to establish relationships of accountability and openness with one another. In our expression of our faith in Jesus Christ through this local outreach, the church reveals that it is sincerely interested in touching the lives of its community, both inside and outside the church walls. The experience of home groups helps to fulfill the second part of the Great Commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

## The Great Commission

"Relationships" and "community" - basic Christian community - involves

"There is safety in a multitude of counsel. When we face a major medical situation, we all seek professional counsel. How much greater is our soul condition and the direction of our lives?"

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



“PLANS FAIL FOR LACK OF COUNSEL,  
 BUT WITH MANY ADVISERS THEY SUC-  
 CEED.” (PROVERBS 15:22)

two steps:

1. An intentional willingness and application of a covenant commitment to one another, which results from total surrender to Jesus Christ;
2. A commitment to relational discipleship.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19,20)

The apostle Paul provided a pattern for the preservation and transmission of the gospel. That which has been learned in one generation should be passed on to the next generation without addition or alteration. In effect, our jobs are not done until Christ Jesus is formed in others, too.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

It is both the corporate body of the Church and home groups working in tandem that assists us in the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. The business of each member of the body of Christ is the work of the ministry! The assignment of the gifted leader in the church is to cultivate the home group leaders and corporate ministries of those in the church.

Taken together, both parts of the Great Commandment and the Great Com-mission can be realized.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## HOME GROUP OVERVIEW

If you have not already integrated a home group or core group network, the following “nuts and bolts” plan will provide a strategy for equipping and mobilizing your people to serve the church and reach out to your community.

There will never be enough “professional” workers to reach the multitudes, but your church is filled with incredible resource, energy and potential. They simply need to be provided with training, equipment, encouragement, and a biblical model for discipleship so they can meet the tremendous spiritual and physical needs of the church.

Your home group leaders are those who first go through this Field Guide, understand the overall church vision, the pastor’s heart, and the discipleship process. This entire initiative is based on a team approach as modeled by Jesus. Here are a few practical suggestions to help mobilize your resources for ministry:

1. Don’t move too quickly. A slower pace is better. You’re building for the future and God’s process takes times. Remember, the strength and the quality of the foundation will determine the strength and quality of everything built upon it. Build to last.
2. Begin with a few of your most mature believers within the context of a “Core Group.” Train them. Don’t draw attention to the new process.
3. Become vision oriented. Discover your passion and direct your efforts toward that end. Not only will vision keep you on track, it will also help you steer clear of wasted efforts. Teach on vision. Preach on vision. Sing on vision. Disciple on vision. Build on vision. Grow on vision. Work with your core leadership and define your vision, purpose, and goals to get there. That’s what the network is all about.
4. Release your newly trained core leaders as home group leaders and help them launch new groups. Help them succeed.
5. Begin another core group. Repeat the process.
6. Your core group leaders can best identify potential other core group leaders from the context of the home group. Once identified, launch another core group.
7. Continue building the home and core group network.

# INTEGRATING A HOME GROUP MINISTRY

God gave Moses a divine process with which to effectively lead millions of people. Just as Moses realized, the church can become too large and impersonal. However, just as God gave Moses a process, He has given us a divine plan to enable us to oversee thousands of people. God has a structure by which He governs the Church. It is our desire to encourage everybody to find their place in God’s plan and be faithful where God has placed them in the body of Christ.

*“The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?” Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God’s decrees and laws.” Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform. But select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.” Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.” (Ex. 18:13-26)*

“God longs to guide us with love and wisdom rather than punishment. He offers to teach us the best way to go. Accept the counsel written in God’s Word and don’t let your stubbornness keep you from obeying God.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Moses selected men with the following four qualifications:

1. Able men: God is not looking for ability; He is looking for availability. He desires people who will draw from His ability, becoming able ministers of the new covenant (2 Cor. 3:5-6). These are those “surrendered” to God.

2. Men who fear God: People in leadership must respect and revere God and not take the things of God lightly. They must count the cost of serving God and be aware of the consequences of their deeds.

3. Men of truth: Leaders cannot be liars. This also means that they must be men and women of the Word. Fellowship is based upon the truth. Leaders must be true to their word.

4. Men who hate covetousness: The most dangerous person is someone who covets somebody else’s position. The grace of God will keep you where he leads you, but God has no responsibility to keep you where He has not led you. Do not covet the people in your home group so that you may establish a church with them as your congregation. Never go “full time” if God has not called you and if your time is not yet full. If you are a born again Christian, you are already empowered by the Holy Spirit. You can be called to ministry, but it may not be God’s appointed time. Wait on the Lord. Moses appointed officials of thousands (these are called Zone Pastors), officials of hundreds (these are called District Pastors), officials of fifties (these are called Area Pastors), and officials of tens (Home Group Leaders or Coaches). If you have a full time calling on your life, God will promote you if you are faithful in small things (Prov. 18:16).

Jesus delegated; when He ascended He gave gifts (some call this the five fold ministry) to the Church. It is the responsibility of this leadership team to equip the saints so that the saints can perform the work of the ministry and the body of Christ is built up and edified:

*“This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.” (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth*

*in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Eph. 4:8-16)*

Isaiah 9:6-7 clearly shows that God has a government and Jesus is King of a kingdom. The government will rest on the shoulders of Jesus and He has delegated His authority (Mth. 28:18-20). We must respect the office that God has established men in.

Find out where God wants you, where you belong. Commit to your local church. There is protection in the local church, but dangers outside. Some people do not commit to a local church, because they are afraid they will be exposed (unmasked).

Because you are part of God’s team, each person is very important. You are making a great and valuable contribution to the growth and effectiveness of your church. You are playing a significant role in the kingdom of God. The church cannot fulfill God’s vision without you. Your commitment and dedication are very much appreciated.

### Home Group Goals & Objectives

1. Growth: each home group should consist of 4 to 12 people. The home group coach must train an assistant, (2 Tim. 2:2) to take over a new home group (birthed from the present group) when the total number of people reaches a consistent number of 15 or so. Try to sense where a natural break can take place. Be sensitive in recognizing leadership qualities. Every home group coach must have a vision for multiplication (Acts 6:7; 12:24) and commitment to growth.

2. Evangelism: a number of polls and surveys that approximately 80% of people being saved are led into salvation by either friends, family, neighbors or business associates. Relatively few are saved in church services. In most instances, it is easier to invite unbelievers into a home group for fellowship than it is to get them into a Sunday service.

3. True Pastoring: the home group leader’s responsibility of protecting, feeding, and guiding the flock of God must be outworked in a smaller group setting. A shepherd calls his sheep by name (John 10:3). It is impossible for any one man, or even a handful of men, to effectively pastor a congregation of any significant size. The coaching of God’s people can only be outworked as the Lord raises up many shepherds of 10s, 50s, 100s, 1000s. Though responsibilities and spiritual authority vary, each is only in active relationship with a smaller group of 4 to 12 saints. Once home group leaders begin interacting with God’s people, needs are met, gifts stirred, potential developed, and the process of helping saints find their place in the body will be well underway.

4. Discipleship: true biblical discipleship flows out of healthy relationships. As God’s people begin to interact with each other and with older more mature saints, vision and anointing can be transferred. Paul personally stirred the gifts in Timothy. What every believer needs is to have older, seasoned saints around to encourage, correct and support. Likewise, each of us needs to be able to give, share and encourage those younger than us in the Lord. Paul’s command to Timothy was to seek out faithful men and to teach them what he, himself, was taught (2 Tim. 2:2). God makes them able.

5. Equipping The Saints For The Ministry: Ephesians 4:11 states that the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers were given to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. What better place to begin to work out callings and giftings in the Lord than in a home group setting? Home groups provide a safe, inviting, and forgiving environment to begin to step out in spiritual giftings, learn inter-relational skills and to minister to others.

### Ten Characteristics Of Home Groups:

1. A close family;
2. Personal application of the Bible to daily life;
3. Sharing of individual life testimony;
4. Effective one-on-one pastoral care;
5. Encouragement and edification;
6. Unlimited opportunities for meaningful service;
7. Friendship evangelism;
8. Discipling of new converts;
9. Spiritual growth;
10. Development of strong leadership.

### The Purpose Of The Home Groups:

1. To provide for close interpersonal fellowship and interaction between believers so that deeper relationships can be developed;
2. To promote unity and bonding as a family, providing a place where believers can feel



“NOW FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE.” (HEBREWS 11:1)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

part of the body of Christ;

3. To help meet the needs of believers on every level, i.e. spiritual, social, intellectual, and physical. This involves praying and caring for each other, sharing with each other and ministering to one another;

4. To provide pastoral care for every partner of the church so that they can receive special personal attention, encouragement, instruction, edification, exhortation, admonishing, etc.;

5. To disciple believers to a point where they will in turn be able to disciple others more effectively. This involves teaching converts the basic truths and principles of the Word of God;

6. To create a relaxed, spiritual environment for believers to grow in God and His Word;

7. To encourage believers to become doers of the Word and be used of the Lord so that they may be a blessing and testimony to the local church;

8. To provide an opportunity for individual expression in worship and ministry;

9. To be a tool of evangelism in the local neighborhood; reaching out to people on a continual basis in order to lead them to Jesus;

10. To provide a line of communication - networking all levels of leadership together.

“God will not settle for mere acknowledgment of His existence. He wants a personal, dynamic relationship with you that will transform your life.”

## Home Group Coaches Expectations & Qualifications

1. To be consistent and committed to living the Christian life-style. “Leadership by example.”

2. To be consistent and committed to pray for those in leadership over you and those God has entrusted into your care.

3. To maintain a biblically solid and balanced family life and life-style.

4. To make yourself available to serve and minister to those entrusted to you.

5. To be accountable to those responsible for you. To stay within the guidelines established for the home group ministry.

## Qualifications For Home Group Coaches

A home group coach must:

1. Be born again (John 3:3-6).

2. Be a member or in the process of becoming a member.

3. Adhere to the statement of faith of the church.

4. Share the church’s goal and vision.

5. Be faithful in church attendance and in financial support of the church.

6. Be committed to fulfil God’s will in his/her life.

7. Be prepared to do his/her share in the ministry.

8. Fulfill the criteria found in the Word (1 Tim. 3:8-13):

- Display the fruits of Christian living;
- Be blameless and beyond reproach in their conduct;
- Be of good standing within the church and outside;
- Be faithful in all things;
- Be gentle and humble;
- Not violent nor quarrelsome;
- Be reverent;
- Be temperate and self controlled;
- Live in wisdom and honor with their spouses (if married);
- Manage home affairs well;
- Not be greedy for money;
- Not be covetous;
- Not be double tongued;
- Not slanderous.

9. Have been interviewed and approved by an Area Pastor, District Pastor or Elder.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Job Description Of Home Group Coaches

The home group coach must:

1. Conduct and lead the meeting of the home group.

2. Disciple, instruct, teach, encourage, edify, exhort, admonish, and feed the people.

3. Become “spiritual parents” to group members (1 Thess. 2:7, 11).

4. Pray for the home group regularly.

5. Take lead in all aspects of the home group.

6. Meet or contact the Area Pastor on a minimum bimonthly basis for guidance, encouragement, prayer, and reporting.

7. Encourage new members to participate in home groups.

8. Ensure that the home group is involved in action projects like evangelism, ministry to the poor, etc.

9. Work closely with the Area Pastor in all home group matters.

10. Have an assistant.

11. Attend all home group coach meetings.

12. Recognize and train potential home group coaches.

13. Ensure that the assistant home group coach meets the following requirements:

- Completes the Field Guide;
- Visits at least two other recommended home groups before starting their own;
- Attends all home group meetings;
- Is approved by an Area Pastor, District Pastor, or Elder.



“FOR IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN  
 SAVED, THROUGH FAITH--AND THIS  
 NOT FROM YOURSELVES, IT IS THE  
 GIFT OF GOD” (EPHESIANS 2:8)

## Area Pastor Responsibilities

Area pastors have direct responsibility over 3 to 6 home group coaches. They are the next level of leadership in the home group church structure. Their responsibilities are as follows:

1. Develop relationship with the home group coaches entrusted to them.
2. Out of Biblical relationship must flow discipleship and healthy accountability.
3. Meet with home group coaches for prayer, reporting, and encouragement.
4. Assist home group coaches in dealing with problem people and discipline matters.
5. Have benevolence approval authority for a pre-approved dollar amount as established by the church.
6. Visit home groups under their care to impart vision and to encourage.
7. Make themselves available to home group coaches for counsel and support.
8. Seek out, develop, interview and raise up new home group coaches.
9. Pray for their coaches and groups daily.

## How To Become A Home Group Coach

The most effective way to become a home group coach is to become an assistant leader. This offers practical experience in a home group setting before you establish your own meeting. Once a meeting reaches a consistent 12-15 members in attendance, the assistant should be encouraged to branch off and start a new group.

## Keys To Successful Leadership

1. **Love:** lovers always win because God is love. In every situation let love lead and guide you and you will always come out victorious. Remember to consciously share love with others. You must make a decision to love every person you meet.
2. **Enthusiasm:** be excited about the privilege you have of leading people to Jesus. Your enthusiasm will rub off and spread through the group. Don't let worry, discouragement, or depression creep into your home group meeting.
3. **Faithfulness:** be consistent so people are able to follow you. Jesus said if we will be faithful over little, He will make us rulers over much. Be dedicated to people and the home group ministry.
4. **Testimony:** share what Jesus means to you personally. Your story of salvation has a great impact on others. Don't be afraid to share your personal testimony and let people know what you have experienced; the good and the not so good.
5. **Spirit Led:** let the Holy Spirit be your guide. He will help you and enable you to deal with every circumstance. Trust the Holy Spirit in you and He will bring things to your mind that will meet the needs of people.
6. **One Accord:** a good coach is also a good follower. It is important to stay in harmony with the church leaders, not allowing strife to enter your heart or your meetings. Don't depart from the purpose/vision/goals/objectives established by the church. This creates unnecessary strife and ultimately, division. Remember, anything that causes disunity is sin according to the Bible. You are placed into authority because you are under authority.
7. **Boldness:** to be bold is to be free, frank, open, fearless and confident. God desires you to speak the Word boldly and let people know you believe what you are saying and doing.

Meditate on these things. Give yourself wholly to them and see where you are weak and strong. Those areas you are weak in practice and develop every day.

## Ministry Of A Home Group Coach Spouse (For Husband/Wife Teams)

1. Relationship with the Lord
  - a. Keep a consistent walk.
  - b. Receive direction, instruction and discernment from the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Pursue quietness and cleansing before the meeting.
2. Relationship with spouse
  - a. Provide prayer support.
  - b. Pursue peace before the meeting (seek agreement on all matters).
  - c. Give encouragement and respect.
  - d. Be understanding of:
    - Counseling time.
    - Preparation time for meetings.
    - Growing and changing ministry.
  - e. Provide information and insight
    - Spouses often hear vital information in the lives of others, however, they should avoid unnecessary hearsay (do not gossip).
    - Share insights, discernments and impressions from the Lord for better efficiency and easier flow.
    - Give advice and warnings.
  - f. Assist in the ministry
    - Develop a teamwork mentality. One teamwork example is Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:1-3, 18, 16).
    - Be open to flow in the gifts of the Spirit.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



- Be available to counsel.
  - Help in leadership whenever the need arises.
3. Relationship with people
    - a. Provide prayer support.
    - b. Demonstrate hospitality.
      - Cordial greetings
      - Helping them to feel comfortable
    - c. Make visits, phone calls, and do counseling.
      - Work as a team with your spouse
      - Share the responsibility
    - d. Personal touches.
      - Acts of kindness
  4. Responsibilities to the group meetings
    - a. Help coordinate refreshments if desired. Delegate to different members on a regular basis.
      - Refreshments (some offer whole meals where each group member brings a portion or is assigned the main course; another idea is to offer drinks at the beginning and at the end offer healthy snacks - both ideas work well).
      - Child care (one suggestion is to get with the youth director and arrange for a youth child care pool from the youth group - a great way to raise funds for youth events! Each time the group meets, everyone pitches in and pays for the child care).
      - Communication (phone calls, email, letters)
    - b. Help maintain an orderly meeting place
    - c. Seek the proper arrangements of furniture for the best interaction of members (a circle works well).

“We are saved to serve Christ and build up the church.”

The best approach to have is one that demonstrates a balance between Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42). One who is able to serve, and one who will sit at the feet of Jesus.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Developing Your Assistant Coach

As important as all the members are in your group, the assistant’s development into quality leadership should be one of your top priorities. This responsibility should comprise at least 50% of your effort. With each assistant that you develop into leadership, you help establish the pattern for future leadership within the church. Each person you train, in turn, trains another and so on as the groups multiply. Not only do you invest in their lives but also in their future as leaders. It is critical that you impart to them all you are able in the weeks that you will be working together.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Make sure the assistant is praying (together if a couple): praying is one of the most powerful tools that a person can use to mature spiritually. You should help develop this trait within your assistant. You should meet with your assistant at least once a week apart from the weekly group meeting. This is the time to carry on spiritual warfare for your group and share insight with your assistant that will help them develop in their leadership role. This informal time together should begin with both of you praying (Eph. 6:18). This will bond you in unity in the Spirit, develop a greater understanding of the heart of God for each person in your group, and put you in an atmosphere of faith for the meeting that is to follow.
2. Help them to see the potential in others: Anytime that you meet with your assistant and discuss other group members it should be in an attitude of faith, that is, looking to what the faith vision for each person might be. It is not to be a time of criticism or hopeless talk concerning shortcomings. You are to help your assistant envision what the home group members are able to become under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes when people are new to ministry it is difficult for them to see past where people are, to where they will eventually be. Begin with the end in mind! Your own attitude in dealing with members in your group will have a great deal to do with how your assistant sees them. Teach them that prayer changes even the darkest of circumstances.
3. Encourage them as they develop in leadership: Each assistant needs to know that as they develop into leadership God will be able to use them in a mighty way in home group ministry. They need to be assured that the anointing and authority are from God and that as they learn to listen and follow Him more closely, both will increase. Point out the areas in which they were led of the Spirit and followed Him well. Give them opportunity to grow in the Spirit. Your assistant should lead the meeting on occasion. Prayerfully select those sessions and then offer them honest critiques mixed with love and encouragement (a “sandwich” approach works well...the “meat” of your critique should be between a beginning and ending encouragement). It is better to share an area with them that needs some work and allow them to grow in that area than to tell them all is well and it really is not. This is their only opportunity to train for leadership. Speak the truth in love and help them to become all that God is challenging them to be.



“CLEARLY NO ONE IS JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD BY THE LAW, BECAUSE, “THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH.” (GALATIANS 3:11)

**4. Help them to become transparent:** To be effective in home group leadership, everyone, especially leaders, must be willing to share their failures as well as their successes. When people are shown how Jesus helped someone else to overcome a failure, they can believe Him to help them do the same. Help your assistant become transparent in this way so that they are not threatened to share the areas where they needed the most help. Very often, leaders feel that if they share weaknesses, the others in their group will not respect them as leaders. Encourage them that the very things that they are overcoming with the help of the Lord are the things that speaks to others in the group who are struggling in the very same areas! It is not a sign of weakness, but of strength in Jesus that they are free to admit their insufficiency. It is through the sharing of how the Word changed their relationship that others receive hope and direction for the same life changes to occur in their lives.

**5. Determine if your assistants are ready to lead a group:** As a home group coach, you are given the responsibility to offer input to your area coach regarding your assistant’s ability to lead a group of their own. The standard expectation is that they will be ready to lead at the end of the training period, but if you assess that they are not fully equipped, it is up to you to share your concern with your leadership. A person does not automatically begin leading a home group after they have been an assistant (many times church leadership makes the mistake of establishing time parameters for spiritual growth; this usually ends in frustration). Each person should be given ample time to enter into leadership comfortably. Remember, all leaders begin their leadership role a bit shaky and unsure of themselves. Problems that would keep them from leadership would include an inability or unwillingness to pray, a man not taking the headship of his household or a wife refusing to defer to her husband as head, disagreement with the basic beliefs of the home group ministry or church vision/purpose/authority, or refusal to submit to authority. If you have any questions regarding your assistants, contact your direct leadership. The promotion of an assistant (or couple) to leadership is not automatic. You must determine if your assistant is ready.

**6. Release them as your assistants and receive them as peers:** This is one of the most difficult areas for those in authority, but once your assistant assumes leadership of their own group, you are no longer their supervisor, you are now their peers. Jesus called His disciples “friends” at this point. You are no longer in authority over them and are no longer responsible for their development as leaders. This now becomes the role of the area coach. You have a new assistant or couple to nurture.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The relationship of the lead and assistant group coaches is one of the closest you will ever experience in the Body of Christ. When this special relationship comes to an end, you will probably still remain friends. However, the previous relationship must change. You must separate from them in a way you related to them previously as the lead authority and they need to separate from you as your assistant. It is necessary to break the “soul ties” that were established as you functioned together in leadership. Your leadership will help you make the transition and help your assistant to become established as leaders of their own group.

**Assistant Home Group Leader Responsibilities**

Assistants are very valuable to the home group ministry and should be considered as leaders as well. Since the assistant will eventually establish a meeting of their own, it is important that the leader is constantly training them and delegating different responsibilities to them. Some of the basic responsibilities of the assistant are:

1. Be in harmony with the leader to assist in any needs.
  2. Be in agreement in prayer with the leader.
  3. Help coordinate the different parts of the meeting (refreshments, child care, etc).
  4. Be available for the needs of the people.
  5. Be ready to handle disturbances during the meeting.
  6. Be available and ready to teach the lesson upon the leader’s request.
  7. Be ready to start a new home group meeting.
  8. Attend all leadership meetings and classes provided for the home group meeting ministries.
  9. Properly appeal to your area coach if something incorrect is going on within your group.
- Assistant coaches are an important source of accountability within each home group.

**Multiplying Your Home Groups**

One of the goals of every home group is to set a target of multiplying within a 12-16 month time frame, having your assistant start a brand new group. In order to do so, your average attendance should be consistently from 12-15 people. How to launch a new group:

1. Training and developing assistant coaches throughout the growth process of the home group is essential.
2. When it is time to multiply your group, you will need to announce intentions to launch

out a new group to all members.

3. Give two weeks for the group members to pray about and determine where they will be. Ultimately, it is the group leader's responsibility to gently direct and decide.

4. Announce the location of the new meeting and the name of the new assistant leader.

5. Give approximately 4-8 weeks from the first announcement to the actual new group meeting.

**NOTE!!!** Building relationships, developing assistant leaders and encouraging growth must be an ongoing process to make home group multiplication successful. Integrate multiplication as an ongoing goal and relate this core concept to the members often.

### Meeting Suggestions

- Let the people relax. Do not make the meeting seem churchy, formal or like a classroom. As mentioned, arrange the chairs in a circle (you might even keep one chair empty for the “faith” person who will join). A circle arrangement works best to break down barriers. Avoid working around tables. This lends to a “conference” experience and detours from building relationships.
- Be tidy in your appearance, but comfortable.
- Teach by discussion, rather than lecturing. Don't be preachy to your home group.
- Keep the focus toward the Lord instead of allowing the home group to become a place to discuss current world affairs or the next door neighbors. Keep the discussion on personal application and relevant experience. Expect something to happen!
- The home group should not be a pulpit for someone to come and practice their preaching for future ministry.
- Always motivate, comfort, encourage and build up (1 Thess 5:5-24). Feed the sheep. Locate the people spiritually and try to minister to everyone on their own level. DO NOT JUDGE.
- Do not criticize leaders, those in authority, or other churches or ministries at all. Period.
- Before allowing a guest, a video/audio to be played, get consent and permission from your area coach.
- Do not allow wolves to come in, but take heed to yourself and the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you an overseer to shepherd the church of God which He dearly purchased with His own blood. Let your love for the people be made known.

“Faith is a condition of the heart, not the mind. Faith is not mere mental agreement.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Leading The Discussion

- I. Three Basic Guidelines for Successful Discussion
    - A. Wait your turn
      1. Let a person finish talking before another starts.
      2. If two start to speak at once, the leader chooses who should speak first.
      3. Conversation is to be directed toward the whole group. Never single any one person out.
      4. Courtesy
    - B. Stay on topic
      1. Defer prayer requests until later in the meeting (unless you sense that praying immediately is in order by the Spirit).
    - C. Keep it brief
- NOTE: Stress these guidelines each week until the group is flowing well.
- II. Possible Difficulties
    - A. Unrelated comments
      1. Don't ignore it
      2. Don't allow silence
      3. Don't say, "That's off the topic"
      4. Don't put a person down
      5. Try to bring conversation back to topic
      6. Try to relate what was said to the topic
      7. Build a bridge
      8. Speak to a person privately if a constant problem persists
      9. Sometimes the Holy Spirit may want to change direction...be sensitive
    - B. Theological problems
      1. Some issues have been debated for centuries
      2. Can cause division and strife
      3. How to proceed:
        - a. Decide for yourself the value of the discussion
        - b. Proceed with wisdom, not emotion
        - c. Share your own insights
        - d. Do not allow your group to get sidetracked
      4. Differences of opinion
        - a. Can be profitable
        - b. Refer to the Word
        - c. Walk in love
    - C. Wrong interpretations
      1. Occasionally someone will contribute something obviously incorrect:



"IF WE SUFFER, WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM..." (2 TIMOTHY 2:12)

- a. Acknowledge the contribution in a positive manner
- b. Ask others to share their viewpoint
- c. Don't say, "No, that's not right"
- d. Refer to Scriptures
- e. Don't try to force anything, even if you know you are right
- f. Walk in love
- D. The person who tries to dominate
  - 1. Speak to them privately
  - 2. Appreciate their contributions
  - 3. Remind them of the 3 basic guidelines
  - 4. Enlist support in helping to draw out others
  - 5. Direct questions at others
- E. The quiet group member
  - 1. Direct questions at them
  - 2. Ask them to read Scripture
  - 3. Encourage privately

### Techniques In Asking Questions

1. Are the questions brief and clear?
2. Do the questions stimulate discussion?
3. Are your questions relevant to the purpose of the discussion?
4. Use first names as you speak. This is a discipline that bears its own reward.
5. Answer questions with questions. This keeps the leader from answering all the questions and in many cases the person is asking the question because of the hidden desire to express what he/she believes.
6. Value an individual's response in the group. The leader may not share the viewpoint, but he should affirm each person along with his or her thoughts and ideas.
7. Don't embarrass a person by posing a question that has the potential of frightening him or her.
8. Give them the opportunity of "passing." Forced sharing at an introductory level can be very harmful.
9. Avoid giving advice. A time of sharing can be stifled by offering advice, by judging and by not listening.
10. Discourage vague sharing that deals with impersonal generalities.
11. If possible, connect the sharing question with the direct personal application of the session.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Home Group Benevolence

As the home group coach, you will be ministering to people who are in need of food, shelter, and finances. There are several resources available for you to draw from as pre-approved with church leadership:

1. Taking special love offerings within your group.
  2. Financial assistance from the church.
  3. Financial counseling.
- Special Offerings: a special love offering can be taken within the group to meet a need. Any offerings would need to be overseen by the home group coach and proper records kept. After any special offering is taken, be sure to brief your area coach.
- Financial Assistance: monetary assistance can be made available to home group coaches through the church benevolence program. It is preferable to encourage assistance to the needy with food. If actual monetary assistance is needed, contact your area coach.
- Financial Counseling: counseling is recommended in instances where financial mismanagement is suspected. Individuals receiving assistance should be referred to qualified counseling by a ministry leader such as an area coach, elder, or special ministry group that specializes in financial training.

### When Problems Arise

Problems may arise at times. If a disruption occurs it is not a big deal and every situation can be straightened out. As long as you stay within the general format, the group as a whole will not be affected. Here are some tips to help you deal with situations that might arise:

1. Show love to all people. Do not become angry or frustrated.
2. Keep order - let the group know you are the leader by being organized and ready for your meeting. When someone is out of order with a comment or act, tell them to please wait until you ask for their input. If you don't want them speaking, don't ask for their input, then after the meeting tell them why you did not call on them.
3. Use your assistant - if an individual needs to be spoken to at that moment, have your assistant take the person into another room and speak to them about their behavior. You need to remain in the meeting and keep it flowing as normal. This should be a rare event but it is one reason why you need to have an assistant to help you.
4. Stay calm - don't become emotionally charged and argumentative. Stay calm and handle the situation lovingly.
5. Move on - don't stop your meeting to discuss the behavior of the individual that is being disruptive. Move on as if it did not mean a thing (it really does not) and do what you are there to do. If you need additional input on how to handle the situation, speak to

your area coach at a later time. Don't talk about the problem with other group members.  
6. Consult with your area coach concerning any individual you feel you may have repeated problems with. Your area coach, district coach, or elder(s) are responsible for discipline. Restoration is always the guiding principle.

## Discipline

A home group coach would need to be firmly and lovingly corrected by those in church leadership for any of the following reasons:

1. Not fulfilling the ministry assignments that they have accepted.
2. Immorality.
3. Demonstrated bitterness, disloyalty, or strife which causes harm to others within the assembly.
4. Deviating from the process and policies set by Eldership.
5. Teaching false doctrines and generating confusion in the body.
6. Allowing unauthorized individuals to teach or minister within your group.

“Scripture often indicates that God leads His children through suffering before they reach His glory. Suffering is part of the normal Christian life.”

## Procedure For Discipline

1. Discipline varies from a prayerful discussion with leadership to removal from your position for a period of time commensurate to the offense.
2. All discipline is to be redemptive in nature with the purpose of restoring the individual back into God's will. Biblical guidelines are outlined in Mth. 18:15-20.

## CORE DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Core Groups represent one of the most simple, Biblical and powerful discipleship processes available to the church. This tool empowers and models Jesus' call to discipleship at the most intimate, foundational level. These groups meet once each week for an hour or two, but because of the intensity of the relationships, accountability, in-depth study of God's Word, prayer, and transparency Core Group members develop an ongoing line of communication throughout the week and for life. These groups are gender specific. Be Holy Spirit-led and use the Bible as the “gateway”; it is a “father or mother” in the faith who intentionally, relationally, and spiritually births/nurtures a “son or daughter” in the faith until Christ is formed in them. They, in turn, are equipped and released to repeat the process. The actual process involves the developing and maintaining of lifelong relationships, intense and in-depth study of God's Word, focused prayer, and mutual accountability.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Begin by asking Father God to send in those whom you can begin your Core Group;
- Go to two or three of your most mature believers who are in step with your vision and who understand the importance of spiritual parenting and present the vision. Ask them to prayerfully consider coming alongside you as their discipler. Wait on their response in God's timing.
- Once you've heard back from these potential leaders, set a time and place for your gathering and give them 2-3 week's notice.
- Using Core Resources, take your group through the process
  1. Don't move too quickly. A slower pace is better. You're building for the future and God's processes take time. Remember, the strength and the quality of the foundation will determine the strength and quality of everything built upon it. Build to last.
  2. Begin with a few of your most mature believers within the context of a “Core Group.” Train them. Don't draw attention to the new process.
  3. After you've completed the material and you sense God's timing and directive, release your newly trained core leaders and help them to repeat the process. Help them succeed.
  4. Begin another core group. Repeat the process.
  5. Your core group leaders can best identify potential other core group leaders from the context of their home groups. Once identified, launch another core group.
  6. Continue building the home and core group network. For CORE Resources, visit our web site at: [www.coregroups.org](http://www.coregroups.org).



## RECOMMENDED READING:

“PETER REPLIED, “REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED, EVERY ONE OF YOU, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS. AND YOU WILL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.” (ACTS 2:38)

- \*Adams, Jay E. *Godliness through Discipline*. Nutley, New Jersey: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1972.
- \*Bertolucci, John. *The Disciplines of a Disciple*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Servant Books, 1985.
- \*Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. London: SCM Press, 1959.
- \*Bridges, Jerry. *The Practice of Godliness*. Colorado Spring, Colorado: NavPress, 1983.
- \*Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 1978.
- \*Bruce, A.B. *The Training of the Twelve*. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, n.d.
- \*Chandapilla, P.T. *The Master Trainer*. Bombay: Gospel Literature Service, 1974.
- \*Christian Life and Witness, The. *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*.
- \*Coleman, Robert E. *Growing in the Word*. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1987.
- \*The Master Plan of Evangelism. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1963.
- \*The Mind of the Master. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1977.
- \*Conner, J. Kevin. *The Church In The New Testament*. Portland, Oregon: Bible Temple Publishing, 1989.
- \*Coppedge, Allan. *The Biblical Principles of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1989.
- \*Cosgrove, Francis M., Jr. *Essentials of Discipleship*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 1980.
- \*Essentials of New Life. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 1978.
- \*Dawson, David L. “Equipping the Saints” (A Four-volume syllabus). Available from Christian Outfitters, [www.christianoutfitters.com](http://www.christianoutfitters.com).
- \*Discipleship Journal, The. Published by The Navigators, P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934 (bimonthly).
- \*Eims, LeRoy. *Disciples in Action*. Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1981.
- \*Eims, LeRoy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1978.
- \*Eims, LeRoy. *What Every Christian Should Know About Growing*. Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1976.
- \*Foster, J. Richard/Smith, B. James. *Devotional Classics*. New York, New York: Harper-Collins Publishers, 1990.
- \*Guyon, Mme. Jeanne. *Experiencing The Depths of Jesus Christ*. Sargent, Georgia: The SeedSowers Christian Books Publishing House, 1985.
- \*Guyon, Mme. Jeanne. *Final Steps In Christian Maturity*. Sargent, Georgia: The SeedSowers Christian Books Publishing House, 1985.
- \*Harrison, F. Everett. *The Apostolic Church*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986.
- \*Hayford, Jack. *E Quake*. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1999. (other books by Jack Hayford: *Worship His Majesty; The Beauty of Spiritual Language; The Spirit-Filled Life Bible {general editor}*).
- \*Henrichsen, Walter A. *Disciples Are Made, Not Born*. Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1974.
- \*Holden, J. Stuart. *The Master and His Men*. London: Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 1953.
- \*Hull, Bill. *Jesus Christ Disciplemaker*. Colorado Springs, Colorado, NavPress, 1984.
- \*Joyner, Rick. *The Surpassing Greatness of His Power*. Charlotte, North Carolina: Morning Star Publications, 1996.
- \*Kelly, R. Thomas. *A Testament of Devotion*. New York, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1941.
- \*Kuhne, Gary W. *The Dynamics of Discipleship Training*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976.
- \*Lawrence, Brother, Laubach, Frank. *Practicing His Presence*. Sargent, Georgia: The SeedSowers Christian Books Publishing House, 1985.
- \*Nee, Watchman. *The Release Of The Spirit*. Indianapolis, Indiana. Sure Foundation: Prem-Lit-Co, 1965. (other books by Watchman Nee: *The Normal Christian Life; What Shall This Man Do?; Site, Walk, Stand; Changed Into His Likeness; The Normal Christian Worker; Twelve Baskets Full; A Table In The Wilderness; The Song of Songs; Love Not The World; The Spiritual Man*.)
- \*Ortiz, Carlos Juan. *Disciple: A Handbook for New Believers*. Orlando, Florida: Creation House, 1975.
- \*Pentecost, J. Dwight. *Design for Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971.
- \*Petersen, William J. *The Discipling of Timothy*. Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1980.
- \*Robertson, Roy. *The Timothy Principle*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 1986.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# GETTING TO KNOW GOD THROUGH HIS WORD

The following listing is certainly not exhaustive, but proves very helpful in the basic areas of discipleship. If these precepts, principles, and commandments are thoroughly received, believed, and practiced by a believer whose life is also overseen by another more spiritually mature believer, it will not be long before they are moving into the deeper things of Christian maturity.

## Conversion:

Matthew 18:3; Acts 2:38-41; 3:19,20; 4:12; 10:47,48; 22:16; Psalms 19:7

## Godliness Part I:

Mth. 5:17-20,31,32; 19:4-6; 15:1-9  
Mark 7:1-13; 10:6-12  
Luke 12:47,48; 16:18  
John 7:24; 12:32; 15:9-14; 17:20-23; 18:36  
1 Cor. 3:17; 6:1-11; 7:10-16; 9:11-14; 13:1-8  
2 Cor. 2:14-17; 5:10,15-17; 8:21  
Galatians 3:26-29; 4:19,20; 5:1-6; 6:7-10  
Ephesians 4:1; 5:1,2; 5:18-20; 6:18-20  
Philippians 1:27; 2:3,4

## Godliness Part II

Col. 1:10,11  
1 Thess. 1:3; 3:10; 4:1,11,12; 5:6,16-22  
2 Thess. 1:4; 1:11; 3:6-15  
1 Tim. 2:9,10; 3:14-16; 4:7,8,12  
2 Tim. 1:3; 2:15; 3:12  
Titus 2:11-15; 3:1,2,8,9-11  
Philemon 6, 8-16, 22  
1 Peter 2:12,21,23; 3:9,15; 4:9  
2 Peter 2:9,19; 3:14-18  
2 John 4-10  
3 John 2, 4-11

## Holiness

Mth. 5:13-16; 6:24; 10:28; 22:15-22  
Mark 9:50; 12:13-17  
Luke 11:33; 12:4,5; 14:34,35; 16:13; 20:20-26  
1 Cor. 1:25-29; 2:13-16; 7:29-31; 15:33  
2 Cor. 1:12; 2:9; 6:14-18  
Ephesians 4:17  
Col. 2:16-23; 3:1-11  
2 Thess. 2:13  
1 Tim. 4:3-5  
1 Peter 2:1,11; 4:2,7,8  
1 John 2:9-11,15-17; 5:21  
Rev. 3:16-18

## Devotion

Mth. 6:5-8,9-13; 22:34-40; 26:26-29  
Mark 12:28-34; 14:22-25  
Luke 11:2-4; 10:25-28,38-42; 18:1-8; 22:15-20  
John 4:21-24; 6:53-58; 12:2-8; 15:1-8  
Rom. 10:17; 12:1,2; 15:4  
1 Cor. 10:6-12; 11:20-29; 14:13-22  
Philippians 3:7-9,12-19  
Col. 1:25-29; 3:16,17; 4:2-6  
Heb. 2:1-4; 3:1; 9:11-15; 10:22,25; 11:6; 13:15  
2 Peter 1:3,4; 3:1,2  
Rev. 2:4; 3:15,19

## Obedience

Mth. 6:22,23; 13:1-23; 26:39  
Mark 4:1-20; 14:36  
Luke 1:38; 11:34-36; 8:4-15; 22:42  
John 2:5; 5:16-23; 7:17; 12:47-50; 14:15-24  
2 Thess. 3:14  
Heb. 4:1-10; 5:8-10; 12:25; 13:17,18  
1 Peter 1:2,14; 1:22; 2:3-6

## Humility

Mth. 5:38-48; 18:21-35  
Luke 6:27-30,32-36; 14:7-11; 17:3,4; 18:9-14

“We are saved by faith alone  
without works of any kind,  
but a faith that saves will  
always produce obedience  
to God.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Cor. 10:17,18; 12:7-10; 13:5,6  
Galatians 6:3-5  
James 4:1,2,7,8,11,13-17  
Rev. 3:1-5



“ON HEARING THIS, THEY WERE  
BAPTIZED INTO THE NAME OF THE  
LORD JESUS.” (ACTS 19:5)

### Relationships

Mth. 5:21,22,24,25; 6:14; 7:1-5  
Mark 11:25  
Luke 12:57,58; 6:37-42  
Ephesians 4:25-27; 5:21-6:4; 6:5-8  
Col. 3:5-15  
1 Peter 3:1-7; 4:8

### Discipleship

Mth. 8:18-22; 10:17-20,34-36,37-39; 16:24-26; 28:18-20  
Luke 9:23-25,57-62; 12:51-53; 14:26,27  
Philippians 2:2,5-13,20,21; 4:8,9  
Heb. 5:12-14; 6:11,12; 12:1-11; 13:7

### God's Kingdom

Mth. 11:12-14; 13:44-52; 18:1-5  
Mark 9:33-37  
Luke 9:46-48; 16:16; 17:20,21

### Wisdom

Mth. 7:13,14,15-20,21-23; 15:10-20; 20:20-28  
Mark 7:14-23; 10:35-37  
Luke 6:43-45,46; 13:23-30; 16:14,15; 22:24-27  
Rom. 1:18-23; 2:24; 8:7,8; 13:8-10  
Ephesians 5:15  
Col. 2:8,18-23; 3:18-22  
2 Thess. 2:9,10  
1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12  
2 Tim. 2:14,24-26; 3:5  
1 John 2:29; 3:4-9,11-15,16-18; 4:1-6; 5:1-8,16,17  
Rev. 2:7,9-11,17,29; 3:6,13,22

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Stewardship:

Mth. 6:19-2; 19:21-26  
Mark 10:21-27  
Luke 12:33,34,13-15; 16:1-13; 18:22-27  
Ephesians 4:28  
James 1:10; 5:1-6

### Growing In The Spirit

John 3:3; 14:25,26; 16:8-15  
Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:8,13; 10:44,45; 13:9  
Rom. 8:1-11,13-17  
1 Cor. 12:4-11; 14:1-5  
2 Cor. 3:2,3; 3:17,18; 10:3-5  
Galatians 3:14; 5:16-26

### Faith Part I

John 10:37,38; 11:40; 13:17; 14:6,7,12-14; 16:24  
Acts 3:21; 14:3  
Rom. 1:16; 4:17,18,20-25; 6:1-10; 15:1-3  
1 Cor. 4:20; 15:58  
2 Cor. 4:16-18; 5:7; 11:3,4  
Galatians 1:6-9; 2:16,19-21; 3:1-11,23-29; 6:9  
Philippians 1:6,21-24,29; 4:4-7,11,13

### Faith Part II

1 Thess. 1:5; 2:13; 4:17  
2 Thess. 2:15; 3:1,2  
2 Tim. 3:16; 4:5  
Hebrews 2:14-18; 3:6; 4:12-16; 10:23; 13:11-13  
1 Peter 1:6,7,10-12; 4:1,2-16  
2 Peter 1:4,16-21; 3:11-13  
1 John 3:1,2,21-24; 4:4; 5:4,14,15  
Rev. 1:3; 2:10,11,13; 2:13; 13:10; 14:12



**Leadership**

Acts 2:42-47; 4:24-31; 6:1-6; 12:5; 13:1-3; 14:14-18; 16:1-5; 20:27-32  
2 Cor. 1:28,29; 2:2,3,11-14; 3:5,6; 4:1-6,7-15  
1 Thess. 2:5-9  
1 Tim. 2:1-6; 3:1-13; 4:11,13; 5:3-16,19,22; 6:3-5,17-19  
Titus 1:5-9,10-16; 2:1-10

**Dealing With Sin**

Rom. 6:11-14,16-23; 7:17,20  
Galatians 5:13; 6:1,2

**Patience**

James 1:1-5; 5:7,8

**Body Life**

1 Cor. 1:10; 3:1-4; 5:1-8; 12:12-27; 14:26-40  
2 Tim. 1:8,13,14; 2:2,3-7,4:2  
1 John 1:5-10; 2:18,19

**Speech**

Ephesians 4:29; 5:3-7  
James 3:1-2; 3:9-12

**Victory (also Purity below)**

Ephesians 6:10-17  
Rev. 12:11

**Purity**

1 Thess. 4:3-8  
Rev. 2:14,20; 14:4,5

**Respecting Authority**

1 Thess. 5:12,13  
1 Peter 2:13-18; 5:5-7

**Serving God**

James 1:22-25

**Impartiality**

James 2:1-9

**Bearing Real Fruit**

2 Peter 1:5-8

**Sharing Christ**

1 John 1:3,4; 2:24,25; 3:7-15; 4:7-19

**Worship**

Jude 24, 25

**Discernment**

2 Peter 2:1-3,18-22  
Jude 8-22

**Additional Study: About Perfection**

Matthew 5:48  
John 17:23  
I Corinthians 1:10  
II Corinthians 7:1; 13:9,11  
Colossians 4:12  
Hebrews 6:1; 13:21  
James 1:4

“It is not the ceremony  
that saves us, but faith in  
Christ’s death and resurrec-  
tion.”

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



“DON'T YOU KNOW THAT YOU  
YOURSELVES ARE GOD'S TEMPLE AND  
THAT GOD'S SPIRIT LIVES IN YOU?”  
(1 CORINTHIANS 3:16)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Things that prevent perfection:**

Luke 8:14  
 Galatians 3:3  
 Philippians 3:15  
 Hebrews 7:11,19; 9:9; 10:1

**Reasons to be perfected:**

John 17:23;  
 Romans 12:2  
 Colossians 4:12  
 II Timothy 3:16-17  
 James 1:4; 2:22; 3:2  
 I John 2:5

**How we are perfected:**

Matthew 19:21  
 Luke 6:40  
 II Corinthians 7:1; 12:9  
 Galatians 3:3  
 Ephesians 4:12-13  
 Philippians 3:12,15  
 Colossians 1:28; 3:14  
 II Timothy 3:16-17  
 Hebrews 2:10; 7:11  
 James 1:4,17,25; 2:22; 3:2  
 I Peter 5:10  
 I John 2:5; 4:12; 4:17-18

# WHATEVER IT TAKES

I am a part of the body committed to doing “whatever it takes.”

I have Holy spirit power. The die has been cast. I’ve stepped over the line. I am out of the comfort zone. The decision has been made. I’m a disciple of Jesus. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, or back away. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure.

I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame vision, mundane talking, chincy giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, or popularity. I don’t have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, and my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won’t give up, shut up, let up, or burn up till I’ve preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up and stayed up for the cause of Jesus Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops.

And when He comes to get His own, He’ll have no problem recognizing me, because I have dedicated my life to be a part of the body committed to doing “whatever it takes.”

author unknown

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

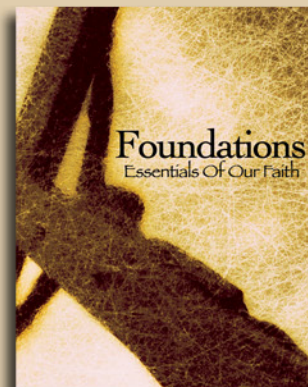
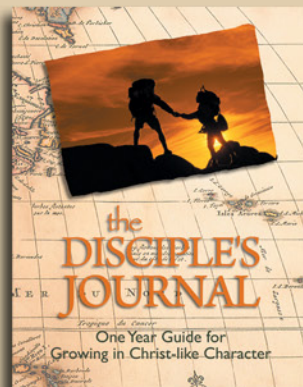
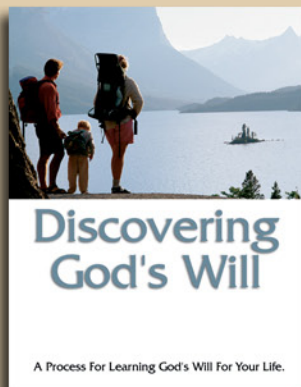
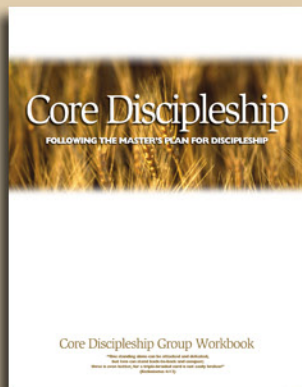
\_\_\_\_\_

CORE Discipleship is a faith-based, Christian organization. Our mission is to help you make disciples of Jesus. We provide a simple and reproducible discipleship process based on Jesus' "inner circle" or "core" comprised of Peter, James, and John. We also provide discipleship training and discipleship resources available as free downloadable eBooks. CORE is a Biblical process that can help develop an unbelievable spiritual discipleship community where no one stands alone, struggles alone, develops alone or grows up alone.

May God grant that we become  
His disciples by His grace,

Doug & Suzie Morrell  
CORE Discipleship

## More Resources From Core Discipleship



# CoreDiscipleship.com