

DISCIPLES PROFILE
RECORD YOUR DISCIPLES DATA OF YOUR MINISTRY / ZONE

NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BAPTISM DATE	ADDRESS
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NO.	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BAPTISM DATE	ADDRESS
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MINISTRY MEMBERSHIP
PRAY FOR YOUR DISCIPLES IN YOUR MINISTRY / ZONE EVRYDAY

No	MEN	No	WOMEN
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FOLLOW-UP STUDIES

KEEP A RECORD OF YOUR YOUNG DISCIPLES FOLLOW-UP STUDIES

No	NAMES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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STUDIES

KEEP TRACK OF THE GUARD THE GOSPEL STUDIES WITH VISITORS

No	NAMES	WIG	J-1	J-2	WOG	DIS	CHR	SIN-1	SIN-2	REP	CROS	BAP	COST	DATE BAPT.
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No	NAMES	WIG	J-1	J-2	WOG	DIS	CHR	SIN-1	SIN-2	REP	CROS	BAP	COST	DATE BAPT.
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CONTRIBUTION - 2000
BE ACCOUNTABLE WITH YOUR DISCIPLES CONTRIBUTION

No	NAMES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	SPECIAL
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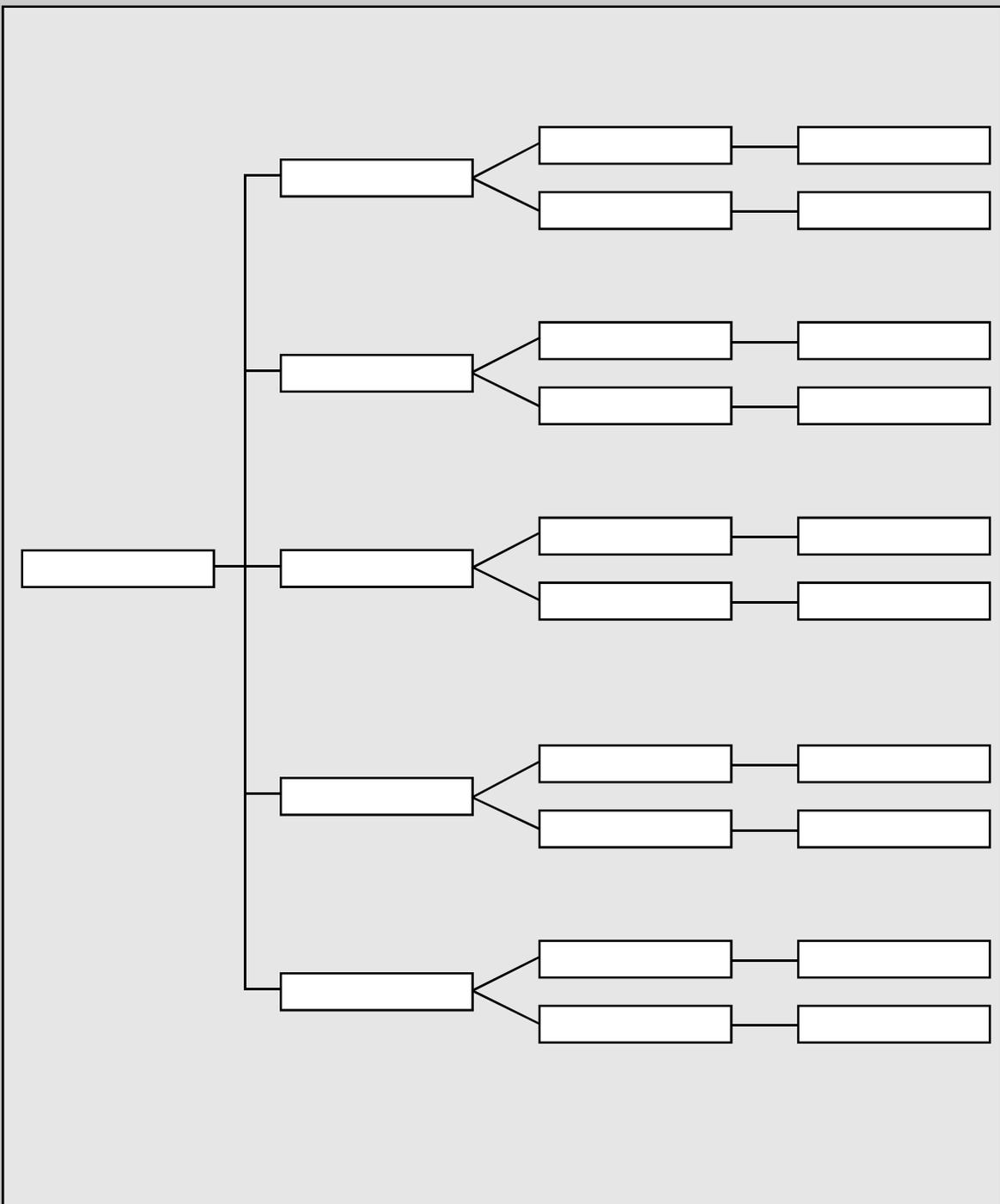
No	NAMES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	SPECIAL
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PERSONAL EXPENSE PLANNER

BUDGET YOUR OWN PERSONAL EXPENSES FOR EACH MONTH

INCOME / EXPENSE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
INCOME													
SALARY													
OTHERS													
TOTAL INCOME													
EXPENSES													
CONTRIBUTION													
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION													
RENT													
ELECTRICITY / WATER													
RATION / FOOD													
AUTO / BUS													
CHILDREN EXPENSES													
FEES													
MEDICAL													
REPAIR													
PURCHASING													
MISC													
PERSONAL SAVING													
CHILDREN SAVING													
TOTAL EXPENSES													
BALANCE													

DICIPLING TREE
KEEP WATCH OVER YOUR SHEEP



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FIND YOUR DESIRED TOPICS

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BIBLE TALK TIPS

FEW ADVICES FOR GREAT BIBLE TALKS

KEEP IT SIMPLE

- People will generally remember ONE main point out of your Bible Talk
- You should be able to express the main point of the Bible Talk in ONE simple sentence (If you can't, what are you expecting the people in the group to remember?)

IF POSSIBLE, STICK TO ONE SCRIPTURE

- Pick great passage of scripture and dig into it!
- Visitors will feel uncomfortable if they can't find scriptures
- You will spend more time studying and less time searching
- People will be excited with how much they can learn from one Bible passage

READ THE SCRIPTURE IN A POWERFUL WAY

- Make the passage come alive in the reading and in your description of it
- NEVER make the Bible look dull or boring
- If possible give a BRIEF background on the scripture (who said it, when it was said, what were the circumstances)
E.g. "Let's look at what Jesus had to say to the Pharisees on the subject of traditions."
- Always give a BRIEF recap of the scripture in your own words
(Some people get nervous during reading or have hard time following the printed words on the page so they are not able to concentrate on what is being read. A quick re-cap will bring everyone up to speed on what is happening in the scripture).
- Don't assume that everything in a passage is obvious
(Remember you have spent hours studying this passage, the people in the group may be seeing it for the first time).

HAVE FUN

- Many passages and situations in the Bible are comical, have some fun when you talk about them E.g. "Can you imagine what was going through the homeowners mind as those four guys were ripping his roof apart to lower the paralytic down to Jesus?"
- Laugh with people, enjoy their comments
- Don't make the Bible Talk "heavy" and "somber"

TEACH WITH CONVICTION

- Be CONVINCED that what you are teaching is true and right, it will change the lives of your listeners, they NEED what you have to teach
- Always leave people with a challenge E.g. "The challenge from the study tonight is to get into the Bible and see what it takes to be a real disciple".

MAKE THE BIBLE TALK SHORT

- 30-45 minutes MAXIMUM
- “The mind cannot absorb what the bottom cannot endure”
- If there are children, they will be clumping the walls in the back bedroom
- If visitors feel like Bible Talk is always an all-night ordeal, they will be less inclined to come back
- It is much better to leave people wishing the Bible Talk had gone longer, than wishing it had been shorter
- Leave a few points un-discussed to talk about in fellowship afterwards

MAKE THE OPENINGS FUN

- Play a game of some kind (Name That Tune, Liars Club)
- Show a video clip
- Play a song
- Read a newspaper article or a “Dear Abby” column
- Find some interesting facts or statistics related to your topic
- Go around the group and ask non-threatening question of everyone (E.g. “If you could travel anywhere free, where would you go?”)
- Use props (E.g. a mustard seed to illustrate faith)
- Be creative
- Don’t start the Bible Talk, “Let’s all turn over to Isaiah....”

SET THE ATMOSPHERE

- As the leader, you determine the atmosphere in the room/home
- Be sure the room is well lit
- Teach the group members to be friendly (set the example)
- Have great refreshments
- Occasionally have a potluck before the Bible Talk
- Make everyone feel at home
- Visitors are the focus of your conversations until they go home, never let them sit / stand alone and excluded from the conversation
- Avoid church lingo (E.g. “D-time”, “Disciples”, “Devo”, “Awesome”)

PAY ATTENTION TO DETAIL

- Does everyone know when and where you are meeting?
- Does everyone have a ride?
- Be sure there are Bibles for anyone who may not have brought one
- The members should be there 15 minutes early to help clean, set up, give rides, buy refreshments, baby-sit kids for the host family, greet visitors as they arrive, whatever needs doing
- Clean your house / apartment (Single bothers, are you paying attention?)

Bible Planner

BIBLE READING PLANNER
RECORD YOUR BIBLE STUDY CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER

OLD TESTAMENT																									
Genesis	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Exodus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40										
Leviticus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27																							
Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36														
Deuteronomy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34																
Joshua	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Judges	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
Ruth	1	2	3	4																					
1 Samuel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31																			
2 Samuel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
1 Kings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
2 Kings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1 Chronicles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29																					
2 Chronicles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36														
Ezra	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10															
Nehemiah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13												
Esther	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10															
Job	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42								
Psalms	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
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	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
Proverbs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31																			
Ecclesiastes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12													
Song of Songs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8																	
Isaiah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66									
Jeremiah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	51	52																							
Lamentations	1	2	3	4	5																				
Ezekiel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48		

Bible Planner

Daniel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Hosea	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Joel	1	2	3											
Amos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9					
Obadiah	1													
Jonah	1	2	3	4										
Micah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
Nahum	1	2	3											
Habakkuk	1	2	3											
Zephaniah	1	2	3											
Haggai	1	2												
Zechariah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Malachi	1	2	3	4										

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	26	27	28																							
Mark	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16										
Luke	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
John	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21					
Acts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	26	27	28																							
Romans	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16										
1 Corinthians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16										
2 Corinthians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13													
Galatians	1	2	3	4	5	6																				
Ephesians	1	2	3	4	5	6																				
Phillipians	1	2	3	4																						
Colossians	1	2	3	4																						
1Thesalonians	1	2	3	4	5																					
2Thessalonians	1	2	3																							
1 Timothy	1	2	3	4	5	6																				
2 Timothy	1	2	3	4																						
Titus	1	2	3																							
Philemon	1																									
Hebrews	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13													
James	1	2	3	4	5																					
1 Peter	1	2	3	4	5																					
2 Peter	1	2	3																							
1 John	1	2	3	4																						
2 John	1																									
3 John	1																									
Jude	1																									
Revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22				

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Matthew

Ch 1	The Genealogy of Jesus (1-17) The Birth of Jesus Christ (18-25)	Fasting (16-18) Treasures in Heaven (19-24) Do Not Worry (25-34)
Ch 2	The Visit of Magi (1-12) The Escape of Egypt (13-18) The Return of Nazareth (19-23)	Ch 7
Ch 3	John the Baptist Prepares the Way (3:1-12) The Baptism of Jesus (13-17) The Temptation of Jesus (1-11)	Judging others (1-6) Ask, Seek, Knock (7-12) The Narrow and Wide Gates (13-14) A Tree and its Fruit (15-23) The Wise and Foolish Builders (24-29)
Ch 4	Jesus Begins to Preach (12-17) The Calling of the First Disciples (18-22) Jesus Heals the Sick (23-25)	Ch 8
Ch 5	The Beatitudes (1-12) Salt and Light (13-16) The fulfillment of the Law (17-20) Murder (21-26) Adultery (27-30) Divorce (31-32) Oaths (33-37) An Eye for an Eye (38-42) Love for Enemies (43-48)	The Man With Leprosy (1-4) The Faith of the Centurion (5-13) Jesus Heals Many (14-17) The Cost of Following Jesus (18-22) Jesus Calms the Storm (23-27) The Healing of Two Demon-Possessed Men (28-34)
Ch 6	Giving to the Needy (1-4) Prayer (5-15)	Ch 9
		Jesus Heals a Paralytic (1-8) The Calling of Matthew (9-13) Jesus Questioned about Fasting (14-17) A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman (18-26) Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute (27-34) The Workers Are Few (35-38)
		Ch 10
		Jesus Sends Out the Twelve (1-42)

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

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- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|---|
| Ch 11 | Jesus and John the Baptist (1-19)
Woe on Unrepentant Cities (20-24)
Rest for the Weary (25-30) | Ch 16 | The Demand for a Sign (1-4)
The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees (5-12)
Peter's Confession of Christ (13-20)
Jesus Predicts His Death (21-28) |
| Ch 12 | Lord of the Sabbath (1-14)
God's Chosen Servant (15-21)
Jesus and Beelzebub (22-37)
The Sign of Jonah (38-45)
Jesus' Mother and Brothers (46-50) | Ch 17 | The Transfiguration (1-13)
The Healing of a Boy with a Demon (14-23)
The Temple Tax (24-27) |
| Ch 13 | The Parable of Sower (1-23)
The Parable of the Weeds (24-30)
The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast (31-35)
The Parable of the Weeds Explained (36-43)
The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl (44-46)
The Parable of the Net (47-52)
A Prophet without Honor (53-58) | Ch 18 | The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (1-9)
The parable of the Lost Sheep (10-14)
A Brother who sins against you (15-20)
The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (21-35) |
| Ch 14 | John the Baptist Beheaded (1-12)
Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (13-21)
Jesus walks on the Water (22-36) | Ch 19 | Divorce (1-12)
The Little Children and Jesus 13-15
The Rich Young Man (16-30) |
| Ch 15 | Clean and Unclean (1-20)
The Faith of the Canaanite Woman (21-28)
Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand (29-39) | Ch 20 | The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (1-16)
Jesus Again Predicts His Death (17-19)
A Mother's Request (20-28)
Two Blind Men Receive Sight (29-34) |

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

- | | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| <p>Ch 21</p> | <p>The Triumphal Entry (1-11)
 Jesus at the Temple (12-17)
 The Fig Tree withers (18-22)
 The Authority of Jesus Questioned (23-27)
 The Parable of the Two Sons (28-32)
 The Parable of the Tenants (33-46)</p> | <p>Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial (31-35)
 Gethsemane (36-46)
 Jesus Arrested (47-56)
 Before the Sanhedrin (57-68)
 Peter Disowns Jesus (69-75)</p> |
| <p>Ch 22</p> | <p>The Parable of the Wedding Banquet (1-14)
 Paying Taxes to Caesar (15-22)
 Marriage at the Resurrection (23-33)
 The Greatest Commandment (34-40)
 Whose Son Is the Christ? (41-46)</p> | <p>Ch 27</p> <p>Judas Hangs Himself (1-10)
 Jesus before Pilate (11-26)
 The Soldiers Mock Jesus (27-31)
 The Crucifixion (32-44)
 The Death of Jesus (45-56)
 The Burial of Jesus (57-61)
 The Guard at the Tomb (62-66)</p> |
| <p>Ch 23</p> | <p>Seven Woes (1-39)</p> | <p>Ch 28</p> <p>The Resurrection (1-10)
 The Guards' Report (11-15)
 The Great Commission (16-20)</p> |
| <p>Ch 24</p> | <p>Signs of the End of the Age (1-35)
 The Day and Hour Unknown (36-51)</p> | |
| <p>Ch 25</p> | <p>The Parable of the Ten Virgins (1-13)
 The Parable of the Talents (14-30)
 The Sheep and the Goats (31-46)</p> | |
| <p>Ch 26</p> | <p>The Plot Against Jesus (1-5)
 Jesus Anointed at Bethany (6-13)
 Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus (14-16)
 The Lord's Supper (17-30)</p> | |

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Mark

Ch 1	John the Baptist Prepares the Way (1-8) The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus (9-13) The Calling of the First Disciples (14-20) Jesus drives Out an Evil Spirit (21-28) Jesus Heals Many (29-34) Jesus prays in a Solitary Place (35-39) A Man with Leprosy (40-45)	Ch 6	A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman (21-43) A Prophet Without Honor (1-6) Jesus Sends Out the Twelve (6-13) John the Baptist Beheaded (14-29) Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (30-44) Jesus walks on the Water (45-56)
Ch 2	Jesus Heals a Paralytic (1-12) The Calling of Levi (13-17) Jesus Questioned about Fasting (18-22) Lord of the Sabbath (23-28:3:1-6)	Ch 7	Clean and Unclean (1-23) The Faith of a Syrophenician Woman (24-30) The Healing of a Deaf and Mute Man (31-37)
Ch 3	Crowds Follow Jesus (7-13) The Appointing of the Twelve Apostles (13-19) Jesus and Beelzebub (20-30) Jesus' Mother and Brothers (31-35)	Ch 8	Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand (1-13) The Yeast of the Pharisees and Herod (14-21) The Healing of a Blind Man at Bethsaida (22-26) Peter's confession of Christ (27-30) Jesus Predicts His Death (31-9:1)
Ch 4	The Parable of the Sower (1-20) A Lamp on a Stand (21-25) The Parable of the Growing Seed (26-29) The Parable of the Mustard Seed (30-34) Jesus Calms the Storm (35-41)	Ch 9	The Transfiguration (2-13) The Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit (14-32) Who is the Greatest? (33-37) Whoever Is Not Against Us Is For Us (38-41) Causing to Sin (42-50)
Ch 5	The Healing of a Demon-Possessed Man (1-20)		

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| Ch 10 | Divorce (1-12)
The Little Children And Jesus (13-16)
The Rich Young Man (17-31)
Jesus Again Predicts His Death (32-34)
The Request of James and John (35-45)
Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight (46-52) | Ch 15 | Before the Sanhedrin (53-65)
Peter Disowns Jesus (66-72)
Jesus before Pilate (1-15)
The Soldiers Mock Jesus (16-20)
The Crucifixion (21-32)
The Death of Jesus (33-41)
The Burial of Jesus (41-47) |
| Ch 11 | The Triumphal Entry (1-11)
Jesus Clears the Temple (12-19)
The Withered Fig Tree (20-26)
The Authority of Jesus Questioned (27-33) | Ch 16 | The Resurrection (1-20) |
| Ch 12 | The Parable of the Tenants (1-12)
Paying Taxes to Caesar (13-17)
Marriage at the Resurrection (18-27)
The Greatest Commandment (28-34)
Whose Son Is the Christ? (35-40)
The Widow's Offering (41-44) | | |
| Ch 13 | Signs of the End of the Age (1-31)
The Day and Hour Unknown (32-37) | | |
| Ch 14 | Jesus Anointed at Bethany (1-11)
The Lord's Supper (12-26)
Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial (27-42)
Jesus Arrested (43-52) | | |

Mark

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Ch 1	Introduction (1-4) The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold (5-25) The Birth of Jesus Foretold (26-38) Mary Visits Elizabeth (39-56) The Birth of John the Baptist (57-66) Zechariah's Song (67-80)	Lord of the Sabbath (1-11) The Twelve Apostles (12-16) Blessings and Woes (17-26) Love for Enemies (27-36) Judging Others (37-42) A Tree and Its Fruit (43-45) The Wise and Foolish Builders (46-49)	
Ch 2	The Birth of Jesus (1-7) The Shepherds and the Angels (8-20) Jesus presented in the Temple (21-40) The Boy Jesus at the Temple (41-52)	Ch 7	The Faith of the Centurion (1-10) Jesus Raises a Widow's Son (11-17) Jesus and John the Baptist (18-35) Jesus Anointed by Sinful Women (36-50)
Ch 3	John the Baptist Prepares the Way (1-20) The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus (21-38)	Ch 8	The Parable of the Sower (1-15) A Lamb on a Stand (16-18) Jesus' Mother and Brothers (19-21) Jesus Calms the Storm (22-25) The Healing of a Demon-Possessed man (26-39) A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman (40-56)
Ch 4	The Temptation of Jesus (1-13) Jesus Rejected at Nazareth (14-30) Jesus drives Out an Evil Spirit (31-37) Jesus Heals Many (38-44)	Ch 9	Jesus Sends Out the Twelve (1-9) Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (10-17) Peter's Confession of Christ (18-27) The Transfiguration (28-36) The Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit (37-45)
Ch 5	The Calling of the First Disciples (1-11) The Man with Leprosy (12-16) Jesus Heals a Paralytic (17-26) The Calling of Levi (27-32) Jesus Questioned About Fasting (33-39)		

Luke

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

	Who Will Be the Greatest (46-50) Samaritan Opposition (51-56) The Cost of Following Jesus (57-62)		Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem (31-35)
Ch 10	Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-two (1-24) The Parable of the Good Samaritan (25-37) At the Home of Martha and Mary (38-42)	Ch 14	Jesus at a Pharisee's House (1-14) The Parable of the Great Banquet (15-24) The Cost of Being a Disciple (24-35)
Ch 11	Jesus' Teaching on Prayer (1-13) Jesus and Beelzebub (14-28) The Sign of Jonah (29-32) The Lamp of the Body (33-36) Six Woes (37-54)	Ch 15	The Parable of the Lost Sheep (1-7) The Parable of the Lost Coin (8-10) The Parable of the Lost Son (11-32)
Ch 12	Warning and Encouragements (1-12) The Parable of the Rich Fool (13-21) Do Not Worry (22-34) Watchfulness (35-48) Not Peace but Division (49-53) Interpreting the Times (54-59)	Ch 16	The Parable of The Shrewd Manager (1-15) Additional teaching (16-18) The Rich Man and Lazarus (19-31)
Ch 13	Repent or Perish (1-9) A Crippled Woman Healed on the Sabbath (10-17) The Parables of the Mustard Seed and The Yeast (18-21) The Narrow Door (22-30)	Ch 17	Sin, Faith, Duty (1-10) Ten Healed of Leprosy (11-19) The Coming of the Kingdom of God (20-37)
		Ch 18	The Parable of the Persistent Widow (1-8) The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (9-14) The Little Children and Jesus (15-17) The Rich Ruler (18-30) Jesus Again Predicts His Death (31-34) A Blind Beggar Receives His Sight (35-43)
		Ch 19	Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (1-10) The Parable of the Ten Minas (11-27)

Luke

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

	The Triumphal Entry (28-44)	Jesus appears to the Disciples (36-49)
	Jesus at the Temple (45-48)	The Ascension (50-53)
Ch 20	The Authority of Jesus Questioned (1-8)	
	The Parable of the Tenants (9-19)	
	Paying Taxes to Caesar (20-26)	
	The resurrection and Marriage (27-40)	
	Whose Son Is the Christ (41-47)	
Ch 21	The Widow's Offering (1-4)	
	Signs of the End of the Age (5-38)	
Ch 22	Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus (1-6)	
	The Last Supper (7-38)	
	Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives (39-46)	
	Jesus Arrested (47-53)	
	Peter Disowns Jesus (54-62)	
	The Guards Mock Jesus (63-65)	
	Jesus before Pilate and Herod (66-71- 23:1-25)	
Ch 23	The Crucifixion (26-43)	
	Jesus' Death (44-49)	
	Jesus' Burial (50-56)	
Ch 24	The Resurrection (1-12)	
	On the Road to Emmaus (13-35)	

Luke

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Ch 1	The Word Became Flesh (1-18) John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ (19-28) Jesus the Lamp of God (29-34) Jesus' First Disciples (35-42) Jesus Calls Philip and Nathaniel (43-51)	Ch 7	Jesus goes to the Feast of Tabernacles (1-13) Jesus teaches at the Feast (14-24) Is Jesus the Christ? (25-44) Unbelief of the Jewish Leaders (45-53-8:1-11)
Ch 2	Jesus Changes Water to Wine (1-11) Jesus Clears the Temple (12-25)	Ch 8	The Validity of Jesus Testimony (12-30) The Children of Abraham (31-41) The Children of the Devil (42-47) The Claims of Jesus about Himself (48-59)
Ch 3	Jesus Teaches Nicodemus (1-21) John the Baptist's Testimony about Jesus (22-36)	Ch 9	Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (1-12) The Pharisees Investigate the Healing (13-34) Spiritual Blindness (35-41)
Ch 4	Jesus talks With a Samaritan Woman (1-26) The Disciples Rejoin Jesus (27-38) Many Samaritans Believe (39-42) Jesus Heals the Official's Son (43-54)	Ch 10	The Shepherd and His Flock (1-21) The Unbelief of the Jews (22-42)
Ch 5	The Healing at the Pool (1-15) Life through the Son (16-30) Testimonies about Jesus (31-47)	Ch 11	The Death of Lazarus (1-16) Jesus Comforts the Sisters (17-37) Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead (38-44) The Plot to Kill Jesus (45-57)
Ch 6	Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (1-15) Jesus walks on the Water (16-24) Jesus the Bread of Life (25-59) Many Disciples Desert Jesus (60-71)		

John

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Ch 12 Jesus Anointed at Bethany (1-11)
The Triumphal Entry (12-19)
Jesus Predicts His Death (20-36)
The Jews Continue in Their Unbelief (37-50)</p> <p>Ch 13 Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet (1-17)
Jesus Predicts His Betrayal (18-30)
Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial (31-38)</p> <p>Ch 14 Jesus /comforts His Disciples (1-4)
Jesus the Way to the Father (5-14)
Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit (15-31)</p> <p>Ch 15 The Vine and the Branches (1-17)
The World Hates the Disciples
(18-27-16:1-40)</p> <p>Ch 16 The Work of the Holy Spirit (5-16)
The Disciples' Grief Will Turn to Joy (17-33)</p> <p>Ch 17 Jesus Prays for Himself (1-5)
Jesus Prays for His Disciples (6-19)
Jesus Prays For All Believers (20-26)</p> <p>Ch 18 Jesus Arrested (1-11)
Jesus Taken to Annas (12-14)</p> | <p>Peter's First Denial (15-18)
The High Priest Questions Jesus (19-24)
Peter's Second and Third Denials (25-27)
Jesus before Pilate (28-40)</p> <p>Ch 19 Jesus Sentenced to be Crucified (1-16)
The Crucifixion (17-27)
The Death of Jesus (28-37)
The Burial of Jesus (38-42)</p> <p>Ch 20: The Empty Tomb (1-9)
Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene (10-18)
Jesus Appears to His Disciples (19-23)
Jesus Appears to Thomas (24-31)</p> <p>Ch 21 Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish
(1-14)
Jesus Reinstates Peter (15-25)</p> |
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John

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Acts

Ch 1	Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven (1-11) Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas (12-26)	Simon the Sorcerer (9-25) Philip and the Ethiopian (26-40)
Ch 2	The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost (1-13) Peter Addresses the Crowd (14-41) The Fellowship of the Believers (42-47)	Ch 9 Saul's Conversion (1-19) Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem (19-31) Aeneas and Dorcas (32-43)
Ch 3	Peter Heals the Crippled Beggar (1-10) Peter speaks to the Onlookers 11-26	Ch 10 Cornelius Calls for Peter (1-8) Peter's Vision (9-23) Peter at Cornelius' House (24-48)
Ch 4	Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (1-22) The Believers' Prayer (23-31) The Believers Share Their Possessions (32-37)	Ch 11 Peter Explains His Actions (1-18) The Church in Antioch (19-30)
Ch 5	Ananias And Sapphira (1-11) The Apostles Heal Many (12-16) The Apostles Persecuted (17-42)	Ch 12 Peter's Miraculous Escape From Prison (1-19) Herod's Death (19-25)
Ch 6	The Choosing of the Seven (1-7) Stephen Seized (8-15)	Ch 13 Barnabas and Saul Sent Off (1-3) On Cyprus (4-12) In Pisidian Antioch (13-52)
Ch 7	Stephen's Speech to the Sanhedrin (1-53) Stoning of Stephen (54-60)	Ch 14 In Iconium (1-7) In Lystra and Derbe (8-20) The Return to Antioch in Syria (21-28)
Ch 8	The Church Persecuted and Scattered (1-3) Philip in Samaria (4-8)	

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

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|-------|--|-------|---|
| Ch 15 | The Council at Jerusalem (1-21)
The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers (22-35)
Disagreement between Paul and Barnabas (36-41) | Ch 22 | Paul Speak to the Crowd (37-22:1-21)
Paul the Roman Citizen (22-29)
Before the Sanhedrin (30-23:1-11) |
| Ch 16 | Timothy Joins Paul and Silas (1-5)
Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia (6-10)
Lydia's Conversion in Philippi (11-15)
Paul and Silas in Prison (16-40) | Ch 23 | The Plot to Kill Paul
Paul Transferred to Caesarea (23-35) |
| Ch 17 | In Thessalonica (1-9)
In Berea (10-15)
In Athens (16-34) | Ch 24 | The Trial Before Felix (1-27) |
| Ch 18 | In Corinth (1-28) | Ch 25 | The Trial Before Festus (1-12)
Festus Consults King Agrippa (13-22)
Paul before Agrippa (23-27,26:1-32) |
| Ch 19 | Paul in Ephesus (1-22)
The Riot in Ephesus (23-41) | Ch 27 | Paul Sails for Rome
The Storm (13-26)
The Shipwreck (27-44) |
| Ch 20 | Through Macedonia and Greece (1-12)
Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders (13-38) | Ch 28 | Ashore on Malta (1-10)
Arrival at Rome (11-16)
Paul Preaches at Rome under Guard (17-31) |
| Ch 21 | On to Jerusalem (1-16)
Paul's Arrival at Jerusalem (17-26)
Paul Arrested (27-36) | | |

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New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Ch 1	Paul's Longing to Visit Rome (8-17) God's Wrath against Mankind (18-32)	Ch 11	The Remnant of Israel (1-10) Ingrafted Branches (11-24) All Israel Will Be Saved (25-32) Doxology (33-36)
Ch 2	God's Righteous Judgement (1-16) The Jews and the Law (17-29)	Ch 12	Living Sacrifices (1-8) Love (9-21)
Ch 3	God's Faithfulness (1-20) Righteousness through Faith (21-31)	Ch 13	Submission to the Authorities (1-7) Love, For the Day is Near (8-14)
Ch 4	Abraham Justified by Faith (1-25)	Ch 14	The Weak and the Strong (1-23,15:1-13)
Ch 5	Peace and Joy (1-11) Death through Adam, Life through Christ (12-21)	Ch 15	Paul the Minister to the Gentiles (14-22) Paul's Plan to Visit Rome(23-33)
Ch 6	Death to Sin, Alive in Christ (1-14) Slaves to Righteousness (15-23)	Ch 16	Personal Greetings (1-27)
Ch 7	An Illustration from Marriage (1-7) Struggling With Sin (7-25)		
Ch 8	Life through the Spirit (1-17) Future Glory (18-27) More Than Conquerors (28-39)		
Ch 9	God's Sovereign Choice (1-29) Israel's Unbelief (30-10:1-21)		

Romans

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

1 Corinthians

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| Ch 1 | Thanksgiving (4-9)
Divisions in the Church (10-17)
Christ the Wisdom and Power of God (18-31,2:1-5) | Ch 12 | Spiritual Gifts (1-11)
One Body, Many Parts (12-31) |
| Ch 2 | Wisdom from the Spirit (6-16) | Ch 13 | Love (1-13) |
| Ch 3 | On Divisions in the Church (1-23) | Ch 14 | Gifts of Prophecy and Tongues (1-25)
Orderly Worship (26-40) |
| Ch 4 | Apostles of Christ (1-21) | Ch 15 | The Resurrection of Christ (1-11)
The Resurrection of the Dead (12-58) |
| Ch 5 | Expel the Immoral Brother! (1-13) | Ch 16 | The Collection for God's People (1-4)
Personal Requests (5-18)
Final Greetings (19-24) |
| Ch 6 | Lawsuits among Believers (1-11)
Sexual Immorality (12-20) | | |
| Ch 7 | Marriage (1-40) | | |
| Ch 8 | Food Sacrificed to Idols (1-13) | | |
| Ch 9 | The Rights of an Apostle (1-27) | | |
| Ch 10 | Warnings from Israel's History (1-13)
The Believer's Freedom (23-33,11:1) | | |
| Ch 11 | Propriety in Worship (2-15)
The Lord's Supper (17-34) | | |

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Ch 1	The God of all comfort (1-24,2:1-4)	Ch 12	Paul's Vision and His Thorn (1-21)
Ch 2	Forgiveness for the Sinner (5-11) Ministers of the New Covenant (12-17,3:1-6)	Ch 13	Final Warnings (1-10) Final Greetings (11-14)
Ch 3	The Glory of the New Covenant (1-18)		
Ch 4	Treasures in jars of Clay (1-18)		
Ch 5	Our Heavenly Dwelling (1-10) The Ministry of Reconciliation (11-21,6:1-2)		
Ch 6	Paul's Hardships (3-13) Do Not Be Yoked With Unbelievers (14-18,7:1)		
Ch 7	Paul's Joy (2-16)		
Ch 8	Generosity Encouraged (1-15) Titus Sent to Corinth (16-24,9:1-5)		
Ch 9	Sowing Generously (6-15)		
Ch 10	Paul's Defense of His Ministry (1-18)		
Ch 11	Paul and the False Apostle (1-15) Paul Boasts About His Sufferings (16-33)		

2 Corinthians

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Galatians

- Ch 1 No Other Gospel (6-10)
Paul Called by God (11-24)
- Ch 2 Paul accepted by the Apostles (1-10)
Paul Opposes Peter (11-21)
- Ch 3 Faith or Observance of the Law (1-14)
The Law and the Promise (15-29,4:1-7)
- Ch 4 Paul's Concern for the Galatians (8-20)
Hagar and Sarah (21-31)
- Ch 5 Freedom in Christ (1-15)
Life by the Spirit (16-26)
- Ch 6 Doing Good to all (1-10)
Not Circumcision but a New Creation (11-18)

Ephesians

- Ch 1 Spiritual Blessings in Christ (3-14)
Thanksgiving and Prayer (15-22)
- Ch 2 Made Alive in Christ (1-10)
One in Christ (11-22)
- Ch 3 Paul the Preacher to the Gentiles (1-13)
A Prayer for the Ephesians (14-21)
- Ch 4 Unity in the Body of Christ (1-16)
Living as Children of Light (17-32,5:1-21)
- Ch 5 Wives and Husbands (22-33)
- Ch 6 Children and Parents (1-4)
Slaves and Masters (5-9)
The Armor of God (10-20)
Final Greetings (21-24)

Galatians &
Ephesians

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Philippians

- Ch 1 Thanksgiving and Prayer (3-11)
Paul's Chains Advance the Gospel (12-30)
- Ch 2 Imitating Christ's Humility (1-11)
Shining as Stars (12-18)
Timothy and Epaphroditus (19-30)
- Ch 3 No Confidence in the Flesh (1-11)
Pressing Towards the Goal (12-21,4:1)
- Ch 4 Exhortations (2-9)
Thanks for Their Gifts (10-20)
Final Greetings (21-23)

Colossians

- Ch 1 Thanksgiving and Prayer (3-14)
The Supremacy of Christ (15-23)
Paul's Labor for the Church (24-29:2:1-5)
- Ch 2 Freedom from Human Regulations through
Life with Christ (6-23)
- Ch 3 Rules for Holy Living (1-17)
Rules for Christian Households (18-25,4:1-6)
Final Greetings (7-18)

Philippians &
Colossians

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

1 Thessalonians

- Ch 1 Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith (2-10)
- Ch 2 Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica (1-16)
Paul's longing to see the Thessalonians (17-20,3:1-5)
- Ch 3 Timothy's Encouraging Report (6-13)
- Ch 4 Living to Please God (1-12)
The Coming of the Lord (13-18,5:1-11)
- Ch 5 Final Instruction (12-28)

2 Thessalonians

- Ch 1 Thanksgiving and Prayer (3-12)
- Ch 2 The Man of Lawlessness (1-12)
Stand Firm (13-17)
- Ch 3 Request for Prayer (1-5)
Warning Against Idleness (6-15)
Final Greetings (16-18)

1 & 2 Thessalonians

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

1 Timothy

- Ch 1 Warning against False Teacher's of the Law (3-11)
The Lord's Grace to Paul (12-20)
- Ch 2 Instructions on Worship (1-15)
- Ch 3 Overseers and Deacons (1-16)
- Ch 4 Instructions to Timothy (1-16)
- Ch 5 Advice about Widows, Elders and Slaves (1-24,6:1-2)
- Ch 6 Love of Money (3-10)
Paul's Charges to Timothy (11-21)

2 Timothy

- Ch 1 Encouragement to Be Faithful (3-18,2:1-13)
- Ch 2 A Workman Approved by God (14-26)
- Ch 3 Godlessness in the Last Days (1-9)
Paul's Charge to Timothy (10-17,4:1-8)
- Ch 4 Personal Remarks (9-18)
Final Greetings (19-22)

1 & 2 Timothy

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Titus

- Ch 1 Titus' Task on Crete (5-16)
- Ch 2 What Must Be to Various Groups (1-15)
- Ch 3 Doing What Is Good (1-11)
Final Remarks (12-15)

Philemon

- Ch 1 Thanksgiving and Prayer (4-7)
Paul's Plea for Onesimus (8-25)

Hebrews

- Ch 1 The Son Superior to Angels (1-14)
- Ch 2 Warning to Pay Attention (1-4)
Jesus Made like His Brothers (5-18)
- Ch 3 Jesus Greater Than Moses (1-19)

- Ch 4 A Sabbath Rest for the People of God (1-13)
Jesus the Great High Priest (14-16,5:1-10)
- Ch 5 Warning against Falling Away (11-14,6:1-12)
- Ch 6 The Certainty of God's Promise (13-20)
- Ch 7 Melchizedek the Priest (1-10)
Jesus Like Melchizedek (11-28)
- Ch 8 The High Priest of a Covenant (1-13)
- Ch 9 Worship in the Earthly Tabernacle (1-10)
The Blood of Christ (11-28)
- Ch 10 Christ Sacrifice Once for All (1-18)
A Call to Persevere (19-39)
- Ch 11 By Faith (1-40)
- Ch 12 God Disciplines His Sons (1-13)
Warning Against Refusing God (14-29)
- Ch 13 Concluding Exhortations (1-25)

Titus, Philemon
& Hebrews

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

James

- Ch 1 Trials and Temptations (2-18)
Listening and Doing (19-27)
- Ch 2 Favoritism Forbidden (1-13)
Faith and Deeds (14-26)
- Ch 3 Taming the Tongue (1-12)
Two Kinds of Wisdom (13-18)
- Ch 4 Submit Yourselves to God (1-12)
Boasting About Tomorrow (13-17)
- Ch 5 Warning to Rich Oppressors (1-6)
Patience in Suffering (7-12)
The Prayer of Faith (13-20)

1 Peter

- Ch 1 Praise to God for A Living Hope (3-12)
Be Holy (13-25,2:1-3)
- Ch 2 The Living Stone and a Chosen People (4-12)

- Ch 3 Submission to Rulers and Masters (13-25)
Wives and Husbands (1-7)
Suffering for Doing Good (8-22)
- Ch 4 Living for God (1-11)
Suffering for Being a Christian (12-19)
- Ch 5 To Elders and Young Men (1-11)
Final Greetings (12-14)

2 Peter

- Ch 1 Making One's Calling and Election Sure (3-11)
Prophecy of Scripture (12-21)
- Ch 2 False Teachers and Their Destruction (1-22)
- Ch 3 The Day of the Lord (1-18)

James, **1 Peter**
& **2 Peter**

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

- 1 John**
- Ch 1 The Word of Life (1-4)
Walking in the Light (5-10,2:1-14)
 - Ch 2 Do Not Love the World (15-17)
Warning against Antichrists (18-27)
Children of God (28-29,3:1-10)
 - Ch 3 Love One Another (11-24)
 - Ch 4 Test the Spirits (1-6)
God's Love and Ours (7-21)
 - Ch 5 Faith in the Son of God (1-12)
Concluding Remarks (13-21)

2 John

3 John

Jude

- Ch 1 The Sin and Doom of Godless Men (3-16)
A Call to Persevere (17-23)
Doxology (14-25)

1
**2, 3 John
& Jude**

New Testament Subheadings

Would you like to memorise?

Revelation

Ch 1	Greetings and Doxology (4-8) One Like a Son of Man (9-20)	Ch 12	The Woman and the Dragon (1-12,13:1)
Ch 2	To the Church in Ephesus (1-7) To the Church in Smyrna (8-11) To the Church in Pergamum (12-17) To the Church in Thyatira (18-29)	Ch 13	The Beast out of the Sea (1-10) The Beast out of the Earth (11-18)
Ch 3	To the Church in Sardis (1-6) To the Church in Philadelphia (7-13) To the Church in Laodicea (14-22)	Ch 14	The Lamb and the 144,000 (1-5) The Three Angels (6-13) The Harvest of the Earth (14-20)
Ch 4	To Throne in Heaven (1-11)	Ch 15	Seven Angels with Seven Plagues (1-8)
Ch 5	The Scroll and the Lamb (1-14)	Ch 16	The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath (1-21)
Ch 6	The Seals (1-17)	Ch 17	The Woman on the Beast (1-18)
Ch 7	144,000 Sealed (1-8) The Great Multitude in White Robes (9-17)	Ch 18	The Fall of Babylon (1-24)
Ch 8	The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer (1-5) The Trumpets (6-13, 9:1-21)	Ch 19	Hallelujah! (1-10) The Rider on the White Horse (11-21)
Ch 10	Angel and the Little Scroll (1-11)	Ch 20	The Thousand Years (1-6) Satan's Doom (7-10) The Dead Are Judged (11-15)
Ch 11	The Two Witnesses (1-14) The Seventh Trumpet (15-19)	Ch 21	The New Jerusalem (1-27)
		Ch 22	The River of Life (1-6) Jesus is Coming (7-21)

EXCEL IN YOUR PROFESSION

Notes

Let's go around the room and introduce ourselves and share about our profession.
What we do and what is the nature of our job. And also we share how difficult is our job.

Do you want to excel in your profession? * Yes

Why do you want to excel in your profession?

- Will feel good / Will feel important / Will be easy / Comfortable / Earn lot of money

Ok Now, How will you feel if you are not excelling in your profession?

- Feel terrible / Good for nothing / Should have chosen some thing else / Not a good profession for me

It is natural to think other's profession is good / easy.

Everybody thinks this way only.

Remember others are thinking your profession is easy - that's OK.

What do you think of fishing profession?

- Messy job / Adventurous / Dangerous / No guarantee

In the Bible we see fishing is one of the main professions mentioned.

Peter's and Andrew's professions were fishing. In their life they did fishing for long. They were experienced fishermen.

May be they will take class on How to fish efficiently?

They may write books "How to be a successful fisherman"

They may write books like "Fishing in 30 days"

But here in Luke 5 we see them discouraged.

Because they tried fishing all night and caught nothing.

Lk 5:1-5.

Imagine how you will feel if you have worked all day and got nothing.

That is bad / frustrating / discouraging / embarrassing.

Nobody likes going home with empty nets.

Nobody likes empty Home

Nobody likes empty purse

Nobody likes empty bank accounts

Nobody likes empty gas cylinder

Nobody likes empty stomach

Nobody likes empty cupboards

Nobody likes empty Churches - we hate it

Emptiness always results in frustrating / discouraging / embarrassing.

These fishermen were empty, felt they were incapable and inadequate they were supposed to be experts but here the situation is different.

Today you may be failing in your marriage / ministry / job / finding job / being fruitful / managing finances.

We will see what happened later

Bible Talk

Lk 5:5-7

The moment Jesus entered in to the boat things being to turn around.
Today if you are in this situation, the only advice I give you is get Jesus in your boat. If you have Jesus as your co-pilot switch seats.
(Meaning make him the main pilot)

Notes

.....

Let Jesus involve in your ministry / marriage / job / finding job / being fruitful / managing finances

.....

These fishermen were already failed and lost, they finished fishing. But they obeyed Jesus.

.....

Today you may be a failure / might have failed. No problem, take Jesus in your boat. And obey what Jesus is saying.

.....

If you are not failing then you are not growing When you try you fail, but when you trust you succeed.

.....

.....

Pro 3:5,6

When you just obey, God will bless you way and you will be filled and No empty.

.....

Today we need to just take Jesus in our boats and just obey him.

.....

Many times we think twice the advice given to us and delay obeying them.

.....

Delaying is denying and we disobey and we fail again and again.

.....

Let us make a decision to obey. Then we will excel in our professions.

.....

HOT, COLD AND LUKEWARM

Notes

..... Opening Question: Which season do you prefer? Winter or Summer? Hot or Cold? WHY?

..... **Revelation 3:14-23**

..... Describe someone hot for football / cricket?

..... Describe someone cold for football / cricket?

..... Describe someone lukewarm for football / cricket?

..... Describe someone hot for Jesus?

..... Describe someone cold for Jesus?

..... Describe someone lukewarm for Jesus?

..... Did these people know that they were lukewarm?

..... How do people get so deceived?

..... Why would someone remain lukewarm after discovering how much God hates it?

..... Describe two people in love?

..... How does Jesus show his love for us?

..... What prevents us from accepting challenges like we should?

..... What would you advise a lukewarm person to do who wants to get hot?

..... **Acts 8:26-33**

..... Example of someone hot for God

..... What characteristics does he show to that prove he is Hot for God?

..... What is the result of being hot? REJOICING

Conclusion:

Make a decision to be HOT for God and not settle for LUKEWARMNESS.

THREE SCARY SCRIPTURES

Notes

Opening Question: "What are you scared of?" (Spiders, snakes, heights etc.)

Revelations 21:6~8

Q: What do you find scary about this passage?

A: Individual sins and fiery lake - Elaborate on the sins Cowardliness, Immoral Lies.

Luke 13:22~27

Q: What do you find scary about this passage?

A: Trying but not entering - high standard - every effort - people will be surprised.

Q: What would describe someone trying to win a race?

A going training, eating well.

Q: What would describe someone making every effort to win a race?

A: Sacrifice, radicalness, total commitment everyday, asking advice

Q: Describe someone trying to get to heaven.

A: Going to church, reading Bible etc ...

Q: Describe someone making every effort to get to heaven.

A: Reading every day, getting someone in his / her life, being sacrificial.

2 Thessalonians 2:9~12

Q: What do you find scary (terrifying) about this passage?

A: Counterfeit miracles deceive the perishing.

Q: What are they deceived about?

A: Their salvation, righteousness in God's eyes.

Q: How can we refuse to love the truth?

A: Not be honest with ourselves, not doing what the Bible asks of us.

Q: How do you know if someone enjoys his or her sin?

A: Doesn't change, says sorry day after day.

Notes

WEED OR WHEAT?

MATT 13:24-30

1. KINGDOM: • KING • LAW OF THE LAND • SUBJECTS • ENEMIES
MAN = JESUS

2. Wheat = Christians
Weeds = Christians
Enemies = Satan
Harvesters = Angels
Harvest time = judgement day
Barn = Heaven

Q: What most enemies try and do to us?
A: Ruin you oppose your work, bad propaganda, destroy you.

Q: Are most people aware daily that Satan is planning to ruin them?

The Weeds and the Wheat look identical. (Bearded darnel) until harvest when their fruit is revealed.

Q: So spiritually what distinguishes the weeds from the wheat?
A: Fruit

Q: What Bad fruit does God not want us to bear?
A: Selfishness using up, sexual immorality, racism, and drunkenness.

Q: What good fruit?
A: Other Christians, helping the poor, prayer, and repentance.

V-30

Q: What do you learn from this verse?
A: Judgement day will right all the wrongs, Corrupt people will be punished / acquitted, Hitler will be punished.

Now let see how close we were

Matt 13:36-43

Q: Are you a weed or Wheat?
Q: Do you want to change?

God has set it up so we can be transformed from Weed to Wheat.

GROWTH IS EXCITING

Notes

Q: What does the word 'grow' bring to mind? (Change, development, maturity, good health, progress)

C: Growth is exciting. It's encouraging to see a child grow, to see a person become mature, to see a weak person becoming healthy...

Q: How can we describe the term 'To conform'? (To fall in / to be like)

Galatians 5: 19-23

Q: What are two patterns we can conform to?

C: the pattern of the world (adultery, impurity, idolatry, selfish ambition, pride, greed...)

C: the pattern of a disciple of Jesus (Love, Peace, joy, unity, forgiving spirit...)

LK 11: 24-26

C: The evil spirit comes out, it seeks rest if he does not find it, he decides to come back. It is not good enough to clean our spiritual house and put in order. This space can now be a happy hunting ground for Satan.

Unless we block his re-entry, the evil spirit, not only come back, but gets seven other spirits more wicked and make our final condition worse than ever before.

Q: Why do you think the evil spirit get to do this? (Because the place is empty)

Q: How can we prevent him from ever coming back?

Rom 12: 2 (By being transformed)

Q: What does it mean to be transformed? (To become a new creation)

Q: How can we be transformed? **Rom 12: 9** (be transformed by learning to overcome evil.)

Q: How can we overcome evil? (By doing good)

Q: What are some good we can do? (Serving in home and office, help some one with studies, giving gifts etc.,)

Rom 12 :10 Be transformed by learning to be devoted in love

Q: How can we show brotherly love? (By being devoted, be devoted to the disciples, your discipler, your brothers and sisters...)

Q: How can we live in harmony? (Don't fight and argue, listen to others, be willing to sacrifice, be humble, willing to associate with people of low position)

C: In order to grow let's overcome the evil, let,s be devoted to others like brothers and sisters and let,s learn to live in harmony.

Notes

WARNINGS

Q: What are some of the warnings that we don't obey today?

A: Traffic signs, cigarettes health hazards, and skin cancer, etc ...

Q: What are some warnings we do obey?

A: Poison, electrical charge, beware of the dog, etc ...

Why is there a difference?

(a) The seriousness of the consequences

(b) The immediacy of the effect

Hebrews 2:1~14

Q: What are some of the warnings in this passage?

A: Pay more careful attention to our lives. Don't drift away Don't miss salvation

Q: What can we do to pay more attention to our lives?

A: Read Bible more, confess our sin, ask for help from other people, etc

Q: Why do you think he uses the word "drift" away rather than zoom away?

A: It's a gradual process that typically we are unaware of that it's happening.

Matthew 7:1~23

Q: What are some of the warnings here?

A: Beware of those prophets

Bear good fruit not bad fruit. Don't just believe in Jesus. Do His Will

Q: What are some good fruits? (Physical)

A: Apples, bananas, mangoes, gapes

Q: What are some good spiritual fruits?

A: Love, sympathy, humility, winning souls, etc...

Q: What are some bad fruits spiritually?

A: Smoking, drinking, lust, racism, pride, etc ...

I Corinthians 10:6~12

Q: What are some of the warnings here?

A: Don't idolise things

Don't be sexually immoral

Don't test God

Don't grumble against God

Be careful if you think you're standing firm

GRATEFUL HEART

Notes

Q: What is something that you are grateful of in your life?

Today we are going to see about 2 disciples of Jesus who were not grateful to Jesus. For some reason.

Mathew 26: 47- 50

Just imagine this situation how it would have been?

Q: Before Judas came what was Jesus doing? (Speaking) about what?

A: He might be expressing his feelings / giving them plans / encourage them to be strong.

Q. What was Judas doing there in the crowd?

Q: What would you do, when someone comes to you with a sword / knife / chains at your doorstep? Never open the door / never come out for a week / defend / run away / fear of death.

Q: Why did people put others into problems? Jealousy / hatred / revenge

Q: Would you join a group going with sword / chain? (No) unless you are involved in it. Why? Fear of police / family / death.

Q: How did Judas, betray Jesus? (Rabbi & Kissed him)

Q: Why did he kiss Jesus / to betray

Q: Do you think Judas would have kissed Jesus before? (No)

Q: How would have Jesus felt? Hurt / Painful.

C: Lets see why Judas did this **MATHEW 27: 3** Because of thirty silver coin.

Q: What kind of heart did Judas had? Greedy for money /selfishness / thought about future?

Q: How are people are today? Greedy for everything / sinful.

Q: How do people go about when they have money? (Drink / smoke / Gambling / prostitute / Bad movies etc.)

C: is that good life?

Q: What plans Judas would have had with that thirty silver coins?

Q: What happened to Judas later / He realised that he messed up.

Q: What was his decision? Hanged himself / was that a right decision? (No).

C: Today people make wrong decision in their life when they fail in exam / credit / boyfriend / girlfriend – kills themselves ... Railway track, poison, burn themselves they don't want to face life.... Why Judas decided like this?

Wrong decision leads you into trouble.

We saw about Judas / lets see about the other man. **Mathew 26: 69-75**

Q: How was Peter feeling in this passage? (Very afraid.)

Bible Talk

Notes

C: When he had fear a girl asked if he was with Jesus, but Peter responded by saying NO quickly. Near gate someone asked him again. He said NO again and then everyone caught Peter. Even Peter messed up – but he realised and changed. Peter was afraid to tell people that he knew Jesus.

Q: Why don't we talk about Jesus? Because of Fear...
Q: Whom are we afraid of? Family / Friend / Relatives / Boss.

Conclusion

Today we have seen about Judas and Peter. Judas realised, but his decision was not right ... he took a wrong decision that lead him into trouble. But peter messed up and he repented. Even in our life, we have not been grateful to God. Even our life can change, if we make a right decision.

FOLLOWING THE RULES

Notes

- What is your favourite sport? Why that sport?
- What does it take to succeed, to win in that sport? (Skill, practice, experiences, a good coach, knowing the rules, etc.)
- How important is it to know the rules really well?
- How do you get to know the rules really well?
- Who makes the rules? How easy is it to get them changed?
- What happens when you ignore the rules?
When you fail to follow the rules?
- Now, let's look at what Jesus says about religious people who fail to follow God's rules... who make compromises in the way they live their lives.

.....

.....

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Rev. 3: 14-18.

Q: What is Jesus saying here ?

A: Worldly success is valueless, spiritual wealth is all that counts.

.....

.....

Q: Being lukewarm about looking for the truth is worse than openly turning away, being cold toward God. Why?

Rev. 3: 19-22.

Q: And here. What's Jesus' message?

A: Jesus loves those who accept God's rules... those who accept the discipline of a righteous life.

Only those who overcome the pressures of the world will end up in Heaven. No religious hypocrites would be allowed!

.....

Q: What holds us back from being hot for the truth ... from living the life set out for us?

Let's look at a familiar example.

Mark 6: 17-28.

Q: What sins did Herod commit?

A: Sexual immorality, marrying two wives, imprisoning an innocent man, drunkenness, lust, murder, etc.

Q: What held him back from leading a righteous life?

Q: Why did he imprison John, whom he knew was a righteous and holy man?

A: His selfish ambition, malice, to stop John's public criticism of his lifestyle, also to pacify his malicious wife.

Q: Why did he make his wild promise to Salome?

A: His impurity, lewdness, to gain favours with his wife and her daughter, to impress his guests.

Q: Why did Herod, despite his great distress, and agree with his promise to Salome?

Bible Talk

Notes

A: His pride, arrogance would not allow him to admit his mistake, his foolish talk, his folly.

Acts 12: 21-25.

Herod ignored God's rules all his life and, because of this, was eventually struck down by an angel, eaten by worms and died.

But we need to remember that Herod's sins ... selfish ambition, malice, impurity, pride, arrogance, foolish talk, folly are all common worldly sins which can take us to Hell.

Q: How well do you know God's rules for living a righteous life?

Q: How sure are you about your standing with God?

Q: How Hot a prospect are you for Life after Death?

Q: What's holding you back from improving your chances? Is it Selfishness?

Q: Are you putting your worldly priorities and worldly wealth first?

Q: Is it Pride? Is it difficult to admit that you need to work further on you spiritual wealth?

See: Gal.5:19-21, Eph.5:3-7, 1 Cor.5:9-13, Mark 7:20-23, Matt.5:27-30, Rev.21:8

FIRE INSURANCE

Notes

• Have you ever thought what it would be like to own a holiday cottage in the mountains?

• I've got good news for you ... you've just been left a luxury mountain retreat by a wealthy relative whom you'd forgotten ever existed.

Your 'cottage' is actually a very large furnished house, with a thatch roof, that has only just been completed.

It stands all-alone on a ridge and the view is spectacular ... you can see forever. It is the perfect place to escape the pressures of the world.

• Can you see any snags ...any dangers? [Lightning, Fire]

• What will you do to protect your precious new home? [Lightning conductors, Insurance]

• Will any insurance company do? In choosing a company, what would you be looking for? [Good solid reputation, a record of paying out on claims]

• Will any policy do? In choosing a policy, what would you be looking for? [Complete cover, clear conditions, everything in writing, reasonable premium]

• How careful would you be to comply with every condition spelled out in the policy?

• How would you react if your insurance broker told you not to bother complying with some of the more inconvenient conditions, like regularly fire-proofing the thatch?

• Would you consider firing him?

• This is a very precious house. Would you consider saving on the premiums and taking some or all of the risk yourself?

• Seriously, now ... Is this how you would really protect a valuable property against fire?

• As responsible people, that's how we protect ourselves against fire in this life. How are we protecting ourselves against the fire of hell, "where the fire never goes out" Mk.9: 43?

Amos 4: 13.

let's look at God's Fire Insurance Policy, his Terms and Premiums.

John 14: 1-6.

Q: What does Jesus mean by 'many rooms'?

A place for 'many people with different policies' or a place for 'many different people covered by the same policy'?

John 14: 23-27.

Q: Like all insurance policies, God is offering us the benefit of 'Peace of Mind' here on earth, but what is the premium we must pay ?

A: Obedience to his teaching

John 15: 1-10.

Q: What is Jesus teaching here? What does he mean by 'bear much fruit'?

Notes

John 17: 20-23.

This is part of the longest prayer in the Bible, prayed with his disciples after the Last Supper.

Q: What is his main theme? Does it sound like he is offering a number of different policies? One tailor-made for every need. Whatever you feel comfortable with?

Matthew 7: 21-23.

Q: What's Jesus warning us about here?

A: You have to 'Walk the Talk', do what he commands. Belief alone is simply not enough.

So you can't just pay your annual premiums. You also have to regularly fireproof the thatch!

Galatians 1: 1-10.

Q: What is Paul warning us about here?

A: Don't listen to any broker telling you not to worry about the fine print in God's fire insurance policy.... Or adding a few clauses of his own. Check it out for yourself.

Revelation 22: 18-19.

This is John's Final Warning in the Bible...Don't add anything and don't leave anything out. Your insurance against eternal fire depends on it.

Q: So what have we learned from this discussion?

A: If we want peace of mind in this life, and confidence that we will make it to Heaven after we die, we had better get to know what the Bible really says about our salvation. Relying on what you've heard others saying, however well qualified they may sound, could be a fatal mistake, a mistake with some very unpleasant long-term consequences.

HANDLE WITH CARE

Notes

- Why do some packages have a lable, which says, “Handle with care”?
(Item is fragile) It will get damaged if not handled properly.
 - What are some things that put in boxes to protect sensitive items?
(Straw, paper, thermocol) These are usually put in strong boxes to absorb the shock and protect valuable items.
- Today we'll be seeing scriptures that talk about our roll in working with the weak.

ROMANS 15: 1

The Bible teaches us that we who are strong ought to bear with the weakness of the weak.

- What does it mean to ‘bear with’? (To tolerate, to be patient, to persevere, to go against what we really feel like doing.

- Why it is difficult to ‘bear with ‘ the weak? (It's more easier / natural to get frustrated, to loose patience and get angry.

There are two kinds of people who are weak

1. Weak willed people
2. People who have lots of hurt in their lives.

- What do weak willed people usually do? (They fall into the same sin like, smoking, drinking, being immoral etc., they know it's wrong, but they still compromise.

- How can we help this kind of weak willed person?
(Bear with them and build conviction into their lives. Invest time in teaching the Bible patiently, praying with them, getting them tied in with others who had similar struggles but have changed and share about your personal struggles and how God has helped you change.)
C: It is at this point we should bear with them even more. Ultimately if their heart is right, it will have an impact.

- How can hurt cause a person to become weak? (When the sin of others effects and damages them, intensely.)
C: It can be caused by, 1. Physical and sexual abuse,
2. Being focus into submission, and 3. Having to suffer in silence.
This kind of a weak person needs help in being open, overcoming bitterness and starting all over again.
Many of them are in a shell and look at themselves as victims.

Hebrews 5: 12

- How should we deal with those who are weak, ignorant and going astray? (Gently)
- What does it mean to be gentle? (Kind, place ourselves in their shoes, understand, listen carefully, getting the full picture.)

Notes

Hebrews 12:13

- Who should be our role model? (Jesus)
- C: Let's see how Jesus dealt with the problems of the weak.

John 11:35 Jesus was real, he was willing to cry.

- Why did he weep?
- C: Openly and in front of others, he wore his heart on his sleeve, as he went to help Mary and Martha, he expressed his own concern and care, those who saw him weeping were convinced that Jesus loved Lazarus.

- What can we learn from this incident? (he was willing to show his feelings)
- C: Tears did not make him less of a man. It just helped him to be real, sometimes we can help the weak by being real (but not sinful) with ourselves. When we work with the weak, it's okay to express our concern, show tears, and remember they are hurting.

Matthew 12 : 9-13

- What did Jesus teach the Pharisees? (it's lawful to do good on the Sabbath)
- C: Jesus was firm.
What can we learn from this? (Jesus was willing to challenge people; he did not layback but spoke the truth.

C: The weak need our love but we also need to be firm in the standard of the bible.
By striking the right balance between patience and speaking the truth in love we can work more effectively with the weak.

Remember we might make mistakes along the way, but lets be humble and learn from them.
Jesus was willing to cry, but he was also firm when he needed to be firm.

By making a decision to imitate Jesus, we too can be effective in helping the weak to be like Jesus.

WHOSE VOICE DO YOU LISTEN TO?

Notes

OQ: What is some bad advice you have been given in the past?

1 Kings 22:1-5

Q: What are some of the typical plans people make today?

A: Careers \ exotic holidays \ new girlfriend

Q: Why is Jehosaphat concerned about seeking counsel from God?

A: respects & loves God a big decision needs Gods approval

v.6-8

Q: Where do people generally go for advice on their plans?

A: horoscopes \ friends \ movie character example

Q: Why do some people not like to go to the bible?

A: Has high moral standards / Condemns sinful plans

Q: Why should he not say what he said?

A: Because he is saying he hates Gods words

Q: What should he say?

A: If he has only bad things to say then I need to change

v.9-14

Q: What typically pressures us into going along with the crowd?

A: Our fear of standing out / Dislike of criticism / Comfortability

v.15-18

Q: When do we tend to start getting very critical of others?

A: When we are in a corner

v.19-23

Q: What are some of the lies that false prophets tell today?

A: Just belief is needed You don't need to be a disciple

Homosexuality & immorality is O.K.

v.24-28

Q: How do people imprison Gods message today?

A: Ignore \ delay \ dilute \ rationalize

CONCLUSION:

The king of Israel goes into battle DISGUISED and yet an arrow fired at random struck him between the sections of his armour and he died.

You can listen to the false prophets because they may say 'nicer' things but ultimately it is always better to follow the hard but right way

Notes

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Q: Share about something which you asked God and God answered you (Get answer from everybody)

Lesson scripture: Daniel 6: 1-9, 6: 10-23

Daniel was one of the Administrators and in V-3 it says he was very righteous

Q: What do you mean by being righteous?

(Accepting sin, not telling lies, being truthful)

C: When Daniel was righteous others were not happy

For e.g. in Film 'Shool' the hero Manoj Vajpai wants to be righteous so everybody goes against him because they are not righteous

Q: What did they do to catch Daniel? (Issued decree, no worshipping God for 30 days)

C: Daniel loved to pray. What do you Love (Food, clothes etc.).

If you are told not to do something which you like to do how will you react? (Angry, upset, frustrated)

Q: How did Daniel react to this decree? (V-10)

Q: How can you say if somebody loves God with all his heart?

(Even if people stop him he will not stop)

C: Daniel loved God. He trusted God. And then because he disobeyed the king's decree he was sentenced to be thrown into the lion's den?

Q: Have you been punished anytime and why?

C: Daniel was punished because he did not compromise. Whole night he was in a lion's den and God protected him because he trusted God (V-21)

C: When we do what is right, God will always take care of us.

Daniel did not break his relationship with God.

Q: How we can have a relationship with God today?

(Study bible, come to meetings, ask, make time, pray, be open)

Conclusion:

You too can have a relationship with God

Learn from today's lesson how to make time and learn more about God.

PHYSICAL TRAINING Vs SPIRITUAL TRAINING

Notes

We are going to start this Bible talk with a short debate.
Bible Talk leader divides the audience into 2 teams.

The topic is: Physical Training Vs Spiritual Training.

One team speaks on Physical Training being of greater value than Spiritual Training. The second team speaks on Spiritual Training being of greater value than Physical Training.

Rules of the debate

1. Players keep alternating from Team 1 to Team 2. So first 1 player from Team 1 speaks and then 1 player from Team 2 speaks and play switches between Team 1 and Team 2.
2. Every player in both teams will get a chance to speak.
3. If a player speaks continuously for 20 seconds without any objection raised by the opposition team, the team gets 10 points.
4. If the player speaks continuously for 30 seconds without any objection raised by the opposition team, the team gets 20 points.
5. Any member of the opposition team may raise an objection by raising his/her hand. If the objection is sustained by the Bible Talk leader, the opposition team gets 10 points. However, if the objection is overruled by the Bible Talk leader, the team speaking will get a bonus 10 points.
6. You may raise objections if the speaker makes 3 errors or more or if he or she pauses for at least 5 seconds. An error is a repeating sentence or idea or a pause for 2 or more seconds.

C: Today we are going to discuss the whole idea of training.

Let's open our Bibles and read 1 Timothy 4:7- 8

Q: According to verse 8, what does the Bible say about physical training? Is it good? Is it of value to us? [YES.]

C: Verse 8 says that Physical training is of some value to us.

Q: What value does Physical training give us?

[Keeps us healthy and physically fit. Longer lifespan. Stamina. Free from sickness and disease.

We can do more in a day without getting tired. We feel better about life!]

Q: What can we do to get physically trained?

[Exercise / Go to the gym and work out / Eat the right kind of foods – low fat, low sugar, high fibre / Eat lots of fruit and vegetables / Jogging / Walking / Running, Swimming / Play vigorous sports – Football, Basketball, Squash, Tennis, Volleyball, etc.]

Q: According to the Bible, is physical training the best training available for our lives? [NO]

Q: Is there anything better than physical training? [YES]

Q: What is that? [GODLINESS TRAINING. Training yourself to be godly]

Bible Talk

Notes

Q: Why is godly training better than physical training?
What does it say here in verse 8? [Godliness has value for all things. It holds promise for both the present life and the life to come.]

Q: Physical training is for our body, right? [YES]

Q: Is our body going to last forever?

[NO. Our bodies will perish. We will all die.]

Q: So how long does the value of physical training last?

[Only as long as we are alive in this world. The value of physical training stops when we die, when our bodies decay and perish]

C: Let's learn more about godliness training.

C: Let's read Matthew 10:28

Q: Besides the body, what do we all have? [A soul]

C: The body does not last forever. It dies.

People can kill your body. But what about your soul?

Q: Can any person destroy your soul? [NO]

Q: Can physical sickness or disease kill your soul? [NO]

Q: Can old age kill your soul? [NO]

Q: Who can destroy your soul? [ONLY GOD]

Q: What does verse 28 say we need to do to guard our souls?

[We need to fear God]

C: Only God can destroy your soul and only God can protect your soul.

C: Let's read Matthew 16:24-26

Q: Jesus is speaking here. What is Jesus saying here in verse 26?

[You can gain the whole world and yet forfeit your soul]

THE VALUE OF MONEY

Notes

We are going to start this Bible talk with a short debate.

Bible Talk leader divides the audience into 2 teams.

The topic is : The Value Of Money.

One team speaks on Money being the Most Important thing in Life.

The second team speaks on Money Is Not the Most Important thing in Life.

Rules of the debate

1. Players keep alternating from Team 1 to Team 2. So first 1 player from Team 1 speaks and then 1 player from Team 2 speaks and play switches between Team 1 and Team 2.
2. Every player in both teams will get a chance to speak.
3. If player speaks continuously for 20 seconds without any objection raised by the opposition team, the team get 10 points.
4. If the player speaks continuously for 30 seconds without any objection raised by the opposition team, the team get 20 points.
5. Any member of the opposition team may raise an objection by raising his or her hand. If the objection is sustained by the Bible Talk leader, the opposition team gets 10 points. However, if the objection is overruled by the Bible Talk leader, the team speaking will get a bonus 10 points.
6. You may raise objections if the speaker makes 3 errors or more or if he or she pauses for at least 5 seconds. An error is a repeating sentence or idea or a pause for 2 or more seconds.

[Use opening question below if you choose not to have a debate]

OQ: Imagine you won Rs.1 billion in a lottery. What would you do with it?

C: Money can buy us many things as you've mentioned. A car, a home, nice clothes, jewelry, books, TV, Car, Motorbike, Food, A educational qualification, companions.

Q: What things can money not buy? [Happiness. Sleep. True love. Friendships. Wisdom. Time. Happy marriage. Great kids. Peace. Good character – patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control, discipline.

C: Today we are going to look at a man who had all the money in the world. He had more money that any of us here could possibly hope to get in our lives. This man was King Solomon.

Let's open our Bibles and read Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Q: What did Solomon do here? [v13- devoted himself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven.]

Q: How did Solomon feel about life after all his intensive study and after getting so much wisdom? [He felt that this was a chasing after the wind. Getting wisdom and knowledge did not give life any real meaning. Infact, more sorrow and grief according to v18]

Notes

C: Let's read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Q: What do we see here Solomon tried to do to find meaning to life? [V-3 Wine. V-4-Undertook projects, build houses, planted vineyards. V5- Made gardens and parks, planted fruit trees. V-6- Made reservoirs. V-7-Bought male and female slaves. Bought herds and flocks. V-8- Amassed silver and gold. Treasure of kings and provinces. Harem of women. V-9-He became the greatest. V-10- He denied himself nothing his eyes desired]

Q: Was there anything that King Solomon did not achieve in his life? [NO]

Q: He should have been happy, right? But was he content with life? Did he find meaning to his life possessing the things of the world?

Q: Did money and fame and knowledge fulfil him? [NO]

Q: What does King Solomon say in verse 11? [Everything was meaningless. Life is meaningless]

C: King Solomon tried so many other things in his life to find meaning but did not find it. You may read in your own time the rest of this book of Ecclesiastes to find out about his other endeavours.

C: Let's see King Solomon's conclusion about the meaning of life.

C: Let's read Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

Q: What is King Solomon's advice here? [v1- Remember your creator – God!]

Q: Why do you think King Solomon says that we should remember God?

[God creates us. God gives us life and he takes our life. We are nothing but dust. We can do nothing on our own. God is the one that gives us victory in this life]

C: Let's read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Q: What is King Solomon's conclusion? [Fear God. Keep his commandments.]

Q: What does it mean to fear God ? [To acknowledge the presence of God and to respect God for his greatness, power, wisdom and strength, his goodness and love. To love God more than the world. To make God our treasure in our lives. To obey his commands.]

CONCLUSION

Q: What are some things you learned from this discussion? Get audience to speak.

C: I want to leave you with a challenge that more than being consumed with money in your life, make every effort to get to know God, your creator and the one who sustains your life. God is the greatest treasure you can have in this life. The Bible, God's Word, will help you and many in this room who have decided to make God their treasure will be happy to help you.

C: Thank you all for participating in this discussion. Let's have a time of fellowship.

NEVER FORGET

Notes

Let's start off with a game -The memory game.

Have your group sit in a circle. Have someone say the name of a famous personality, (TV or movie star, politician, sports person etc).

For e.g. if he says 'Charles Dickens'- have the next person repeat this name as well as add another name of his choice?

As the turn passes from one person to another they keep repeating the previous names in order, as well as adding on a name of their choice to the list.

Those who forget a name or jumble the order lose and sit out. The one who remembers all the names in the right order is the ultimate winner.

Q. What did you learn from the game?

(A good memory is very useful/helpful)

Q. Have you ever forgotten something very imp. in your life?

(Let them share-then you share yourself)

We all have the tendency at some point to forget. It may be an imp. Appointment your car/bike keys, un paid bills, people's names or even a message.

Forgetting people is one thing -forgetting God is quite another.

Throughout the Bible, God warns us to never forget him or his commands- because when we do, it becomes more an issue of the heart than of the mind.

Let us examine a few scriptures:

2 Tim 2:8 (Paul's advice to Timothy)

Q. Was Timothy a busy man? (Yes) Q. What was he busy with?

(Leading a church, discipling people, preaching and teaching)

Q. What did Paul tell him to do? (Remember Jesus)

Q. Why do you think Paul gave him this advice? (Timothy being very busy, could easily have forgotten his very purpose of preaching)

Q. What makes us forget God?

(When we are doing well, happy times, when things are going fine)

Q. What makes us remember him? (Bad times, illnesses, lack of finances and worries)

Q. Is that fair? (No).

We should never forget God no matter what happens.

We can't use him.

Q. How will you if someone has forgotten God? (By their lifestyle/immorality drunkenness/cheating/stealing/lying/ungratefulness).

Q. How will you know if someone is always thinking about him? (By their lifestyle/ Godly/pure/honest)

Q. In what ways can we remember God? (By obeying his commands)

Q. Have you been doing this?

Lets look at another Scrip. **Rev 3:3.**

Q. Does God takes forgetting lightly? (No, it's a serious matter)

Bible Talk

Notes

- Q. Is it enough to just remember Gods commands? (No we must obey them)
- Q. How does God feel when we forget him? (He feels we are spiritually dead or sleeping-hence the admonition to "Wake Up")
- Q. What will happen if you don't take his warning seriously? (He will come like a thief in the night -in judgement on us)

Lets look at another scripture: **Isaiah 49:15.**

- Q. Will God ever forget us? (Never)
- Q. What would happen if God ever forgot us? (We would never have a chance to know the truth)
- Q. How does God feel about you and me today? (The way a mother feels about her child)
- Q. Can a mother forget her child? (Yes, there is a possibility - but even then God will not forget us)

when the going gets tough you may feel God has forgotten you - but the very fact that you are alive and here this evening means that he has not. We have seen that forgetting God is the difference between a good heat and a bad one.

Challenge: No matter what happens, let us never forget God. I urge you this evening to start studying the Bible and start remembering the God who never forgets you.

WEAPON AGAINST TEMPTATION

Notes

Q: Why is America the most powerful nation in the world?

Because they have the ultimate weapon, the nuclear technology.

Q: Why are the Americans so confident?

Because they know how and when to use their weapons and they are thoroughly equipped with the latest technology in the field of robotics – space technology – weapon technology – computers – management and medicine.

If we see today there are no nations who would like to war or threat against America, for the soul reason being their nuclear capability.

Read **Mathew 4: 1 – 11.**

Here we see that Jesus after his baptism decided to fast for forty days and nights, we also see that Satan the tempter comes to attack Jesus.

The tempter even dared to come near the Son of God. Jesus to tempt him.

Why did Satan want to tempt Jesus? Because Satan wanted to make Jesus discouraged (Guilty)

Why did Satan say to Jesus “ If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread”? Satan was very crafty. He exactly knew that Jesus was fasting alone in the desert and definitely Jesus was very hungry.

Have you ever fasted in your life?

How do you feel when someone is having a nice tandoori chicken or rasmalai in front of you? I am sure we all are tempted to eat and many times it happens when we see the food, we get spaced out and crank on the food.

We see in Vs 4, Jesus attacked the tempter by the Word of God. He said it is written man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Jesus referred from Deuteronomy 8: 3

We see in Vs 6 and 8, Satan again tempted Jesus by giving a good offer and showing the kingdom of the world from the high mountain, but what we see in Vs 7 and 10, Jesus again with conviction and full faith attacked and retaliated Satan quoting the Word of God

Here we see Jesus knew his weapon the Word of God. He remembered the readings of the weapon the scriptures. He had mastered the Word. He confidently attacked the Satan who eventually left him for some time and the angels came to attend Jesus.

Conclusion: the same way today we are so privileged that we have the weapon the Word of God. So make some time to study the Bible with the person who invited you so that you can know the Word of God and use it to fight against Satan.

ARE YOU FIT?

Notes

Today people are crazy about fitness Today we're going to take part in an interesting discussion on fitness. What are some things people do to have healthy and fit bodies? Let's go around and share. (jogging, exercise, good food, diet control tonics, medicines, etc..) One of the necessities for a healthy body is definitely, good nutritious food.

We all love to have food, don't we? Is there someone here who does not eat, totally hates food? No!

Today we are going to talk about some special food! That sounds tasty, doesn't it?. Let's go around and share about what is the best food we've ever eaten.

SHARE

We all remember that good food we ate. We need food to keep us strong spiritually too.

Have you heard of any food or some miracle medicine, which can stop death, prevent aging, etc.?

If any of you do, please share.

Let's look into the Bible and find out about the food that keeps us spiritually fit.

1. Food that makes you live forever

John 6:48-58

Jesus says that he is the bread that came down from heaven and anyone who eats of it shall never die. What does that mean? Does anyone want to explain? What does it mean to eat Jesus' flesh and drink his blood?

Let's turn our Bibles to **John 1:1,14** From this we can understand that the everlasting food is the word of God. There could be no better food than something, which could give you eternal life!

Now think of the nutritious food that you ate two months back. Can that food keeps you fit today without any more intake after that time? You need constant intake. Obviously that's why we keep on eating 3 times a day every day!

Similarly we need to read the Bible every day to keep us fit spiritually.

When we are aware of fitness we do regular check-ups to detect diseases and keep them away!

What are some diseases from which people suffer today? Let's share. (Cancer, aids, typhoid, tuberculosis, etc..)

Suppose we went to the doctor and found out that we have developed a cancerous growth inside our body what would we do?

We would get the doctor to operate on us and cut away the cancerous flesh, and undergo all the necessary medication to get healed. Let us see what gives us spiritual healing?

2. Medicine that heals you

Psalms 107:20 Hebrews 4:12

If we allow God's words to enter our hearts, it can cut away our sins which cause spiritual cancer.

Bible Talk

Share: What are the sins people usually do? (Pride, selfishness, drinking, smoking, loose living)

When the doctor's knife cuts our body for an operation, it is painful.

Similarly, it is painful for us to cut away the sins in our hearts but it brings healing.

It is also said that 'prevention is better than cure'

Notes

Psalm 119:11

Let's hide God's word in our hearts so that we may not sin against God and be destroyed spiritually

Suppose we eat all the good food you get, and you do not exercise, what happens?

You become flabby and unfit. We need exercise.

3. Exercise that tones you.

James 1:22-25

When you eat the word of God you also need to practice it. Is exercise easy? No. Exercising the word of God is not easy too.

Share about things in the Bible which people find difficult to practice?

(Not lying, not being immoral, don't borrow, loving others like Jesus loves us etc)

I Corinthians 9:24,25

An athlete has to keep running till the end of the race to win the prize.

If he gets tired and stops running half way through, he never wins the prize.

Similarly, we have to keep on practicing the Bible till the end of our lives to win the eternal crown and enter heaven.

So let us start practicing the word from today.

Let us make sure that we are spiritually fit.

MEANINGFUL LIFE

Notes

- Q. Tell one meaningful thing for you in your life [money, God.]
 - Q. Tell me one meaningful thing for you in your life.
 - Q. for the worldly people what are the meaning full things? [Going to gulf,]
 - Q. What kind of efforts do the worldly people take to attain all these things.
 - Q. For the world all these things are meaningful.
- Wisdom / pleasures / riches / youth

Ecclesiastes 1: 12-18

- v.16; - explain about the great wisdom, the author attained from this world.
- What kind of effort, he would have taken to attain that wisdom. [Going through lots of books]
- V.17-18: - why do you think the author says that wisdom is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

- What diff. pleasures do you think the author gained from his hardwork.
- What differences, Efforts do you think, the author would have taken to attain all these things.
- Why do you think the author says that pleasures are meaningless [lots of emptiness / lack of real happiness]

Ecclesiastes 11: 9-10

- To what extent does a man value his youth.
- What are some of the things that a man can achieve in his youth.
- Why do you think the author says that youth is meaningless.
- Now we talked about all the meaningless things that we focus on many times.
- Let's focus on the one meaningful thing that the author talks.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Why do you think that the author considers 'fearing God' as the most meaningful thing.

-Why do you think the author considers 'keeping his commandments' as a meaningful thing.

-How have your life been all these years: a meaningful life on a meaning less life.

Lets make a decision to go behind meaningful things to change our life.

THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE LIKE THE SUN

Notes

Game: - Prepare a list of simple questions. Every body sits in a circle and you can start asking the questions. You will be asking to one after the other. They have to start answering 2 question onwards. When you ask the 2nd question they have to say the answer of 1'st question.

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OQ: - Share about something that you have planted.

Mathew 13: 24-30

Here Jesus talks about the kingdom of heaven through a parable of the weeds

Q. When we plant some seeds what are some things that we make sure?

[The seeds are good, the soil is good, the season is right etc.,]

.....

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C. Here the man has sowed the good seed but when everybody was sleeping his enemy sowed weeds among the wheat. When both will come up. When it starts growing do you think it's easy to pull out the weeds, without uprooting the wheat? It's very hard. But once it's the harvest time we can easily distinguish which is wheat and which are weeds? And is easy to pull it up.

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Let's see how Jesus explains this parable.

Mathew 13: 36-46

Q. Who is the man who sowed the good seed? [Jesus]

Q. What is the field? [World]

Q. Good seed? [True disciples]

Q. Weeds? [Children of devil]

Q. Harvest? [End of the world]

Q. Harvesters? [Angels]

Q. What are the qualities of a good seed?

[It will grow and multiply, it is useful for the Sower as well as for many other people e.g.; Wheat is a very essential food item for many of us.]

C. True disciples of Jesus are like this good seed. They are useful for God and men. They are very precious. They will be righteous and bring many others to righteous ness. [Daniel 12:3]

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Q. What do the weeds do in a field?

C. They have the same rain, sunshine and soil with the good plants but are good for nothing. In fact it eats up the manure for the wheat and sometimes it grows even better than the good plants. It may even try to stop the good seeds from growing in good way.

C. People, who are selfish, worried only about their life.

Doesn't do much help to others. They are the people who do all kinds of evil. They are like the weeds. They do no good, they do hurt. They are not useful for God or men.

They will end up in hell.

But the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of God.

Q. Which kind of a seed are you?

Bible Talk

Notes

A good seed? Which is useful?
Or a weed? Which is good for nothing.

Let's see another passage

Mathew 13: 47-50

Q. How many of us have seen somebody fishing with a net?

When the net is put down in a lake, it gathers, all kinds of fish, when the net is full fisherman will pull it up or what will be inside the net?

There can be dirt, weeds or rubbish things also in the net.

But the fisherman will collect only the good fish. The world is like a lake or a sea.

Preaching of the gospel is like casting net.

Many people will come to church, through preaching. When the net is full and drawn to the shore, there will be a separation between good and bad that were gathered in it.

The good shall be gathered into vessels as valuable and carefully kept but the bad shall be cast away. While the net is in the sea, we not know what is in it.

The fisherman themselves can not distinguish. Just like this on the judgement day, God will separate the righteous from the wicked. God knows who is really righteous. We cannot hide any thing from God. [**Daniel 2:22**]

Check your heart today and decide whether you are a good fish or a bad fish.

LOVE: MEAN WHAT YOU SAY

Notes

OPENER: Remember one beloved person in this world and write down one thing you can do for her / him through which they can believe that you really love them. (To make it funny can give an illustration like: Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya)

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Q: What are the characters / qualities of a Lover?
Obedience / Sacrificing / Listen to each other

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Now, let's look into the Bible and learn what it means to really love someone.
Q:How many of you love God?

.....

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Genesis: 22: 1-12

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Q: What God expects from Abraham?(V2) Sacrifice his Son
Q: If you were in Abraham's place what would you have done?
Upset / angry / argue / not believe in God
Take a long time to make a decision
Think about Society and Family

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Q: How would you react if your son asked the same question as Isaac?
(V-8) Pin-drop Silence

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Q: Through Abraham's action what sort of character gets revealed?
(V 3,8) Obedient; sacrificing; denied himself
Meant what he said (Proved his love)

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Q:What does God do and how does he feel when he sees Abraham's attitude?
V-12 Stops him from sacrificing his Son
V-13 Provides a Lamb for Sacrifice
V-15-18 Happy, proud, believes and blesses him.

Here we see Abraham went through a big test.

Q = What do you think God wants from us?

Obey his command / To be away from sin / Have a relationship with him / To be like him / Expects us to value Him more than anything else in this world (Because He is therefore ever and has sacrificed His son Jesus for us)

God loves us and He is ready to provide us anything the way He provides Abraham a lamb to sacrifice (V-8).

God has provided us his son Jesus to die for our sins. Everybody in this room admitted that they love God, then we need to be eager to know what He expects from us and obey it.

So, I would encourage you to study bible and know about God more. Be diligent, love the lord with all your heart, mind and soul.

Notes

INTERVIEW

Tell me your name and an experience of going through a job interview ?

Luke 9: 57-62

Q: What is the requirements when we go to a interview for a job?

Neatness, Sharp, Clean, Biodata, Certificates etc,

Q: How do you feel, sitting in the room before the judges?

Nervous, embarass, Afraid, etc.,

Q: What are the few questions asked in the interview?

Questions related to the job, general topics, accounts, family, interest, hobbies etc,

Q: Why were these people going after Jesus?

He was good teacher, to obey him, to follow etc.,

Q: When you are selected for the job, do you want to take leaves / holidays immediately? - No

Q: What would you do to impress your boss?

Work hard, come on time, giving best etc.,

Q: How would the boss feel about you taking leaves and giving excuses?

He would be angry, annoyed, fire you, give the job to others.

V: 62

Jesus talks about the one who starts ploughing cannot look back.

Q: What happens when someone looks back or gets distracted?

Ploughs in wrong direction, misleads the cattle, messes the field.

Personal sharing:

What is Christ is expecting from us? When we are selected to work for him?

Ans: Not to get distracted in Christian life with Jesus.

Q: How does a person get distracted / What are the things that distract us in this world?

Sin, self righteousness, money, laziness, girl friend, boy friend, etc.

Q: What are the few ways to be away from distraction?

Concentration on God, Obeying God, Openness, prayer, Bible study etc.,

CONCLUSION:

GOD HAS CHOSEN US FOR HIS MISSION SO WE SHOULD FOCUS ON HIS PURPOSE.

THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Notes

Mathew 18:21-35

GAME: Make 2 teams each of 5-6 players. Arrange for 2 Plastic Chairs. One Person from each team sits on the chair and the other players lift him up and take him to the end of the room where other team members wait to pick him and bring him back, the next player then sits till all get chance

Read **Matthew 18:21-35** and discuss.

1. Do you suppose Peter had a special reason for asking how many times he needed to forgive his brother and if so, what was it?

He was the type to keep score / He couldn't forgive someone / He was easily hurt / He just wanted to know

2. What is the parable that Jesus told really about?

How to deal with someone who owes you money

How to deal with your own anger when you've been wronged / How to keep your relationship with God fresh / How to avoid getting trapped in grudges / How to say thanks for Gods forgiveness

3. How would you describe the attitude of the servant towards the one who had wronged him?

Business is business / An eye for an eye / Don't let the scoundrel off the hook / Let him suffer

4. What's the principle for you as a Christian in dealing with someone who has wronged you?

You can't out-forgive God / Scorekeepers end up getting hurt / God expects you to be a "pushover" / If you don't forgive others, God is going to refigure what you owe him / Unforgivers wind up in their own chains / Only the forgiven know how to forgive Study the case history below and share how you would deal with the situation.

LITTLE BROTHER.

You have been putting up with your little brother for years. When you were growing up, you had to share a bedroom, where he kept "his side" like a pigpen. He borrowed your clothes without asking, left the car a mess when he used it, and never thought of filling the tank with gas.

Now, the two of you run the family business, but you have to keep the books, pay the bills, and come in on Saturdays while he coaches a Little League team.

Recently, your doctor told you that you have an ulcer, and it is caused by deep-seated anger against your little brother.

1. What do you do?

Decide it is not worth getting sick over / Complain to his wife

Call your father and tell everything / Sweep it under the rug / Have it out with him

Take off for six months and leave the business to him.

2. What have you found helpful in dealing with sour relationships?

Keep short accounts / Write a letter but don't mail it / Ask someone else to mediate

Bible Talk

Notes

Have it out - right now / Sleep on it / Get away from the situation
Break off the relationship

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3. Who is the easiest and hardest person for you to forgive?
Brother / sister /Spouse / Parents / kids / Neighbour / friend / Stranger / Yourself

4. How could you pass on God's forgiveness to those who have wronged you?
Pray for them / Think first about whether I've done anything wrong to myself /
Hold them accountable for the consequences of what they have done / Drop the
issue and let them know its past history / Look for ways to show kindness to
them

THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT BANQUET

Notes

Make sure you have snacks organized before the Bible Talk.
Read **Luke 14:15-24** and discuss.

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1. How do you feel when someone declines your invitation to dinner?
No problem / Hurt feelings / Wonder what the real reason is / Resentment for the trouble I went to / Embarrassment / Understanding

.....

2. To what is the great banquet referring?
The kingdom of God / Deeper spiritual things / Jesus himself / The marriage banquet at the return of Christ / Restoration of the Jewish nation

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3. Why did the three people who were originally invited refuse to come?
They didn't like banquets / Too busy with other things / Not interested in being with God / Unaware of they were missing / They didn't realize this was the last invitation

.....

4. "Go out quickly into the streets and alleys...bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame". Who are these people?
The losers / Outcasts of society / People hungry for spiritual things / Gentiles outside of the covenant / Everybody who knows they do not deserve God's grace

.....

5. "I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet". Why?
They blew their chance / Committed the "unforgivable sin" / Chose not to receive God's grace / Rejected Jesus as the Messiah

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6. If God invited you to a banquet as his special guest (to spend time together) what would you do?
Probably make some excuse / Ask who else is coming
Wonder what God was up to / Go reluctantly / Jump at the chance / Don't know

7. How would you describe your spiritual diet right now?
Baby food / TV dinners / Meat and potatoes / Junk food except on Sunday / Dehydrated food (dried out) Gourmet feast / Pure Bread and Wine

8. What can you expect at God's banquet?
All my needs will be met / The company will be interesting / It's a once-in-a-lifetime event / It will take commitment to stay and eat / I will always be welcome / In order not to get fat I will be asked to share the banquet with others

9. When it comes to experiencing God's spiritual feast, what will help you enjoy it more?
Spiritual hunger / Recognition that it is not a pot-luck-God provides all the food / Eating on a regular schedule rather than gorging once a week / Assurance that I can eat whenever I'm hungry

10. What would it take to get you to come to the banquet of God's deeper things?
An adjustment in my schedule / An invitation direct from God / A few friends to join me / Lively entertainment and fun / A little more spiritual hunger

THE DEATH OF JESUS

Notes

Share of an incident where you personally have seen someone dying:
Read **Matthew 27:45-56** and discuss.

1. If you were the editor of the Jerusalem Times, what headline would you pick to describe the events of the Scripture passage the next day?

Strange darkness descends / Earthquake rocks city / Temple curtain ruined / Dead people reported seen / Spiritual leader killed / Three thieves crucified

2. How would you describe Jesus in his obituary?

Prominent civic leader / Controversial teacher / Trouble maker / Failure / Innocent victim / The so-called Messiah / Mysterious miracle worker

3. Of Jesus own followers, how many do you think understood what was happening to Jesus on the day he died?

Not one / Maybe the women / The centurion / Only his disciples

4. Why did darkness cover the land for three hours?

Just a coincidence / An eclipse of sun / God was mad at the world / The darkness of sin reigned

5. What caused Jesus to cry out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The physical pain He was suffering / The feeling that God had deserted Him / God really did turn His back on Him at that moment / God did not send his angels to rescue Him as He expected / He thought the whole world had turned against Him / He was angry with God

6. What is so significant about the curtain in the temple being torn in two?

The barrier between God and man was taken away / Everyone can approach God directly now / No more need for mystery / Fellowship restored between God and mankind

7. When you think about the death of Jesus, what person in this story best describes you?

The temple crowd - detached, cynical / The one who brought the sponge-hostile jokester? / One of the people raised from the dead / The centurion - terrified but awed / Women followers-sympathetic and caring

8. What remains a mystery to you about the death of Jesus?

Why it ever happened / How God could let it happen / Why nobody came to his rescue / Why the disciples didn't understand / How the earthquake and the darkness happened

9. At what point in your life did you come to realize that Jesus died for you?

As a child / Years ago / Just recently / Don't know that I have

10. How would you describe the way the death of Jesus has impacted your life, life style and whole system of values?

A little bit / A whole lot / Not as much as it should / A lot more than it used to / I'm not sure

JESUS HEALS A PARALYTIC

Notes

Read **Luke 5:17-26** and discuss

1. If you had been the paralytic when your friends decided to take you up on the roof, remove the tiles, and lower you into the room, how would you have felt?

.....

Reluctant. You're going to embarrass me / Scare: You're going to drop me

.....

Dubious. You guys are crazy / Grateful. I appreciate your concern

Apprehensive They are going to throw us out / Mixed I don't think it is going to work, but I'm willing to trust you guys

.....

2. What would it have taken for you to lower your paralytic friend down through the roof?

.....

Courage / A good sense of humour / Physical strength / Good timing / Desperation / The right equipment

.....

.....

3. When the crowd heard all of the commotion on the roof and saw the paralytic being lowered into the room, how do you think the bystanders felt?

.....

Annoyed: Don't these guys have any respect? / Amuse: This is the best show in town / Angry. Throw them out. / Sympathy. These guys are really concerned for their friend

.....

.....

4. When Jesus said to the paralytic, "Friend, your sins are forgiven," what do you think the Pharisees and teachers of the law were thinking?

Who does this guy think he is?

You have no right to assume his paralysis is caused by sin / This Jesus ought to be sued for malpractice / Wait a minute: This guy has not sinned: He's just sick Jesus is trying to say that spiritual and physical illness are interrelated

5. If something like this ever happened in your church, what would the people say?

This is the best excitement we've seen in years / Who is going to pay for the roof? / Whatever it takes to get someone healed is fine with us / We're used to these things

Let's see this never happens again

MIND feeling no stress/no pain

Go around and let each person in your group finish this sentence:

The way in which you could help me most is...."

Courage and faith / A good sense of humor

Physical strength / Faithfulness in prayer / Desperation / The right equipment

Notes

GRATEFULNESS

Q : Share about a time when somebody surprised you with a gift?
Today we will look into a woman's life that how she got a gift and what was her attitude

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 30: 1-6, 22-24

Q: What was Rachel 's desire (to have a child)
Q: When you desire something and you do not get how do you feel? (Share about an incident when something you desired and you did not get it)?
Q: What did Rachel do when she did not bear child? (She was jealous and angry)?
Q: How did Jacob reacts towards Rachel? (Angry and upset)
There is a small point to learn here. If we pressurize others to achieve our desires they get hurt, it breaks relationship.

Genesis 30: 22-24

Q: Did God forget Rachel? (No, God blessed her with a Baby)
Q: Was Rachel grateful to God? No, she asked for one more child
C: She became greedy and ungrateful
Q: How the world is greedy today?
(People want money, position, name, no caring for relationship, fighting for property)
Q: How does God feel, when we are greedy?
Q: Does God know our needs?
Q: How does God fulfill our needs? (Blessings)
Q Why sometimes He does not fulfill our needs? (He wants us to rely upon Him, to be patient, to obey Him, to trust Him)

Conclusion:

Q: Are you greedy and just running after money?
Today you need to make time to learn about God and His ways and not just is busy in making money.

A CLEAR CHOICE

Notes

OPENING QUESTION: "What is one of the most difficult decisions you've ever had to make?"

.....

Deuteronomy 30:11~20

1. V11 - Why is it difficult to live a Christian life?

.....

Peer pressure / Time pressure (schedule)

Disciplined life (resisting temptations eg selfishness, laziness, impurity, greed)

.....

2. V12-14 - Yet God says its not too difficult. What has he given us to make it easy?

.....

Evidences to know this is the truth / Friendships that are real, to encourage, correct and rebuke / The Bible / Jesus' example and love / Answered prayers

.....

3. V14 - How do PEOPLE try and make it easier?

.....

Rationalize the truth / Tradition / Compromise on the standards

.....

Read 2 Timothy 4:3~4

V-15 talks about the seriousness of this.

.....

4. What does it mean to love God and walk His ways?

Time with Him (listening and talking) - 1 hour a day

.....

Radical about sin / Being a disciple - purpose to help people to get closer to God
Helping the poor

5. V17 - What things can draw us away from God, that we worship?

Possessions, money, cars, etc / Careers, varsity, power / Popularity (peoples' opinions) Our own God - different characteristics than the God of the Bible.

6. V19 - Since this is such a clear choice why do so many people choose wrong?

Fear, laziness, lack of respect or love for God.

JOSHUA 24:14~15 - MAKE YOUR CHOICE

CHANGING YOUR PICTURE OF JESUS

Notes

..... 1. Who is someone you respect or admire?
(Gandhi, Joan of Ark, Nelson Mandela)

..... 2. Why? (Courage, Conviction & Purposeful life)

Luke 4:14-21

..... 3. What do you notice about Jesus in this passage?
(Revolutionary - Socially & Spiritually)

..... 4. What would you like to change today in society?
(Racism, divorce rate, greed, poverty, etc.)

..... 5. What would you like to change today in religion?
(Hypocrisy, homosexual marriages, sexual molestation by priests, etc.)

Luke 4:22-30

..... 6. What do you notice about Jesus here?
(Confrontative - he spoke his convictions and detested the racism.)

John 2:12-16

..... 7. What do you notice about him here?
(Radical - he acted on his convictions)

8. What prevents people today from acting on their convictions? (Fear, laziness, wimpish etc.)

John 11:28-37

9. What do you see here? (Compassion, sympathy, love & sensitivity)

10. What prevents people from being this way?
(Pride selfishness etc.)

Conclusion:

MY OLD PICTURE OF JESUS = WIMPY, THIN, PICKING FLOWERS, SINGING TO SHEEP.

MY NEW PICTURE OF JESUS = AN INCREDIBLY BOLD, COURAGEOUS AND CARING MAN.

NOAH

Notes

OQ: "What is the most difficult task you've ever attempted?"

Genesis 6:9~13

1. What are some of the corrupt evil things in today's world that God hates?
Sexual immorality, pornography, lying, racism, greed, etc ...

2. What can we do to destroy these things?
Not participate in them
Not approve of others who do these things

Genesis 6:14~21 - GOD GIVES NOAH A TREMENDOUSLY DIFFICULT TASK!

3. What are some of the difficult things God has asked us to do?
Share our faith / Always seek first His Kingdom
Repent of ALL sin / Help the poor / Trust him fully

4. Why is it so difficult to trust God fully?
Taught and trained by the world not to trust / Satan works at causing us to doubt

5. What has God given us to help us live the Christian life and trust him?
Evidences / The Bibles' truths / Jesus' life and sacrifice.
Friends who are also serving God.
The promise of Heaven (DESCRIBE YOUR PICTURE OF HEAVEN)
The fear of Hell

V22 - NOAH BEGINS TO BUILD:

6. What temptations do you think he faced during the building?
To compromise on the size of the boat.
(NB - Hydraulic engineers use the ratio 12 : 2 : 1 today for the best stability)
Thus changing the dimensions would be fatal.
To doubt whether the flood would happen / His neighbours must have ridiculed him / Family probably started complaining / To grumble against God because of their personal sacrifice involved in building the ark (giving up his home, Sunday afternoon naps, etc.)

7. What temptations do we face today?
To compromise on Gods' word (give examples)
To doubt whether judgement will really take place.
To be discouraged by people ridiculing us.

Noah believed in God's words and completed the task assigned to him.

Notes

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

OPENING QUESTION: "What is the worst physical handicap to you?"

John 9:1~7 Physical Blindness

1. What do you think it would be like to be blind?
Scared, out of control, insecure, etc ...

2. Now if you were born blind what would it feel like? ~ normal

3. What do you think it would be like to have your eyes opened for the first time?
Scary, look in the mirror, amazing, etc...

John 9:13~23 Spiritual Blindness

4. Who is spiritually blind here?
Pharisees, parents {They can't see Jesus as being the Son of God}

5. Why can they not see Jesus?
Pharisees - PRIDE (assuming they were right on the Sabbath issue)
Parents - FEAR - (Pleasing the Jews v's God?)

6. How can pride blind us of the Truth today?
Refuse to admit we are wrong, assumptions disprove the truth

7. How does fear blind us to the truth today?
Consequences scare us, too concerned about what people think of us, etc ...

8. What are some of the truths that people are blinded to today?
Discipleship, repentance, total commitment, etc ...

John 9:24~41 Spiritually Awake

9. What enables this man to see the truth?
Humility, courage, love for God, etc

10. Why did he stand up for Jesus before others now that he could see?
He could now believe that Jesus had helped him.

Lets decide to see with spiritual eyes, the truth that is in God's words.

EXCUSES

Notes

Opening Question: ~ "What is the worst excuse you've ever heard"

Luke 14:15~24

INTRODUCTION: Purpose of parables = earthly story with a spiritual meaning.

Man =God

Banquet = Kingdom of God

People = Us

1. What do you enjoy at great feasts?

Food, socializing, music, dancing, etc ...

2. What is involved in preparing a great feast?

Planning, invitations, transport, menu's, etc ...

God has gone through a lot of trouble for us in preparing the kingdom.

3. What has He done to let us know about his feast?

Evidences, Bible, Jesus Christ, people, etc ...

The Call - We must be ready

What are things we expect in a God's banquet - (GALATIANS 5:20-23)

4. How does man try and get these things? (Peace, joy, etc. ...)

Money, sex, politics, RELIGION, etc ...

Examine the excuses - (Clearly they are very flimsy excuses)

5. What kind of excuses do we make?

No time, relationships, Bible is confusing, later in my life, etc...

Luke 9:57~62

We can make many excuses but they are no acceptable excuse.

6. How do you feel when you've been let down by someone?

Angry, hurt, etc ...

7. V21-V24 - What do you learn from this?

God gets angry & hurt. If we don't accept His invitation (call) He will find others who really want it, who know they really need Him.

Notes

ENTER THE KINGDOM

Begin with Shopping list game.

The first person says "I went to the market and bought ... (something)" the second person adds to the previous object and one object of his own.

As the round goes many get out because they can not remember the objects in order and remember them all. The winner is the one who remembers everything and still not out. (ideal for a group of atleast 10 people)

Opening Q: Tell us your name and share "Have you ever been a forceful winner?"

Reading from **Matthew 11:4-20**

Who was in prison?

Why did he send a messenger to Jesus?

What is the character of John the baptist?

Why people were attracted to him? (because he was a prophet)

Who is a prophet?

Why prophets are different from preachers / pastors / and godmen (yogis or monks)

What are the areas people want to be forceful (Marriage, dowry, love for girl / boy friend, education, getting job, in queues to get train / cinema tickets etc)

How do you feel when you are forceful to do some thing and win at the end?

Share yourself

What are the areas do you feel you are not forceful? What are your weakness in being forceful? (Eg: If you see your school teacher you can not speak forceful) (You cannot say no to your girl freind / father etc)

What kind of people would God choose to do his will?

What did jesus say about john at verse 11 what is kingdom of heaven?

What kind of people are in the kingdom of heaven?

What does Jesus say about the person who is least in the kingdom of heaven?

What are the areas you should be forceful to enter the kingdom of heaven?

If you become more forceful than the sins (Share specific sins they metioned earlier in the discussion) are, What will happen?

Conclusion:

Jesus wants us all to be forceful in 1. Quit all our sins,

2. In doing what is right (like praying, helping people around us, loving others etc)

Decide for your self how forceful are you to do what is good?

We can help you to be forceful through the Bible. Make some time to study the Bible.

THE STRENGTH OF FELLOWSHIP AND GOD'S GRACE

Notes

QQ. To what things, the first century Christians devoted themselves to?
 Apostles teaching / Fellowship / Breaking of Bread / Prayer (Acts 2:42)

Q. When do we have fellowship with one another in the church?
 In the Sunday service / In Midweek meetings / On other days also.

Fellowship is very important in our lives. Without that, we will be just like a coal
 taken out of fire.

Paul had understood all these facts clearly. He was a man of high education,
 experience and status. Let us look at Paul's convictions about this in his letter to
 Timothy, which was written towards the end of his life.

Lesson Scripture: 2 Timothy 4: 9-18.

Let us think about 3 points in this scripture

V-9. Q. What dose he say in verse 9? - Do your best to come to me quickly.

Q. Where was Paul at that time? - In prison
 Some have already left him.

Paul invites Timothy whom he loves very much to come to him.

Q. What do we see here? -The importance of fellowship and friendship.
 Everybody needs someone to love and to encourage.

When we have health, status and money, we will be surrounded by many friends.
 But when we lose these things, the friends also desert us.

Q. What kind of friends are they? -Not real friends.

Q. What kind of a friend are you?
 Instead of thinking that 'Others must love me, help me and care for me', why
 don't you think that 'I'll love others, speak to others, care for others and help
 others'?

(2) Reread verse 11.
 Get Mark and bring him with you because he is helpful to me in the ministry.
 Once Paul had refused to take Mark with him because he did not think it wise at
 that time. (Acts 15: 38). It doesn't mean that he was a good for nothing fellow.
 He was not suitable for the special ministry Paul had intended.
 He might have been very efficient in some other areas.
 Now Paul accepts him and invites him to come and help in his ministry.
 Q What is your attitude towards a person whom you thought was not suitable to
 work with once?

(3). Reread verses 16-17.
 This happened at the time of Paul's trial that he expected that at least some that
 knew the truth would openly say it. But everyone deserted him.Q. Who stood at
 his side? - The Lord
 We may not get help from other people as we expect
 Q. What did Paul do to them?
 It is a very good example for us to follow. Paul trusted in the grace of God who
 stood at his side, even when all the others deserted him.
 Put our trust in the grace of God. He will not desert us at any time.

Challenge: Love and treat kindly a person who has deserted you once at the
 time of need.

BUILD RIGHT - BUILD TO LAST

Notes

Game: Play the game of 'Jenga' or 'UNO Stacks'

OQ: Please introduce yourself and share for 30 secs. Your experience in building any structure. [Construction of your own house, or any carpentry work in the crafts school, NSS camp experience or even childhood experience of beach - sand houses] Then share yourself.

Thank you. Every one has different experiences in the construction of different structures. Today we are going to talk / discuss about building our own lives right.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: **Luke 6:46-49**. "The wise and foolish builders".

Q. What are the two kinds of builders this passage talks about? [Wise and foolish]

Q. Why is one wise and the other foolish? [Built on rock, built on sand]

Q. Can you give examples of buildings / structures built on sand?
[Rock-cut temples at Mahabalipuram, Houses by the sea shore etc.]

Q Can you give examples of structures built on Rock? [Vivenkananda Memorial at Kanyakumari, Rock Fort at Tirchy, Temples on Hills and Mountains etc]

Q. Which is easier to construct - on sand or on rock? [On sand]

Q. Why? [Its easier to dig the sand and put the foundation but it takes hard work to dig and break the rock for foundation]

Now let's see what the Bible is teaching us through this story.

Q. What does 'Building on sand' represent?

Q. What does 'Building on rock' represent?

Q. What does 'Flood and torrent' represent?

C. It is easy to hear the word of God and not put into practice, but it takes all your effort, heart and energy to hear the word of God and put into practice. But are you building your life to last?

C. Problems may come, torrents may strike but you'll stay strong if you are having the foundation of your life on the rock, that is the word of God.

Challenge: Let's decide to build our life on the rock, the word of God. Let's get help.

Notes

THE LIVING GOD

Game: Divide the group into teams and play the game of dumb charades.

Practical: Keep a big and beautiful doll in the middle of the room.

Opening Q: Please introduce yourself and ask this doll to give something which you really desire in your life.

[By doing this you will get to know many of their humps] share yourself.

It was really great talking to the doll. Thank you very much.

But how many of you got any response from the doll? [None]

Do you think the doll would respond even if you ask a thousand times? [No]

That is what happens when we pray to Idols.

Let us turn our Bibles to **Psalms 115:4-8**

Q. What do you learn about an idol from this passage? Let them share.

[Idols are made out of gold, silver; stones or even plastic like this doll. Idols have mouths - but doesn't speak. It has ears but doesn't hear. It has everything, but can do nothing.]

Q. If we worship idols, what will happen? [We will become like idols]

Q. What does it mean? -Let them share- [Spiritually we become numb or become hard hearted.] Bible says God is not an idol.

Q. Then who God is?

Turn with me to **Acts 17:24**

Q. According this passage, what do you understand about God? -Let them share- Bible says God is our creator.

He is a living God. He can definitely hear us, heal us, see us and make us happy.

He can fulfill our desires.

He is a great God.

Q. Do you really want to know the God who created you? - The living God-?

If so please talk to the person who brought you hear today and get to know more about the living God.

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL LAZINESS

Notes

Game: Split into two teams. Each team will give a member of the opposite team an invitation for a very tempting party/occasion. The opposing team should give the laziest possible excuse not to accept the invite. The leader can be a judge who rates the excuses based on the ridiculousness of the lazy excuses on a scale of 1 to 10. (1= Very Ordinary excuse, 10 = Highly ridiculous excuse). The team, which scores the most on ridiculousness, wins.

1) Opening Question: Tell me about a situation you felt most lazy about at some point in life. You can describe an incident where you or somebody known to you acted very lazily.

2) Proverbs 24:30-34

3) Who would like to describe the looks of a sluggard?
Dozy eyes, very sleepy, unkempt hair, crumpled clothes, oily face etc...

4) Tell the joke about that laziest person competition
Once there was a king who wanted to find out the laziest person in his kingdom and give him a gift. So he gave a call to all the lazy stalwarts in the kingdom and all of them were assembled in his court. The king asked the lazy audience a question. "Who is the most lazy person among you?" Everybody in the crowd raised his hand except one person. So the king asked him why he didn't raise his hand. He replied "I'm too lazy to lift my hand". And he got the laziest person award.

5) How many of you think that a sluggard is a wise man? Why? / Why not?

6) All of you know about a field and what is to be done to get a good crop, right? What happens to the field if you leave it without any activity?
Vs 31. Thorns and weeds would grow in it. So what is the harm?
They won't let the good plants to grow and they would eventually die.

7) What is the stone wall around a field for?
To protect the crop from the animals and may be neighbors also.

8) What happens when somebody neglects his field and does not take care of it?
Vs 34 Disaster strikes and the man will be poverty-stricken even before he realizes and wakes up from his slumber. He will not have enough to eat and enough to feed his family

9) Now we have seen how physical laziness can lead to a disaster and lead to poverty even before the sluggard realizes it.
This is very easy to understand. But this is not really the dangerous thing, because most of us guard against this form of laziness and we ensure that we have something to eat and we earn some money to spare for other needs.
We basically take care of our jobs. Well if there is anybody who does not take

Bible Talk

Notes

care of his job also, u better take warning and get your financial life straight. But the real danger is here. Its called spiritual laziness. Now a field can be compared to our spiritual lives.

11) What can the land be compared to? Our hearts. If a person is spiritually lazy what would he do?

Vs 33 Will say I'll be in bed for some more time. A little sleep, a little folding of the hands etc.

He'll basically postpone his decision to seek God. How do we do that?

Let me be old. After 50 years I'll consider God. Let me enjoy a little more. Let me tell a few more lies. Let me lust for some more time. Let me be immoral for some more time. Let me cheat and make money for some more time?

12) What are some of the thorns in spiritual life?

Life's worries – oh what will happen to my job, what will people think of me?

Riches – I want to make money now, achieve so many things in life. I'll think of God later.

Pleasures – I have to enjoy now. This is my prime time. Let me get married, let me have kids, let them grow, let me get them settled, get them married of... but alas, u get old and time to leave the world, to meet the devil in hell. U expect to go to heaven?

13) And what are the weeds in spiritual life?

Sin in life. What are they? List

The character that warns us and shields us from evil.

15) What happens when this wall is broken?

The little faith gets eaten away by hungry enemies like immorality, anger, lust, cheating etc.

You give in to every kind of temptation – to lust, to lie, to cheat, to steal or may be you'll feel like murdering

16) What would happen to such a person?

Vs 34. Before he realizes he would go far away from God into a deep spiritual mess and he would finally perish in hell.

We've seen what a sluggard is like?

Let's quickly discuss what a good farmer would do.

If anybody has a field what should he do?

- If the land is hard, you got to plough it and make sure it becomes soft.
- Then you have to sow seeds in it.
- Then you have to water it
- You have to remove the thorns in the field.
- Separate the weeds and throw them out.
- Then you have to add manure to it.
- Then you should build a fence around it so that the crop is protected from all

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other hazards like goats, etc. At times you might have to use pesticides too.

Notes

17) What is the seed that you need to sow to have a good spiritual life?

The word of God, the Bible.

.....

18) How do you water it?

Pray to God so that you can grow in him

.....

19) What kind of a fence would you put and what would it protect from?

Alertness, readiness to be righteous. Eagerness to build a good character.

Exercise of self-control.

Have a circle of friends who could always warn you and correct you.

It would then protect you from all kinds of temptations – To lust, lie etc

.....

.....

.....

20) Now what is the result of being a good spiritual farmer?

Reap a plentiful crop. Lead a happy life. Go to heaven and see to it that others reach it too.

.....

I want each one of you to ask yourself this evening.

How is your life today?

Are you physically lazy?

Are you spiritually lazy?

Are you actively seeking God or are you putting off the decision to seek him to a later date?

As of today if you have to leave the world, are you sure u can be with God in heaven?

.....

.....

.....

Thanks for coming and participating. We'll finish with a word of prayer.

SLAVERY

Notes

OPENING QUESTION: When you hear the word SLAVERY, what comes to your mind first? Today we'll look at the life of a slave girl from the BIBLE.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ACTS 16:16-19 (Let some body brief -the scripture)

Q: whom did Paul meet when he was going to the place of prayer?

A: He met a slave girl.

Q: What was her condition?

A: She was possessed by the evil spirits.

Q: How do people become possessed by the spirits?

A: By believing and worshipping Satan as God. By their own evil sins.

Q: How are slaves treated in the society?

A: They are denied their basic rights.

They are treated badly, as untouchables. / They are punished severely for their mistakes. / They are literally used as machines to work.

Q: What was the slave girl's profession?

A: She was fortune telling and earning money for her masters.

Q: Describe the life style of the fortune-tellers?

A: They are full of lies.

They usually tell only good things to please the people who hear them. Their appearance is strange and scary, wearing beads, bracelets. Etc.,

Q: Why did this girl follow Paul?

A: She wanted to be saved.

She wanted to know about God.

Q: Why was she interested in following Paul for many days?

A: She really wanted to change from her old life.

Q: Why was Paul so troubled looking at her?

A: Paul was troubled when he saw how the evil-spirits tortured the poor slave girl.

Q: Why Paul rebukes the evil spirit and not her?

A: Since the evil spirit stopped the slave girl from changing, Paul rebukes the evil spirit.

{Bible says the evil spirit left her once Paul rebuked it}

Q: How would she feel about her change?

A: Very happy. Probably sad for the fear of her masters.

Bible Talk

Q: How the owner would have felt about the change?

A: Not happy. Since they lost their source of income.

Notes

CONCLUSION:

We are also like the slave girl, wanting to change.

But the evil spirit inside us doesn't let us change.

What are the evil spirits people have in them?

Evil spirits of Lust, Smoking, Drunkenness, Laziness etc,

Like the slave girl who followed Paul for changing her life.

We have to follow the Bible, to change our lives.

How can you follow the bible?

-Let someone teach the bible to you.

-Make time to pray.

-Be willing to open up your life.

Then you can definitely get rid of the evil spirits in your life and be joyful.

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THE FAITH OF A CANAANITE WOMAN

Notes

Opening Questions:

Q. Have you faced any problems in your life?

Q.What would be your attitude if somebody in your family is suffering from a grave sickness?

Bitter, depressed, angry, hopeless, and negative.

Now let us learn about a woman who faced a very serious problem in her life and how she dealt with it.

Scripture Mathew 15: 21-28

Q. How do you feel if your daughter or son or somebody very close to you is demon-possessed?

Q.What was the attitude of the Canaanite woman towards Jesus and why?

She believed Jesus could heal her daughter. She was humble - vv. 22, 25.

She might have tried many doctors and exhortionists.

She spent a lot of money for treatment.

She loved her daughter and wanted to get her cured.

The daughter got worse and the mother was desperate.

Q. How did Jesus respond to her plea?

Jesus seemed to be indifferent to her (vv. 24, 26).

Q. Can Jesus be indifferent to a suffering person?

No, Jesus was only testing her faith.

Q. What could have been her reaction?

She could have felt insulted and humiliated (vv. 24, 26)

If she were proud, she could have turned back and gone and tried some other doctor.

Q.How did she actually react?

She humbled herself even to be a dog (v.27).

Q.What trait of character do you notice in this women?

Persevering, determined - takes 'no' for an answer.

Q.What obstacle did she overcome to come to Jesus.

Pride and laziness, and the barrier of race and religion.

Q.Why was she persistent?

She loved her daughter and wanted her to get cured.

Q.Do you have faith like this woman?

Q.Are you humble like this woman?

Q.How much effort do you make to reach out to Jesus?

Q.What effort do you make to have great Bible studies?

Q.Are you tough and determined like this woman?

Q.When you go for evangelism, are you easily intimated by a harsh person?

Challenge:

Have the faith and humility and determination of the Canaanite woman.

Forget your past failures and unhappiness.

Get closer to Jesus to have a new life.

AUTHORITY

Notes

Q: When you hear the word "authority", what is your first reaction?

Q: What is the purpose of authority?

Direct, protect, maintain order, promote unity etc.

Q: What are some authorities we are called to obey?

Parents, boss, government, teachers, God

We "choose" to submit to authority

Q: What happens we you choose not to submit?

Penalty, conflict, chaos, etc.

Q: What are the benefits of submitting?

Saved from penalties, fines, late charges

Rewarded with raises, promotions, etc.

We all have the NEED to be under authority

It makes us happy, secure, confident

We have difficulty when others don't submit

E.g. A reckless or drunk driver, an unproductive co-worker

We struggle submitting to those who don't themselves submit (i.e the boss)

Submitting to authority sets you FREE

Jesus calls all people to submit to his authority

Jesus was first submissive himself

John 8:27-29 John 12:49-50 John 15:10

Note Jesus' submission: we are called to follow a humble loving God!

Q: What keeps us from submitting?

Pride, independence, selfishness

A shallow understanding of Christ

Jesus was emphatic about obedience!

John 8:31-32

Need to hold to His teaching! It sets you free

Note: **Matthew 28:18-20** Surely I will be with you always!

Jesus is with you when you keep His commands and obey His authority

Notes

BORN AGAIN

Q: What do you love about babies?

Most people get excited about new babies. Have showers, announcements, etc. They are sweet and cuddly and brand spanking new! Jesus used children and babies on occasion to illustrate a spiritual idea.

John 3:1-12 Nicodemus.

Q: What can we tell about Nicodemus? What kind of guy was he?

Q: What do you think he was after when he came to Jesus?

Probably wanted Jesus' stamp of approval

Q: What do you think he expected Jesus to say?

You're doing great, just pray and the a little more and you'll be fine

Q: What did Jesus say?

You must be born again!

Q: What do you think Jesus meant by this?

You need to start all over!

Q: How would you describe a Christian who is NOT born again?

You can't! A Christian is someone who is born again and vice versa

Q: What is new about a baby after its birth (compared to before)?

New name, new family (relationships), new environment, new rules, new discipline, new food, new friends, whole new world!!!

Q: What is new about someone who is born again?

New name (Christian)

New family (church)

New purpose

New goals

New father (God)

New behavior

New everything!!!

There is a lot of confusion about the new birth

Lots of people claim to be born again

Q: Why is there so much confusion about the new birth?

Religious people make claims, but there is no evidence for it people hear the claim, but don't see anything new. Where's the beef?

Q: What would you expect to see in someone who is born again?

Radical life change WOW! Not just words

Bible Talk

He used to, but now he
Is this the same girl I used to know???

Notes

Q: Is being born again optional?
NO! V3 unless..... can't see the kingdom
V5 unless can't enter the kingdom
V7 you must be born again

Re-read verses 5-6

The new birth is not a physical event, it is spiritual
It involves water and the spirit
It's heart change and a life change. It is exciting! A brand new start

CHALLENGE

If you aren't sure if you have been born again you haven't been

If you think you've been born again, but there is no evidence, you probably haven't been

Find out what the Bible says it takes to be born again. What did Jesus mean by the water and the spirit?

Get excited about a new beginning, a fresh start!

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BREAK FREE

Notes

Pick 6 people to participate in short ad-tib skit. Pick one reliable person to be the group's coordinator and brief him/her on what you are doing. Make paper headbands with the following wording

i'm incompetent treat me with contempt (give this one to the leader)

I'm funny laugh at everything I say

I'm popular try to be my friend

I'm smart..... agree with me

I'm stupid..... put me down

I'm a nobody..... ignore me

Do NOT let the people see what their own headband says. Have the skit leader lead this group in a 5 minute skit in which they will plan a party for the Bible study.

The discussion leader should insure that each member is involved and the rest of the people in the skit treat them according to what their headband says. Stop the skit after about 5 minutes.

Q: Ask those in the skit, how did you feel during the discussion?

Labeled, confined, confused, trapped

Q: Have you ever been "labelled"? What is it like?

Labeled, confined, confused, trapped

Q: Was it easy to break free?

We all get "labelled" occasionally and put in a pigeon hole by others, but sometimes we get ourselves into a trap. We get trapped and can't get out

There are a number of traps that people get caught in

1. *Habit traps*

Q: What are some? smoking, swearing, drugs, alcohol, etc.

2. *Character traps*

Q: What are some? selfishness, pride, insensitivity, etc.

3. *Sin traps*

Q: What are some? fits of rage, pornography, immorality, etc.

Q: How do most people handle these traps?

Ignore them, deny them, mask them.

Move from trap to trap - drugs, alcohol, sex, relationships.

Professional help (therapist) or self-help, self-improvement

Distractions - shopping, eating, vacation, new car

Blame shifting, bitterness, anger, frustration, rage

Depression, despair, suicide

On your own, the prospects of breaking free are pretty dim and hopeless.

On our own, mankind DOES NOT have the answers to free us from our traps.

Bible Talk

I have GOOD NEWS! God does have the answers, God is the change business!

Let's look at a guy who had some real problems

Notes

Mark 5:1-20 Legion

Q: What kind of problems did Legion have?

No friends (lived alone), violent, angry, weird, social misfit, rude, unfriendly, self-centered, self-destructive, lonely, out of control

Its easy to look down on Legion with all his problems, but people today aren't much different. May be some of your can relate to Legion: lonely, self-centered, rude, self-destructive, weird, social outcast, etc.

Q: Did Jesus do the right thing in healing Legion? Of course!

Q: WHY? He NEEDED healing Legion? Of course!

Q: Do we need healing? OF course

Q: Why does God want us to break free?

He knows what makes us happy!

Q: What changed Legion?

An encounter with Jesus (Not a self help book or a therapist)

Q: Do you see any evidence of change?

V15 sitting there in his right mind!

Q: Was Legion excited about being set free? How do you know?

This points out the difference between religion and relationship.

He didn't HAVE to, but he wanted to go with Jesus

He didn't HAVE to, but he went to 10 cities and told the good news!

Are you religious or do you have a relationship with Jesus?

Do you grudgingly spend time with Jesus, or do you beg to be with him?

Do you give the minimum possible, or do you give freely of your time & money?

Do you just attend church, or are you sharing what God has done for you?

CONCLUSION

There is good news! Jesus can change you

You can break free!

The basis is not religion, but a relationship with God!

REDUCING THE RISK OF ROBBERY

Notes

How concerned are you about the possibility of being robbed some day ?
 What kind of robbery are you most concerned about ?
 How many of these are aggressive, 'Outside' jobs ? And how many quiet,
 'Inside' jobs ?
 What have you done, or do regularly, to reduce the risk of an 'Outside' attack ?
 And to reduce the risk of a gentle 'Inside' financial downsizing ?
 So you focus your protection against robbery mainly on 'Outside' risks. Right ?
 Have you ever been caught by an innocent-looking, friendly, convincing thief ?
 Now let's talk about **Spiritual** robbery.
 What would Satan like most to rob us of ? [Our salvation]
 How would he do that ? [Tempting us to sin]
 How does he usually work ? Does he mostly use blatant, obvious temptation, like
 seeing money lying unattended on a shop counter (tempting us into doing an
 'Outside' job) ?
 Or does he usually use a more subtle approach, like when we find we've been
 given too much change, suggesting that we need the money more than the shop
 (tempting us into doing an 'Inside' Job) ?
 **Gen. 3: 1-13.** What tactics did Satan use here to lead Adam and Eve into sin ?
 How does Satan use similar tactics on us ?
 ["Where in the Bible does it say that Infant Baptism doesn't count ?"]
 **2 Tim. 4: 1-4.** How else does Satan lead us subtly into sin ?
 ["You don't like the message they're preaching. You should move to a Church
 where you'll feel more comfortable "]
 **2 Thess. 2: 9-12.** In what other ways does Satan try to steal our salvation ?
 [Stories of amazing cures from 'Faith Alone'. "See, I told you that's all you need"]
 Why would God encourage people to believe Satan's lies ?
 [God doesn't want the Weak to pollute the Strong. You've got to be able to
 recognise Satan's work and reject it, however intriguing it might be !]
 **Luke 18: 9-17.** What's the most successful tactic of all that Satan uses to rob us
 of our salvation ?
 ["Relax. You're much better than most people. You're saved already".]

Let's remember that our passport to Heaven comes with a temporary Visa. And never forget that our Visa needs to be **renewed** every day.
 So what's the **Challenge** we need to take up ? What do we need to **do** to reduce the risk of Satan robbing us of our salvation ?

[Study our Bible, Pray, Apply, Change, Help Others to Change, Go to Church, Enjoy the Fellowship, Grow Spiritually and, most important, because of our conviction, Have Fun doing it !]

ARE YOU CLEAN?

Notes

On a sheet of paper have everyone answer the following questions:
On average.

How many showers or baths do you take a week?

How many times a week do you brush your teeth?

How many minutes per day do you spend getting ready for work/school?

If you dropped a piece of bread on your kitchen floor, would you eat it?

Would you ever use your spouse's/roommate's toothbrush?

Q: What do these questions have in common?

Hygiene, cleanliness, taking care of yourself

Q: Are people in Southern Cal into taking care of themselves? How so?

Health, hygiene, physical fitness, fashion, style, trends, music clothes, cars, hobbies, appearance, image, public relations

Q: What does it mean to be image conscious?

Q: Are Southern Californians image conscious? How so?

Marketing advertising hype is all based on image, appearance

Consider the hype, promotion, fluff over a can of beer, a car, a cigarette

Example: Ronald Reagan and his "Photo opportunities"

The "Car Phone" a dummy car phone that's only purpose is to impress.

You might think that Californians invented the ideas of image consciousness but there were some people into appearances a LONG time ago!

Matthew 15:1-9

Pharisees were concerned about cleanliness, Jesus talked about real cleanliness

Q: How were the Pharisees being image conscious here?

Ceremonial washing, gave appearance of taking care of parents, but didn't

Q: Why was Jesus so upset with them?

They had the appearance of being loving and devoted, but they weren't

They were really selfish and greedy

One thing I love about Jesus, is that he always told the truth. He never minced words, but told people straight up the truth... and he did it in love.

Matthew 23:1-7, 23-28

These are super religious people and Jesus blasts them

Q: Why is Jesus so hard on them?

They were concerned about how they looked, not with being righteous

They were blinded by religion, hypocritical

They were focused on the external appearance, not true righteousness

Q: What is Jesus concerned about?

The heart.... the inside of the cup!

Bible Talk

Notes

Q: Why is he so concerned about the heart?
Jesus wants us to be IN LOVE with God
He wants us to have a "WANT TO" attitude, not a "HAVE TO" attitude

EXAMPLE. How would you like to be married to someone with didn't want to be married to you?
You might DO all the right things, but if you weren't in love....

The challenge for us is to not be like the Pharisees: They cleaned the outside of the cup, but left the inside dirty.

Q: How do we show more concern for the outside of the cup than the inside?
Show up for church or Bible Talk, but not want to be there
Talk real spiritual around spiritual people
Act like we have no sin, hide our flaws, cover our faults
Put on a religious front, but hate it when you are alone

Proverbs 4:23 "Above all else guard your heart, it is the wellspring of life". Your heart is so important. It is what you are!

Q: Why aren't we more concerned about the inside of the cup?
It is harder, it takes more work, more persistence
It isn't as glamorous and flashy
It isn't as obvious.... it's easy to dress nice, talk nice, act spiritual, but very hard to BE spiritual

Some of you:
Need to start cleaning the inside of the dish
Need to spend less energy LOOKING good, and more energy being good
Worry more about what people think of you than what God thinks of you
Play religion, but your heart is far from God
Jesus has the answers. He does heart transplants

CHALLENGE
Start making the effort to be right with God, not just play religion
Grab someone who is spiritual and get some help
Start reading / studying the Bible to see how to clean the inside of the dish.

DISCIPLESHIP AND MARRIAGE

Notes

Q: What would you say are some of the keys to having a great marriage?

Love, patience, good communication, giving spirit...

These are all important, but the real key is discipleship!

Being a great disciple and getting your marriage disciplined

Matthew 28: 18-20 The great commission.

1. Start with disciples

Q: If I sent you out to “go make disciples”, what would you do?

Q: When have you made a disciple?

When they have to want to obey Jesus and be just like Him.

A disciple has made that “WANT TO” decision, not a “HAVE TO” reservation.

II. God’s plan for a disciple’s marriage

Q: Who designed marriage?

Q: What was God’s intent for marriage? Why did he design it at all?

Love, companionship, growth, nurturing, excitement, romance!

God wants our marriage to SHINE ... to be sparkle ... radiant!!

Q: What is a disciple’s response to God’s desires?

YES SIR! Anything you want, SIR! How do I being? What do I need to do?

II. Discipleship in marriage.

Notice there are 3 parts to the great commission:

1. Go make disciples 2. Baptize them 3. Teach them to obey everything!

Q: What does “everything” leave out? NOTHING?

Q: In what areas do most people need to be “taught to obey”?

Being loving, giving, and unselfish

Being romantic like your spouse wants it

Being patient, forgiving, tolerant

Being sensitive, communicating with your spouse

Being teachable, not being defensive or argumentative

Q: What is the difference between “teaching” someone and “teaching to obey”? Preaching at someone vs. training them

Q: What is involved in “teaching to obey”?

Get involved in a person’s life intimately involved

You must know what is NOT right so you can teach them to obey

Bible Talk

Notes

Correction, pointing out shortcomings or weaknesses or SIN!

For example: playing scales on the piano, learning to shoot basketball being a sensitive spouse

Q: Have you ever tried to teach someone who didn't want to learn?

Q: What's it like? Fun?

There are 2 aspects of discipleship:

1. Deciding to be a disciple of Jesus christ,

2. Letting Godly men/women disciple you, your marriage, your character, etc.

Did you notice who is involved in Jesus' plan? PEOPLE!!!

PEOPLE make disciples, PEOPLE baptize, PEOPLE teach them to obey

Q: Do you think it's a part of God's plan to use people?

Q: Why do you think God chose to use people?

Teaches us humility, if we won't obey people, we won't obey God

People can give us a solid example to follow and learn from

IV. Benefits of discipleship in marriage.

Q: What benefits do you see occurring from discipline in your marriage?

You grow and change QUICKLY

When YOU change, your spouse loves it and is a happy camper

When your spouse is happy you are happy

You won't have to nag you mate

You can avoid some of the pitfalls and blunders other couples fall into

CHALLENGE:

1. Examine your life—are you a disciple? Have you decided to live just like Jesus wants? Have you decided to obey Jesus, no matter what?

2. Are you open to being taught? Do you get defensive when people (spouse) correct you? Do you really want to change and grow, or are you just religious?

3. Are you letting other people in your life and marriage?

Are you excited when people obey the great commission?

Are you thankful for those people in your life who are trying to teach you to obey?

Or do you resent them and get an attitude?

We have only looked at 1 passage tonight on God's plan for a great marriage!

We have just scratched the surface! Dig into God's word and find out God's plan for your marriage to shine!

THE PARABLE OF THE SOILS

Notes

OQ: Share about how life is in villages?

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

1. Path

Q: What comes to our mind when we think of a path?

Q: What happens to the seed that are thrown on the path?

Q: What are things that harden a persons heart.

2. Rocky

Wh would the seed on rocky soil spring up quickly?

Q: Why would no root cause the plant to wither and Die ?

No nourishment

Q: What kind of heart is Jesus talking about?

Shallow, superficial, emotional

Likes the idea of following Jesus, but didn't count the cost

Q: Have you ever made an emotional decision? When?

Q: Why do people make emotional decision?

Q: Verse 21 talks of trouble and persecution, how does this test your roots?

Q: What forms does trouble and persecution come in?

Jesus wants us to make a solid decision and sink deep roots

3.Thorny:

Q: Why do weeds choke out garden plants?

Q: Describe how weeds in a garden work?

Start small, hardly notice them, then too many to even try

Q: What are the weeds in our life that choke us out?

Job, kids, hobbies, SSS, yard, sports, wife, family, job

Q: Are these bad things? NO

Q: How do these things make you unfruitful?

Distract you, take up all your time, spend time on "worthless" pursuits

Q: What kind of heart is Jesus talking about?

Jesus wants us to be sure to not miss the most important thing.

4. Good Soil:

Q: What kind of heart is Jesus talking about?

Q: What are ways that we can cultivate our heart situation?

Q: How could you be fruitful 30 or 60 or 100 times?

Everyone falls into one these categories:

1. You are hard towards God's word

2. Your are excited about what you hear, but don't have deep convictions

3. You have great intentions, but let many things distract you

Bible Talk

▪
Notes

4. You have a great heart, are focused, and are making disciples

We all fall into one of these soil types... one is good and three need work
Search you heart, which soil are you?

Q: When it comes down to it, who is responsible for you heart condition?
YOU ARE. You decide what kind of heart you will have.

CHALLENGE

Decide to be the good soil

Start being soft and receptive to God's word (start with tonight's study)

Decide to put down deep roots, study and pray every day

Don't let life's activities distract you from God's work

Cultivate the soil of your heart to be useful to God

GOD IS NOT LIKE YOU

Notes

He you ever considered what it would be like if everyone was just like you. Looked like you. smiled like you, laughed like you, talked like you had your sense of humor, acted like you, re-acted like you

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Q: What do you think of a world like that?
What if God was just like you? Acted like you? Loved like you? Forget like you?
Was merciful like you? Was unselfish like you? Gave like you?

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Q: How would you like that?
Q: Would you go to church? Pray? Share about God? Read the Bible?

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GOOD NEWS GOD IS NOT LIKE YOU

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Q: What are some common images we have of God?
Q: Where do we get these ideas?
Parents, grandparents, preachers, TV evangelists, movies

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Read Luke 15:11-32

Called the parable of the prodigal son, but it is really about the father?
Let's look at 3 aspects of the father that are not like us

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1. God gives us freedom (V II-13)
Q: How did the son want his freedom?
Wanted his inheritance early, wanted to move out and take his money
Q: Do you think the father tried to talk him out of it?
Q: Could the father have stopped him? YES
Q: What did the father do? LET HIM GO!
Q: What might some of our responses be if we were in the father's shoes?
Want to control or restrict / Dont's want people to make bad choices or get hurt / Get angry or jealous
Aren't you glad that God is not like you?
God gives us our freedom
To do good or to do evil, to sin or not to sin
To love your neighbor or to ignore your neighbor
To have a great marriage or to have a mediocre marriage
To have a great relationship with God or to ignore Him

Freedom is powerful yet frightening, because with freedom comes responsibility. Sometimes people freedom make bad choices and blow it.

Q: How did the son blow it?
Squandered all his money, lived a wild and sinful life, became a pig herder, ate with the pigs, lost all his friends, humiliated.
But then something incredible happens.... verse 17.. he came to his senses.

Bible Talk

Notes

2. God is compassionate (V 20)

Q: How was the father compassionate?

Saw him from a long way off (looking for him), filled with compassion.

Ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Q: What are some ways we might respond in this situation?

I told you so. You blew it. What do you want?

Q: What kind of reception would you give the son?

Cold, clammy, make him grovel and beg.

Make them know how much they hurt you, what they did to you.

The son hurt the father badly, but look at how the father responded.

Q: How do YOU respond to someone who has hurt you?

Aren't you glad that God is not like you? Most of us are out of touch with what God is really like!!!!

3. God is forgiving (V21-24)

Q: How did the father treat the son after his initial greeting?

Threw a party!

Q: What does this show about the father's heart?

Thankful, overjoyed, forgiving

If you were the father is this how B21 would read...

Then the father said to his son:

You are no longer worthy to be called my son

What exactly did you do over in that foreign country?

When and how are you going to pay me back?

Do you have any idea how much grief you've caused me?

When God forgives, he forgives completely, fully, totally!

He doesn't bring it up anymore, doesn't rub your nose in it

Aren't you glad God is not like you?

CONCLUSION

I hope this study has helped you to get a clearer picture of God

1. Don't let pre-conceived ideas about God keep you from the truth about Him

2. Dig into the Bible to find out what God is really like

3. Be encouraged.... God is not like you!!!!

THE GOOD SAMARITIAN

Notes

Go around the room and have people give their name and answer

Q: Name a time you did a good deed for someone and what did you do?

Q: Who are some famous people with a reputation for doing good deeds?

Mother Theresa, Jerry Lewis, Albert Schwietzer, Dale Carnegie. Etc.

Let's look at story in the Bible about a do-gooder!

Luke 10:25-37

Let's look at three kinds of people

1. The robbers

Q: What kind of people were they?

Vicious, mean, do deliberate harm, ruthless, violent

Q: How do you feel about this type of person?

Q: What percentage of people are like this? Small, but growing!

2. The priest and the Levite

Q: What kind of people were they? Religious

Q: What kind of reputation did they have before this incident?

Nice, kind, helpful, do-gooder, giving etc.

Q: What is the problem that Jesus is pointing out in this parable?

The were indifferent, didn't want to get involved

In Japan, 'Confucious' has a golden rule:

"Do unto others as you wouldn't want them do unto you".

Jesus had a golden rule (Matthew 7)

"Do unto others as you would have them dounto you".

Q: What is the difference? One is passive and one is active

Confusions rule pales to silver next to Jesus' golden rule

Q: What kind of behavior does the silver rule promote?

Isolation, indifference putting up walls, not knowing other, etc.

Not helping, not getting involved, DOING NOTHING!

Your neighbor could be really hurting and you'd never know it

Q: What kind of behavior does the golden rule promote?

Actively doing good, helping getting involved, DOING GOOD!

The Priest and the Levite didn't hurt anybody. They weren't violent or mean.

But, they didn't help anybody either. They just helped themselves.

They didn't love people, they loved themselves, their comfort / convenience.

3. Good Samaritan

Q: What kind of person was he?

Q: What did he do for the hurt man?

Q: What is the big difference between the Priest / Levite and the Samaritan?

Bible Talk

Notes

Humility! Pride is being self-focused, self-centered, selfish, self-aware, etc.
Humility is being others focused, outward focused, meeting needs of others

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Q: How did the Samaritan demonstrate humility?
He overlooked the difference in race and religion
He sacrificed his own schedule and convenience
He went out of his way to help the health of the hurt man

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Q: Which of the 4 (robber, Priest / Levite, or Samaritan) is average Christian most like? Why?

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Q: What impact does religion/religious leaders have on our society?
NOTE! Most religious groups don't do any harm but they don't have any impact.
They are of no account no change in size, in commitment, in faith in lives

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Q: Do you think the Pries/Levite had ever done any good deeds?
Of course the had done SOME good deeds. Everyone can point to SOME deeds.
The question is, are you making any difference in the lives of people?

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Are you the kind of person that:
.... goes to church, but never has helped anyone to get right with God?
.... is known as a "nice" person, but doesn't impact anyone
.... is religious, but doesn't risk, doesn't make a difference

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CHALLENGE
Are you more the Priest / Levite or like the good Samaritan?

What impact are you having on people? (Who will be in heaven because of you?)

Be like the Samaritan... make a difference!

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

Notes

Q: What makes you happy?

Q: What used to make you happy?

Q: What would make you happy if you could have it no?

Things Solomon tried to find happiness, self-esteem

1. Learning

Ecclesiastes 1:12-13, 16

Q: Share a time when you felt learning a business method or trade was the answer to happiness?

Q: What was the result? "Education"

Ecclesiastes 1:17-18 The more you know, the more you see you don't or you are too proud to admit it.

2. Luxury

Ecc. 2:4-10

Q: How do you feel a day later? A week? A month? A year?

A new car may warm your heart but it won't change it!

VII chasing after wind

3. Liquor

Ecc. 2:3

Q: What does one glass of wine do for you?

Warms your tummy, enhances some food

Q: What does too much do?

Turns Joe Cool into Jeo Fool or Joe Crazy or Joe Lazy

It destroys lives and relationships

Proverbs 23:29-32

There are 15 million "known" alcoholics in the U.S.

And we call it "fun"

4. Lust

Ecc. 2:8-1 I Kings 11:3

700 wives, 300 in harem, 700 in-laws

Q: What does lust do to a person? To a marriage?

Pornography, rapes, murder, child molesting etc.

CONCLUSION

5. Lord

Ecc. 12:13-14

(Matthew 22:37-40 Love God with everything)

(Philippians 4:12-13 God is the solution)

LET US START REBUILDING

Notes

OQ: What is your ambition in life?

Introduction:

Nehemiah was an ordinary man working as a cupbearer to the king. When he heard about Jerusalem, his heart was filled with pain. He prayed to God and got the strength and started rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem.

Let's read about this great man of God and imitate his life.

1. Turn to God. Neh. 1:4-11

Q: How is our God according to Nehemiah? (He is great and awesome, and keeps His covenant of love.)

Q: How is Nehemiah's attitude regarding sin? (He feels terrible; he confesses and wants to repent.)

Q: How is your attitude regarding sin?

Q: How are Nehemiah's prayers? (He is pleading to God.)

2. Build on Conviction. Neh. 6:9-11

Q: When people tried to frighten Nehemiah, how did he react? (He was bold to face the consequences.)

Q: How do you react when your family, boss or your friends try to frighten you?

Nehemiah was filled with convictions. So he was not afraid. In the same way you've got to build your life on conviction.

3. God will grant success. Neh. 6:15-16

Q: How did Nehemiah's enemy's feel when they heard that the walls were completely built? (They were afraid and lost their self-confidence.)

Q: With whose help the work was completed? (With God's help.)

Conclusion

So if we turn towards God and start rebuilding our lives on the basis of conviction, God will surely grant us success.

So let's make a decision to study the Bible and change our lives.

MONEY

Notes

Q Tell me your name and tell me your opinion about money.
It doesn't bring all happiness.
It is never enough.

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Q If you had a lakh rupees what would you do with it.
Invest in shares.
Buy a house.
Pay off debts.
Buy some luxuries for myself.

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Q What is your greastest desire in life.
To be rich and powerful.

.....

Q What is the way to become rich and powerful in toady's world?
Dishonest areas.
Politics.
Corruption.
Bloodshed.

.....

.....

Q What do people do on becoming rich.
They want more.
They become worried.
They have no time and respect for human values.
They become immoral and proud

.....

.....

Q What brings real happiness to us today.
Personal sharing.

.....

1 Timothy 6 : 6-10

Q What is the real danger behind hunting for money.
Go away from God.
Loose your character, "Put in the saying".

Q What should goal today be.
To gain wealth in heaven.

Matt 6 : 19-21, 24.

Today decide to be with God.

CALAMITY

Notes

Matthew 27 : 50-54.

Q: Tell me the greatest shocking news you've received in your life.
My friend drowned in water.

Q: How did you react when you received this news. What have you decided?
I decided never to cut classes to mess around.

I was frightened and thought about my parents reaction.

Q: Did you stick to this decision. For how long? Why?

No couple of months only. I didn't suffer great personal loss.

I had convinced my parents that it was my fault.

Also I loved doing things that brought me worldly pleasure.

Q: What are the pleasures that people pursue today though they know the consequence is major.

Smoking, Drinking, Womanising, Drug addiction, Lying, Violence, Anger.

Q: Why do people pursue them even though they're aware of the consequence.

Too attractive to give up.

Too weak to give up.

No fear of God or Punishment.

Matthew 27 : 50-54.

Q: What was the major mistake this centurion had done.
Crucified Jesus.

Q: What did he realise. Why.

Jesus was son of God.

Probably because he stayed alive despite the calamity.

Q: I believe all of you have come across calamities of your sin.

Laziness - Failure in life.

Immorality - Diseases and a trap.

Smoking - Pneumonia.

Anger - Jail and revenge.

Its time to change.

THE ANIMAL BIBLE TALK

Notes

Opening Question: "What animal would you like to be?" Why?

.....

Proverbs 6:6~8 ANT

- 1. What characteristics come to mind when you think of an ant?
Hardworking, unified, plan ahead, self motivated, etc ...
- 2. What prevents us from being like this?
Laziness, pride, selfishness, etc

.....

.....

Proverbs 6:9~11

- 3. How do we know when we are spiritually asleep?
Not reading Bible, not praying, not radical with sin, not evangelistic, etc ...
- 4. What are the consequences of this?
SPIRITUAL POVERTY

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Psalm 32:8~9 MULE

- 5. What characteristics come to mind when you think of a mule?
Stubborn, rebellious, stupid, etc ...
- 6. What areas in our lives do we find it hard to be corrected in?
Marriage, work-situation, raising children, religion, etc...
- 7. Why?
Pride, fear, insecurity, etc ...

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I Peter 5:8 LION

- 8. What characteristics come to mind when you think of a lion?
Aggressive, dangerous, cunning, etc ...

DESCRIBE HOW LIONS HUNT FOR THE ANIMALS SEPARATED FROM THE PACK AND THAT ARE WEAKER.

- 9. When are we easy prey for Satan?
Alone, spiritually malnourished, in tempting situations, etc...

Let's learn from these animals and be watchful and careful the way we live.

Notes

ENEMY

Q: Who do you feel is your worst enemy : My pride.
 Q: Why do you feel is your worst enemy.
 Its unseen by me.
 I feel its my friend really.
 I am unable to learn from others.
 Q: Who else do you feel are your enemies.

Proverb 27 : 6.

Q: Have you ever had such people in your life.
 My friends. Who never corrected me.
 Now I have friends who correct me.

Q: When in war, which is the best attract. Why.
 Ambush, Unseen enemy.
 Q: Who does the Bible say is our worst enemy. Why.

I Peter 5 : 8-9.

Q: The devil ambushes us. He is unseen.
 Watches out for our weaknesses.
 Q: What are their weaknesses we generally have that the devil attacks us.
 Describe Sins.
 Q: How can we counter this enemy?
 By calling up God.
 By resisting temptation.

James 4 :7

Q: What do you want to do today?
 Win over this enemy.

Challenge : Today this enemy will put you to hell. Its time for you to realise that you need to overcome him.

KNOWING GOD

(Through Jesus in the Gospel of John)

Notes

Millions, even a billion know about God, but few know God on personal terms.

I. Introduction

Q: What are some different views of God?

Grandfather in the sky.

Santa Claus.

Puritan view - dangling man by a thread over Hell.

Distorted Father figure.

Clockmaker - created, but uninvolved.

Correct view of God, **John 1:1,2,14,18.**

Jesus Christ, the Word, is God's communication to us.

Jesus became flesh so that we might understand God.

Jesus has made God known.

To know God is to have a relationship with him.

John 14:6. Jesus is the only way to God.

Great quote : "As the way, Jesus is the answer to man's sin; as the truth; he is the

answer to man's ignorance; and as life, he is the answer to man's mortality".

II. Jesus is the Way

Jesus is the answer to man's sin.

John 8:34-36. Jesus sets man free from the guilt and power of sin.

Q: How has Jesus set you free from sin?

III. Jesus is the Truth

John 8:31-32. As we put into practice the teachings of Jesus, we will know the truth

John 12:48-50. Jesus' words need to be our standard of life.

IV. Jesus is the Life

John 11:25-26. In Jesus you can have life after death.

John 10:10. In Jesus you can have an abundant life.

Q: How has Jesus improved the quality of your life?

V. Conclusion

Everyone in this room needs to know God!

Q: Do you know God?

John 8:19. The way to get to know God is to know Jesus.

Challenge : Get to know Jesus, by reading the Gospel of John.

Notes

STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

In the case of physical birth and development, there are precise stages that each and every person must go through to grow and survive. There are strong parallels in those stages of spiritual birth and development.

I. CONCEPTION - Birth has been planned and arrangements are being made, the embryo is developing. The embryo in this stage is similar to the first signs of faith.

Acts 17:24-28.

Q: What has God done to show his part in preparing for a spiritually well child? He set the times most conducive for the people who are seeking him. He set the places...most conducive for people seeking him.

Q: How can you identify a person spiritually dead. Unborn? Ephesians 2:1-3. Live for gratification Follow the ways of this world. Disobedience.

Q: How does this happen in real life? Meeting of opportunities to hear the word. Someone is one who brings the good news.

Romans 10:14-15.

Q: What are the signs of a healthy embryo? (A non-Christian who is developing faith)
Developing faith
Consistency
Commitment
Comprehension

II. BIRTH AND EARLY INFANCY - The period of being brought into life. The newborn must continually be fed essential elements that are key to survival.

John 3:1-7. Jesus teaches Nicodemus about being born a second time.

Q: What the stereotypical ideas that come from the phrase "born again?" Hypocrisy and hype phrase among religious people.

Bob Dylan, Larry Flynt, ("born again" who are quite pagan today).

Q: What would scripture have to say about how one is really "born again?"

John 1:12-13. Not of human decision! We can't wish it or pray ourselves into spiritual birth. Neither can our parents make it happen by inaugurating us after birth. God decides the manner of rebirth, and we ourselves comply.

Romans 6:17-18. God sees to it that people receive a form of teaching about faith in God..all throughout the book of Acts competent teachers of the truth arrive where people want to be born of God.

(We can study this in detail in person later. Let's focus on the heart of spiritual birth..not the doctrinal how-to's)

Q: From this point on, what does an infant in Christ need and how does he / she get it?

Bible Talk

III. ON TO MATURITY - Maturity is the process of growth where competence in early stages has taken place and a level of near-perfection is achieved (ie. walking, riding a bike).

Applied to Christianity, this process is the period in time where a person has been trained to identify what is good and what is evil.

Notes

Hebrews 5:11-6:3

Q: From this passage, how can you tell if someone is maturing?

They are acquainted with God's word on righteousness.

They are not confusing good with bad - sensual with spiritual.

Baptisms, faith, the resurrection of the dead, repentance, judgement, the laying on of hands are all elementary.

IV. CLOSING

Q: Which stage of these THREE STAGES of development are you are?

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HEALING THE HURTS OF THE PAST

Notes

Q: Ever been stopped by a policeman and not been ticketed?

Q: How did it feel?

Q: Other examples where you should have been in trouble but got off?

(It feels GOOD to escape the penalty!!!)

The NEED in our marriages and in our relationships is to make others feel this way... in other words, forgive them.

Q: What are some obstacles to forgiving others?

Desire for revenge

Desire for satisfaction (apology)

Reluctance to face the issue

Q: Why do WE need to forgive? Discuss this

Let's see what the Bible has to say about this:

Matthew 6:14-15 To receive God's forgiveness

Colossians 3:13 To imitate the Lord

Ephesians 4:32 Because it is a command

Hebrews 12:14-15 To avoid bitterness

Q: What is typically required of the other person in order for us to forgive them?

An apology, evidence of repentance

Luke 17:3-4 if a person repents, you MUST forgive them

Luke 17:5 disciples thought it would take more faith

Luke 17:6 Jesus said (in effect) use the faith you have

We can forgive all by ourselves!! It is an issue of your heart-no one else's

Q: How do YOU feel when you really forgive someone?

Free, like a burden has been lifted

Released, relieved, Healed, Forgiven!, Clear conscience, Free from bitterness

VI CONCLUSION

Healing the hurts of the past is available NOW!

We can begin the healing process NOW (all alone if need be!)

We are commanded by God to forgive from the heart

There are great benefits to relationships when we forgive

Devotional Lessons

3. Fruitful and multiply Gen 8: 1, 8: 21 - 9: 7

Q: After the flood what did Noah do? (8:20)

He built an altar to God and sacrificed animals to show his gratitude

Do we need to sacrifice animals? No, but we need to be grateful to God

How can we show gratitude to God?

By praying to him, fasting, listing the things that you are thankful for, letting others know about God, being pure, reading His word

What did God tell Noah to do in 9:7? - Be fruitful and increase in number

Did God care about the food Noah ate? [No]

Each can eat what he likes without judging others.

But what does God want us to do? -To be fruitful and multiply

C. Think about your life. Are you devoted to being fruitful and multiplying the church?

Do you have a dream to help your family group grow?

Is your dream to multiply your family group so that it would become a zone of 50 soon?

Do you want to be a righteous person like Noah to lead others to God even though others are misled by Satan?

Share: About a disciple who's being abundantly fruitful especially in the last six months.

Challenge: Do something this week., that you've been afraid of doing before. Invite a group of people and have an open talk with your family (without arguing), stand up against your friends and your boss and share it next week. Let's pray !

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Memory Scripture
for the week.

Matthew
6:33-34

But seek first
his kingdom
and his righ-
teousness, and
all these
things will be
given to you
as well. :34
Therefore do
not worry
about tomor-
row, for
tomorrow will
worry about
itself. Each
day has
enough
trouble of its
own.

JACOB

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

Quiz:

Which God-fearing Centurion sent for Peter to come & preach the Gospel?

Today, we are going to learn about another great person, whom God chose to fulfill his promises that he made to Abraham that to his offspring I will give this land (Gen 24:7). This person's name was Jacob which means, "he deceives" and true to his name, he became a "deceitful man in God's family".
Let's see from his life and character and learn 4 things, which we need to reject and avoid.

1. Avoid emotional decisions Gen 25:27-34

What were Isaac's son's names? (Esau and Jacob) Who was older? (Esau - v25)
Whom did Isaac love more (Esau) Who did Rebekah love more? (Jacob).
Is right when parents favour one child over another? (No, it hurts)
C: For many of us, we may have come from a family where a brother or a sister or even we were the favourite child. This kind of favouritism really hurts us.
Q: One day Esau came back from hunting very hungry (v29).
What did he ask his brother for? (Some red stew).
Did Jacob give him? (Yes, but he asked for Esau's birthright as the oldest son)
Did Esau give it to him? (Yes)
C: The oldest son has the first rights in the inheritance and also in getting his father's blessings. Look at Heb 12:16-17, God thought Esau's decision was stupid.
Should we make emotional decisions? (No)
Jacob did not make quick emotional decisions even though he deceived his brother by getting his father's will and blessings.
Like Esau, avoid emotional decisions when you get married, move away from the house, fall away from God, quit job or make friends.
Make decisions only after prayer and getting advise from Godly people. That saves a lot of pain later.

2. Always give to God Gen 28:16-22

Year's later Jacob had a dream in which God promised that he would bless him. Jacob greatly feared and respected God. In Vs. 22 what did Jacob vow?
Why did he say this? Jacob had immense gratitude towards God.
How are we in the area of giving? Are we sacrificial on a daily basis?
Are we serving on a daily basis? When we give are we cheerful?
How much do we give to God and others today?
Be sure to give our very best to God.

3. Ask God for help Gen 32:6-12

When Jacob learnt Esau was coming, how did he feel?
When he was afraid, what did he do? He specifically asked God to help him.
In Gen 32:22-30, God sends an angel to wrestle Jacob and in the process gives Jacob a new name, Israel.

Ans:
Cornelius

Devotional Lessons

Sometimes, when we are in trouble, we run away from God and the church.
We drink, smoke, gamble, become idle, and worry etc.
But Jacob did what was right - he asked God for help.
We should develop the attitude of not giving up with the Lord. We should tell God to help us and not give up till he helps us.

E.g. There is a disciple Raju who was baptized in Sept'99 in Gadag. He loves God so much that he has great quiet times everyday and even prays for two hours daily. He wrestles with God till God blesses him. How are your prayers today? Let us decide to become like Jacob, and wrestle with God.

4. Avoid favouritism Gen 37:1-4

Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons and he made a special robe for Joseph. He listened to Joseph whenever he had any complaints. How did his brothers feel about this? They were filled with jealousy and hated him. Just like his dad, Jacob makes the same mistake of showing favouritism. In our own families, we should avoid showing favouritism with our kids.

SHARE: an incident of favouritism you have seen in your family or relatives. In the church, we must love everyone. Not just those who are racially or socially or economically like us. Who are your friends at church? Why are they your friends?

Let us decide to avoid favouritism in our families and in the church because it causes a lot of damage.

Challenge: Make a new friend who is different in many ways from you.

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Memory Scripture
for the week.

Matthew 7:7

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

RUTH

SPIRITUAL RAGS TO SPIRITUAL RICHES

Quiz :

Who

raised

Dorcas

from the

dead?

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According to **Lev 26:14-16**, God promised his people blessings if they obeyed Him and curses if they disobeyed Him.

The OT is full of God telling His people to remain faithful and of God warning them of severe consequences if they strayed away from Him.

In **Ruth 1:1** we see that there was a famine in the land. Obviously, God was not happy with His people.

Elimelech left and settled down in Moab (a country of idolaters).

His son married Moabite women though God was very clear that His people were not marrying outside.

Ruth was not only a devoted daughter-in-law but she was also a woman of deep conviction. How can we say so? She made decisions based on convictions though she could have easily compromised.

In **Ruth 1:3-5**, after the death of her sons, Naomi decided to return to her people.

1. Naomi's life helped Ruth to become a God-fearing person Ruth 1:16-18

Ruth said, "Where you go, I will go. Where you stay, I will stay. Where you die, I will die. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God".

What Ruth was saying is, "I no longer want to be Moabite, I want to give up everything to worship the true God".

Ruth was not deciding to follow Naomi, but was full of conviction that the God of the Israelites was the God she wanted to worship.

Though she knew that trouble and hardship lay ahead, she was willing to give her security due to the conviction about Naomi's God.

She was willing to go with Naomi to a new land, live with a new race, die and be buried with them.

What caused her to make this decision?

Why didn't she decide to follow the true God when her husband was alive?

Was her husband a God-fearing man? probably not.

Was Naomi God-fearing? very likely.

Even though she struggled with bitterness, the death of her husband and her two sons, her daily devotional lifestyle is probably what attracted Ruth to God.

Naomi had an impact on her. Maybe Ruth saw Naomi being a great mother, maybe she saw how devoted her worship was. It could have been many different things.

But the book of Ruth is not just about Ruth's loyalty to Naomi, but about Naomi's impact on Ruth also.

The seed of being a great example was sown, watered and raised up by Naomi's godly lifestyle.

Ruth was not an emotional person, who was trying to please Naomi.

She was giving up everything to go with Naomi.

This kind of decision can come only of deep convictions.

Ans :

Peter

Devotional Lessons

What are we teaching people around us? at home? at work? in our neighborhood etc.? Does our love for God shine through? ↵

Do people know our stand on issues like abortion, marrying only Christians, idol worship etc. ↵

Let us make a decision to guard our own life and to teach others who God is. ↵

2. Ruth got married against all odds Ruth 2:12 ↵

Boaz asks God who protect Ruth to bless her richly. ↵

He knew it was under God's protective wings that she came with Naomi. ↵

Though the people knew she was a Moabite by birth, they also knew she had decided to seek refuge in God. ↵

This was not a secret; it was obvious to all. ↵

They did not ask one of her previous gods to bless her. ↵

Her conversion was obvious. ↵

How are we in our convictions? Are we trying to be faithful in secret? ↵

Ruth 2:17 -18 ↵

Here we see Ruth taking care of her mother-in-law. She went to work trusting God. She could have been hurt, or attacked work. But she trusted God. ↵

Ruth 4:9-12 ↵

Boaz was so taken up by her that he marries her. Ruth gives birth to Perez. ↵

Through the lineage of Boaz and Ruth, Jesus came into this world. Spiritual rags to riches. Ruth married Boaz against all odds. ↵

Are we willing to be faithful and wait for God to give us our right life partner? ↵

Ruth was not young, she was already married once, and she was a widow. ↵

But God took care of her. ↵

Memory Scripture
for the week.

Matthew 23:9

And do not
call anyone on
earth 'father,'
for you have
one Father,
and he is in
heaven.

DEBORAH
THE UNFADING BEAUTY

Quiz :

Who

ordered the

Sun & Moon

to

stand still?

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“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great work in God’s sight “. (1 Peter 3: 3-4)

God raised up many incredible women in the past who put their hope in God’s will and word.

Many of them displayed great faith and courage in what they did for God.

One of them was Deborah, chosen to be ‘**Judge**’ over Israel.

Whenever we read about Deborah, we always think of her as a woman who stood up when men were cowardly.

Little do we realize that we are being arrogant and disrespectful towards men?

Sometimes as women we think we are being like ‘Deborah’ when we be little men of the Kingdom and refuse to be led by brothers.

We are wrong and sinful. Infact, Deborah was one of the most submissive women. She never compromised on her convictions, but she led without violating God’s law of submission.

Today, we will study out her character and learn to be women of God, submissive and powerful.

1. Being a woman of Honour Judges 4: 4-16

Deborah was a prophetess, a women of wisdom.

People trusted her and came to her to settle their disputes.

Think about this! Why would they come to her, if they had seen her being bossy, proud and judgmental or disrespectful towards men? I am sure we all have this image of her in our mind.

She was probably like ‘Indira Gandhi’ –making decisions, bossing over all the men, intelligent, smart, and sometimes rude.

But if we read further, we see Deborah being an inspirational, yet a submissive woman. She inspires Barak to lead and she decides to support.

Inspite of Barak being hesitant and insecure, she does not mock him or pull him down. She speaks the truth in love and is still willing to be ‘led’ by him.

In vs. 14, she inspires him and increases his faith and confidence by helping him to focus on God’s strength. Barak wins!

How are we when we see others’ weaknesses in church?

How are we when we see the lost messing around in the world?

Do we have a compassionate and submissive spirit towards our leaders?

Do we believe in increasing their faith?

Do we still see God’s victory and see the positive in all?

We need to be like women of honour, women who are noble and patient, wise in our action and words.

I am sure God saw that in Deborah and he knew that she would always be like Sarah as in 1 Pet 3:1-6.

Ans :

Joshua

DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

1. Secret relationship 1 Sam 17:32-37

The moment we remember David we remember Goliath because we see a situation where David accomplished something that no one else of his age or size or experience could accomplish.

He was able to do that because he was not relying on his own strength or capability but he saw God as his strength.

It didn't happen within a day but the Bible says that David had a great relationship with God even when he was in the wilderness tending sheep.

He cherished his relationship with God.

You and I can do amazing things for God not with our own strength and talent, but through an incredible relationship with God.

2. Open confession 2 Sam 12:7-13

Even though God blessed David, still he was very wicked in the way he behaved with Uriah the Hittite by putting him to sword and taking his wife.

When Nathan rebuked him for his sin, he got broken and humbled himself before the Lord. He decided to be open.

Though he was King, he was not thinking about how others looked at him but he was concerned about how he looked in front of God.

Then he openly confessed his sin in Psalms 51.

Though it was very humiliating, he understood that his salvation was more important than anything else.

Open confession is what will keep our heart soft. This attitude is what made David, a man after God's own heart.

3. Crazy Love 2 Sam 6:12-23

David is known for his craziness.

His love for God was so deep that he was literally willing to do anything for Him.

As we read through Psalms, we understand his love for God by the different ways he expresses it - shouting, dancing, blowing the trumpet etc..

This is evident when we read about David dancing in the streets as the ark of God was taken into Jerusalem.

He didn't care about his majesty or prestige to the point that even his wife despised him.

When was the last time you did something crazy for God?

Today people are crazy for so many unimportant things but not for God.

Challenge: Do something crazy this week to show your love for God.

Memory Scripture
of the week

John 15:8

This is to my
Father's glory,
that you bear
much fruit,
showing
yourselves to
be my
disciples.

DANIEL
A MAN OF DEEP CONVICTION

Introduction: Though the central character of this book is Daniel, the hero is God. Jerusalem was in ashes. The temple was in ruins and God's people were captive in a foreign land.

To compare what he must have had to go through, think about what it would be like for a Christian in India to live like a disciple in the Gulf. Many of the Gulf States offer limited freedom to Christians. People who have visited the Gulf often talk about how they feel like second class citizens.

Daniel was raised as a captive. The people around him worshipped all kinds of idols and false Gods.

King Nebuchadnezzar was an impulsive man who was known to be extremely wicked. Despite all these factors, Daniel is an excellent example of how a person surrounded by pagans can remain true to his principles and not compromise his integrity. For atleast 66 years, Daniel served pagan kings with great diligence and resourcefulness.

Daniel 2: 24-30

The king wanted the magicians and astrologers to interpret his dream but he was not willing to tell them what he dreamt.

Since they were incapable of revealing their dream, the king issued an order to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

However, God revealed the secret to Daniel through a vision.

Now, Daniel had to face a test. He could easily have revealed the king's dream without bringing God into the picture.

He had an opportunity to acquire tremendous prestige and advance his own life. Let's see what he did?

1. Conviction gives birth to courage.

He brought to light the fact that the magicians, wise men and astrologers had all failed. This took guts. Daniel was not just a man of God with his friends, he was God's man even among the enemies of God's people.

Daniel was able to stand up and face the lions and the flames because he had an unshakable faith in God.

He was a 24 hour a day Christian. His statement to the king was very much like his prayer in private.

- * Could Daniel have become courageous without a daily walk with God?
- * How often did he pray everyday?
- * What made him believe in the power of prayer?
- * Could there have been some unrecorded miracles that took place?
- * Could Daniel have become courageous without facing hardships earlier in his life?

Quiz :

To which
tribe
did
Jesus
belong?

Ans :
Judah

Devotional Lessons

Many of us want to be known as godly, or dream of doing great things for God. For our dreams to become a reality, we must have a consistent godly lifestyle. Daniel was a man just like us. His conviction was what sets him apart. Make a decision to grow in your boldness by working on your conviction. Choose one area that you will work on everyday to become a person of conviction.

2. Humility thrusts the focus on God

Daniel made it clear that it was God who gave him the wisdom. This was the God whom the Babylonians did not worship. In effect, he was making it clear they (their lifeless Gods) were useless. Besides being humble he was being outrageously courageous. Why is this in the Bible? Can we win the world by being 'cool', 'smooth' and 'tactful'? Or are all these just nice ways to stay away from persecution? Think about your own life today? Are people getting upset because you are radically different or do you fit in very easily? Yes, we need to have tact and be wise. But, have we gone to the other extreme under the garb of being 'sensitive'.

Memory Scripture
for the week

Luke 16:13

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Imagine yourself in a village where you are an outsider. You are not familiar with the people, the surroundings; everything makes you feel like an alien. You are on trial for believing in Jesus. Would you stand firm in your faith in threatening circumstances? What would help you to be strong?

Humility helps people to be strong spiritually. Spiritually strong people are confident. They remain strong even through misunderstandings, conflicts and threats. How would you rate yourself today? Would others say you are humble?

Few signs of a proud person:

Does not listen to others, but wants others to listen carefully.
Does not confess his sin, but is down on people who are open.
Is critical and very opinionated.
Is not spiritual at a personal level, but is quick to offer spiritual advice.
Boasts and likes to win arguments.

Pride causes downfall. Make a decision to listen, confess, and be supportive, personally spiritual and to stay away from arguments.

Daniel was an incredible man of God. Let's remember that God sustained Daniel. God gave him the wisdom. God helped him develop courage and rescued him when he put his life on the line.

To be like Daniel let us learn from Jesus.

MARY
THE CHOSEN ONE

The world was waiting for the Messiah to be born to a poor unmarried Hebrew girl. Mary was chosen by God to play the role of the mother. In today's devotion, we're going to learn two dominant characters that led God to choose Mary.

1. Mary had a willing heart. Luke 1:28-38

Mary probably had many questions and thoughts in her mind when the angel spoke to her. She must have been surprised and fearful.

Many questions would have gone in her mind

- * What will my fiance think? Will he reject me?
- * What will my neighbors and people around think?
- * What about my family?
- * What is going to happen to my reputation?

Yes, she probably went through all these thoughts but her fear for God stood out rather than her other fears.

This shows a willing heart. What is your response to sudden surprise?

Do you fear God and surrender to his plan, or do you let the fear of your family/work/society control you? We need to have a willing heart.

She had to be willing to move to another town from her town.

She had to deliver in a manger (Lk 2:4-7) She was still willing to surrender.

Are you settled in your work place? (Even if it is worldly and they are ask you to work overtime).

Do you feel like you cannot move from your area to help out another ministry or volunteer to go on a mission team?

Spiritual zeal is not settling or looking for comfort or recognition, but to go according to God's plan even though it does not seem pleasing.

2. Mary had a supportive heart. John 19:25-26

Jesus, her son was going through agony. Throughout the time of crucifixion, she was willing to walk along with him and suffered pain just like him. She could have said –

- I cannot bear, it hurts me / Let me stay behind at home / I can't see all the pain. Instead she was very supportive in the ministry of God.

Today how much are we willing to support the church?

- Do we pray with other Christians who need help? / Do we teach young Christians how to be a strong disciple? / Do we take care of widows and sick people?

Do we make excuses instead of being supportive?

- I cannot go out / I am busy with my family / I cannot get up in the morning.

Willing to be supportive is very important as disciple of Jesus.

Write things that you can be a support in the ministry and practice for God to be glorified.

MARY AND MARTHA

Good evening brothers, sisters and friends. This evening we are going to learn about two different sisters who had different characters. Have you ever invited 13 hungry people to your house for dinner - a challenging proposition even with electric stove, gas stove or microwave? But, this is precisely what Mary and Martha of Bethany did as they invited Jesus and his disciples into their home.

1. A woman of priorities Luke 10:38-41

Instead of running around and making sure that things are well set, Mary chose to sit and listen to Jesus. Martha on the other hand was very busy in cooking. Martha was surprised that Jesus was on Mary's side.

Most of us would have to admit that we would think like Martha. We would probably have thought Mary was insensitive towards her sister. As a Jewish woman, Mary knew how important hospitality was and she understood that honouring the guest is the heart of hospitality. Mary had decided to make Jesus the priority of her life.

Life is busy for women. Our days are filled with demands: marriage, children, making meals etc.

And yet the more Mary heard Jesus teaching, the more her mind and thinking were changed. She began to trust Him, as she had never trusted anyone before. She felt free.

In John 11:1-45, Mary's relationship with Jesus was tested by a tragedy of her brother Lazarus' death.

She knew he loved Lazarus like his own brother. She had no doubt Jesus could have healed Lazarus if only He had come on time.

When Jesus finally arrived and saw Mary weeping, he was deeply moved and openly wept with her. This moment was a turning point of Mary's faith.

She looked up to him as her teacher and a great rabbi.

In John 12:1-8, Mary wanted to express her overflowing gratefulness for raising Lazarus from the dead and reviving her own spiritual life.

Everyday she probably waited to see Jesus in Bethany so she could hear his word. When he came and preached, she was always grateful.

In Mark 14:8, we see Mary doing her best to please Jesus. She did not worry about what others would think.

Today, how are we doing in the area of pleasing Jesus?

How can we be a friend of Jesus just like Mary?

Would we be busy with our own things or would we have time for him?

How are our morning times with Jesus?

Do we make time to listen to his word?

Let us decide to make Jesus our number one priority like Mary and not be distracter like Martha.

Quiz:

Who healed

Naaman's

leprosy?

Ans:

Elisha

JAMES AND JOHN
SONS OF THUNDER

It is great to be disciples of Jesus. I am sure all of us are grateful that God chose us. Today, we are going to talk about the life of two brothers - James and John (sons of thunder).

1. The cost to follow Jesus: Mark 1:19-20

Here we see Jesus inviting them to change their life, their history and give them a new purpose. Bible says that they followed him without delay.

They had to count the cost about their father and business. When we were studying the Bible, there was a cost to follow Jesus.

For James and John, it was not easy to give up and yet they were willing because they understood the need for salvation.

We all decided to become disciples so we could go to Heaven.

But are we staying as disciples every single day (Lk 9:23)?

Q: Today, what is stopping you to be a disciple everyday?

James and John were excited to follow Jesus.

Luke 5:9-10 Here we see James and John along with Jesus fishing. We notice that they spent most of the time with Jesus.

Q: How much time do you spend with Jesus? How much do you spend to pray and to read the Bible?

Today, what is the price you have to pay daily in order to follow Jesus? Is it bad attitude, pride or selfishness?

2. Wrong motives will not please Jesus

Remember the first time you were invited by a brother / sister?

How was your heart? After coming to church and understanding the cost of discipleship how was your heart? In our hearts we wanted to change.

Even though James and John were with Jesus all the time, let's see what happened after some time in **Mark 10:35-45**.

Here we see James and John thinking about positions.

When they were young Christians their hearts were right with God.

But later Jesus made them to understand that we should be a servant to be great in God's kingdom.

Older Christians, how is your heart? Do you have a young Christian heart?

Bible says that our heart is deceitful above all and beyond cure - **Jer17:9**.

They were probably wondering who would lead the movement after Jesus.

Their motives were based on position - they were corrupted.

It is easy for us also to become like them - because the heart is deceitful.

Let's check our hearts today and decide to be servants in God's kingdom.

Our only goal is to make it to Heaven.

HANNAH AND SAMUEL
WHAT YOU SOW IS WHAT YOU REAP.

Quiz :

Who cursed
the mocking
children
to be
torn by
bears?

↻ In the Bible we see many relationships between parents and children go down the wrong way. Adam and Eve with Cain, Lot with his family, Noah with his sons, Eli with his two sons, David with Absalom, the list goes on.
↻ What was common among them? Disaster, yes but the cause was lack of spirituality in all their cases.
↻ Though these men did great things for God, but when it came to their own families, they FAILED.
↻ Today you maybe leading a church, a sector, a zone, a Bible Talk or maybe just your own family, but your spirituality or lack of it would either help you succeed or bring failure in your life.
↻ What you sow is what you reap. Lets look at a great example in the O.T. Hannah with Samuel and pick up a few insights into their lives.

I Samuel 1:1-18.

1. Attitudes are more important than facts.

↻ Vs. 5-8: Everything was going against Hannah, though her husband Elkanah loved her, she faced stiff competition from Penninah, Elkanah's other wife.
↻ Obviously from vs.6 this woman as unspiritual, mean and insensitive and Elkanah could do nothing about it.
↻ Moreover she had children which elevated her position in the family.
↻ Everytime she watched the kids play, eat or sleep it must have caused her grief, because the facts were, she couldn't bear children.
↻ All that Hannah could do was weep.
↻ Have you felt like Hannah at times, Do you feel the whole world is against you, nothing is ever going right for you, where you cannot see light at the end of the tunnel.
↻ When you look around everyone seems to be happy, your brother boasts about his new job, your friends talk about their new car, your friends talk about their awesome relationship with their parents, and everyone is changing! - Except you.
↻ And sometimes you wonder why do bad things happen to good people?
↻ The answer is that good people only become better people.
↻ Even though the road ahead seems lonely, hopeless and unsure, there is good news! All that you've got to do is change your attitude-get spiritual about the problem.

↻ Vs.10 -Even though Hannah was discouraged, she forced herself to pray.
↻ Vs.12 -She kept on praying. She never gave up till she changed her attitude.
↻ Vs.15 -She poured her heart out to the Lord.
↻ Vs.18 -By the end of her Quiet Time she had overcome her grief.
↻ She had left everything to the Lord and was once again, ready to take on the world.
↻ What's your attitude like when you face the unknown, difficulties and problem?
↻ Do you skip your quiet times because you have a better reason?
↻ Do you get distracted on account of your problem?
↻ Are you spiritual enough to pray the problems away or do you become bitter, lose

Ans :

Elisha

Devotional Lessons

heart and may even give in to your thoughts about leaving God. Challenge -Get vertical with God, change your attitude regardless of the facts and you'll be a happier and better person.

2. Your gift that would glorify God.

1 Sam 1:11 - This verse shows the depth spirituality Hannah possessed. All that she wanted was a child and the best thing that she could offer God for his goodness was the same thing she had so desperately sought -a son.

Hannah was confident of her relationship with God, that

- a) she calls herself the Lord's servant,
b) asks specifically for a son,
c) approves of her son working for the Lord.

Hannah asked God unselfishly. So many times we use the gifts for our own glory. Today the world is looking for talented people, who are sharp, educated, intelligent and sporty, sometimes we are blessed in our families, our finances, in our marriages, in college and even in the church.

But the question is how much of this goes to glorify God and how much do you keep to yourself?

Eg. Albert: During his non-Christian days, he wanted to be famous so he took to sports, football, he worked hard and practiced a lot, he even prayed that he could one day play for his state in the nationals. A few years later he got his first break, proudly playing for his state. But he remembered the times he was so caught up with football that he hardly ever thought of God, he forgot that He was the one who helped him. He got what he wanted, fame. But all that he did was to glorify himself, he used to gamble on soccer, went for wild parties, immorality and all that stuff. But praise God that in '89 he was met on the football field later came to church and shot the most important goal of his life-Baptism!

Vs. 11 - Hannah gave to God the thing she treasured most, her son. Think about your life today. What's most precious to you, children? family? job? relationships? career or education? would you give it up if need be for the Lord? These are some of the questions that challenge us.

Vs. 21-28 - Hannah kept her promise; she was a good mother who taught him spiritual things. She taught him to fear God- that's where it all starts- Prov 22:6. 1 Sam 2 -Hannah's prayer was filled with rejoicing, when the time came to give the boy to the Lord, she gave with all her heart and never grumbled -we've got to have the same attitude.

Conclusion:

In Chap 3. -We see Samuel grows up to be a great prophet, but we never hear anything of Peninnah's children.

That's the key for all of us today, whether it's one to one discipling, or studying the Bible with someone or discipling our children or even preaching, Like in Psalms 111:10 we've got to teach people to fear God.

Vertical line of decorative symbols on the right side of the page.

Memory Scripture for the week

Romans 8:9

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

JOHN THE BAPTIST & STEPHEN

Quiz

Whose

family

was saved

during

the great

flood?

Ans :

Noah's
family

↻

These days we're learning from the characters in the Bible about men and women of God. They always stood for their convictions. They lived & died for their faith in God, in Jesus. They are truly awesome examples for us to follow. Tonight we will learn from the life of John the Baptist & Stephen.

↻

1) THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

↻

READ: LUKE 1:8-16 & ACTS 6:1-5

↻

While John was filled with the Holy Spirit from the time of his birth, Stephen was full of faith & holy spirit because he was the disciple of Jesus. We're also the disciples of Jesus and we also got the Holy Spirit at the time of our baptism when we confessed and repented from our sins.

↻

Q. Do you see Holy Spirit in you? Do people around you see you full of Spirit? If not, it is serious. A close relationship with God through intense prayers and fasting will help you to see yourself and others God's Spirit working powerfully in your life.

↻

2) THEY KNEW THE BIBLE VERY WELL

↻

READ: LUKE 3:1-6

↻

In the above passage John quoted Isa 40:3. In his speech to the Sanhedrin Stephen quoted Old Testament 9 times [i.e, Act 7:3 (Gen 12:1), Act 7:28 (Exo 2:14), Acts 7:32(Exo 3:6), Acts 7:34(Exo 3:5,7,8,10), Acts 7:37(Deut 18:15), Acts 7:40(Exo 32:1), Act 7:43(Amos 5:25-27), Acts 7:50 (Isa 66:1-2)]. As disciples of Jesus we got to know the Bible very well.

↻

Q. How is your Bible study? Do you memorise the scriptures useful for you? We got to be excellent in our Bible study. It gives us conviction to be full of faith.

↻

3) THEY HAD A HUMBLE HEART

↻

READ: MATTHEW 3:11,13-15

↻

John talked about Jesus with tremendous respect and honour. He was even ready to get baptised by him. In John 3:30 he says-"He must become greater, I must become less." Stephen in Acts 6:1-5 was ready to serve at the table. John was gaining popularity, but he never claimed to be Christ or something else. Stephen also never showed disagreement to the responsibility given to him.

↻

Q. Are you a humble disciple? Do you like to do little things asked from you?

↻

Are you fired up to take responsibilities?

↻

As disciples we got to be humble with serving heart.

↻

4) THEY NEVER GOT APPRECIATION

↻

READ: LUKE 3:19-20 & ACTS 6:8-9

↻

John and Stephen were doing what was right in the eyes of God.

↻

But what they got was being locked up in prison and face opposition. People for what they did never appreciated them.

↻

↻

↻

Devotional Lessons

When you do something good:

Q. Do you look for appreciation? Do you want your name to be shared in the Sunday messages?

Do you look for encouragement?

As disciples we should continue to do what is good without looking for appreciation.

5) THEY BOLDLY PREACHED THE WORD

READ: MARK 6:17-20 & ACTS 6:8-10

In Mark 6-18 John boldly preached Herod what was right and what wrong according to the Word of God. Because of his preaching Herod was afraid of him and even liked him (v.20). Stephen though was surrounded by arguments; even then nobody could stand before him because of his powerful preaching.

Q. How is your evangelism? Are you bold in evangelism? How are you in teaching Bible to the people? Do you preach and teach powerfully?

We should be bold when we share our faith and teach the word of God.

6) THEY DIED AS MARTYRS

READ: MATTHEW 14:6-12 & ACTS 7:54-60

John was beheaded because he told the truth. He never compromised with sin. Stephen was stoned to death because of his radical preaching. They died in the service of the Lord. One died before Jesus, another after Jesus died, but they both met Christ-like death.

Q. Are you willing to die for God's Word? Are you willing to die in the service of the Lord? Are you ready to meet Christ-like death?

As disciple we live for Jesus and we die for Jesus (2 Cor 5:15).

Today we learnt from two men of God.

Their life is truly challenging. But this is what for we are called make a decision to be like John the Baptist and Stephen in your life and live for God's glory

Memory Scripture
for the week

Galatians 6:7

Do not be
deceived:
God cannot
be mocked.
A man
reaps what
he sows.

Devotional Lessons

2. Anna, the prophetess.

Read - Luke 2:36-38

A normal Jewish girl out married between 14-16 years. Either she was widow for 84years (see the NIV foot note) or atleast for 60 yrs. Spent her life as a widow. Though Anna was very old, she never lost her hope that one day she will see the Messiah.

Think about Anna's life

She lost her husband as a young woman. Probably she had no child (other wise she wouldn't be working in the temple). She lived in the Dark ages where there was no prophecay and no encouragement from other spiritual leaders.

Yet she never left the temple for 60 years.

Q: How would you fell if you had to stay inside the temple for 60 years and take care of the needs of the temple?

Anna never complained, She prayed day and night.

Q: What are the few things we complain about being a Christian?

[3 meetings / DP-time / going and praying with young disciples / no money / not able to find right Husband or wife / job problem.]

Anna had all these problems but yet she was devoted to God.

To be a prophetess you don't need to predict the future; Anna never did.

But you need to persevere and be faithful to God even when everything goes wrong.

Lets us make a decision to be like Simeon and Anna.

All of us will get old ... and I want to challenge you to stay faithful.

And also let us encourage those who are older among us because they have more challenges than we do.

Challenges:

Go and do something special for an elderly disciple / elderly family member of yours.

Memory Scripture

for the week.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Devotional Lessons

These are good signs of their eagerness in seeking God and be fired up about making them disciples.

If you are visiting with us or studying the Bible with us here, have more eagerness because only if you seek God with all your heart you will find him.

2. PARABLES MADE THE GOSPEL ATTRACTIVE

In I Corinthians 9:22 Paul talks about “...I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”

Certainly Paul gained this conviction from Jesus.

Just as Jesus was willing to become a mere human being to save all human beings, he was also willing to relate to them in all possible ways especially in his teaching and preaching.

Relating to people in our teaching is so important because that helps them to pay more attention to our teaching and through that the word of God will dwell in them and produce fruits.

Paul tells Titus in Titus 2:10 “in every way they will make the teaching about God our saviour attractive.”

Parables that are related to the daily lives or life styles of the listeners made Jesus’s messages very attractive to the point where even the Pharisees realised “ *people hung on his words.*”(Luke 19:48)

One of the reasons Jesus used parables is to relate to people.

Let us see a few examples:

1. *Luke 14:15-24 : Parable of the great banquet:* told while Jesus was in a banquet in the house of a prominent Pharisee.
2. *Luke 15:1-11 Parable of the Lost Sheep:* while teaching the Pharisees and Teachers of the law
Who should have been the shepherds of God’s flock- the Israelites.
3. *Matthew 13 : Parable of the Sower :*
4. *Matthew 13 : Parable of the Weeds*
5. *Matthew 13 : Parable of the Mustard seed and the Yeast*
6. *Matthew 13 : Parable of the Hidden treasure and the Pearl (Hidden in the fields)*
7. *Matthew 13 : Parable of the Net*
8. *Luke 12 : Parable of the Rich Fool :* Spoken to a man who wanted Jesus to divide his property. (Must have been a rich man)

Let us imitate Jesus and make our preaching also attractive and use parables and illustrations too according the kinds of people that we are teaching .

That will help them feel like we do care and that we are taking interest in their lives and not only interested in Baptising them.

To do that we need to spend time to know their background and even to study the fields they are interested in.

Chris Mc Grath – our brother and Evangelist in London, studied and baptised Marcus Gayle, a professional football player who played in last World Cup. Chris was not a football player but he took so much interest in learning football and spent so much time in watching games and reading articles on football etc. and even used illustrations about football in his teachings. He did all this just to save one soul.

Devotional Lessons

- ↻ That is what Jesus did. He was a carpenter in profession.
- ↻ He did not convert only carpenters.
- ↻ But Jesus made so much of efforts to learn fishing, gardening, farming, handling money, tax laws etc. Just to relate to people and convert them.

- ↻ It is time for us to check ourselves and see what are we doing to relate to people around us.
- ↻ All are not like us and we hardly find many like us with same backgrounds and interests.
- ↻ But we must deny ourselves and take initiatives to learn more things about which people are interested like languages of people around us, cultures, history of places we live in, current affairs or what is going on around us, movies, sports, music, computers etc. to relate to people.

- ↻ Let us remember **Love Never Fails**. As we relate to people and make the gospel attractive God will make us abundantly fruitful.
- ↻ We are called to make disciples of all nations in this Generation and it takes all of us to imitate Jesus.
- ↻ Let us do anything to make the Dream of Jesus come true.

Memory

Scripture for the
week

Philippians
1:21

For to me, to
live is Christ
and to die is
gain.

JESUS HATED HYPOCRISY

It is truly an incredible joy to be true disciples in God's kingdom. Its awesome to see the chance that God has given each one of us to leave our past, hypocritical life to follow God truly and biblically.

Mathew 24:51: Jesus is hardlined with people who are living a hypocritical life. The place of weeping & gnashing of teeth becomes the destiny of every hypocrite. Lets learn from the life of Jesus about how he hates hypocrisy in different people lives in different situations.

1. Hypocrisy among religious people

John 3:1-8

Nicodemus - we see him as high profile religious Jewish leader- a Pharisee, a member of Jewish ruling council.

- what kind of life do you think he could have led
- preaching in the synagogue, counseling, vital person in deciding rules & regulations
- It is sad to see, that he didn't want others to know that he is meeting Jesus. He preferred meeting Jesus in the night. - His conviction was revealed in secret and that too in the night.
- But the convictions of Jesus was revealed openly in the light, with no fear.
- Its sad to see Nicodemus, such a high powered man, was controlled by fear in his life.
- Is fear controlling our convictions, lately bros. & sis.

In vs 2- the words of Nicodemus was very pleasing.

- His religion was a religion of nice words.
- His religion was religion of pleasing people/wisdom/knowledge.
- He was carried away by all the things, he did as a Pharisee.
- But Jesus was not carried away by his nice words.
- Jesus was not carried away by his life as Pharisee.
- In v.3, Jesus was radical in laying the truth.
- Jesus called Nicodemus to leave hypocritical life, to become a true disciple.
- Nicodemus felt so good about what he has done all these days in his life.
- He felt good about living a life pleasing others.

In what ways have we been living a life pleasing others? As disciples lets lay the truth to those Nicodemuses whom we meet everyday in our lives.

2. Hypocrisy among the sincere

Mathew 27:11-26

- Pilate heard about the life & doctrine of Jesus / righteousness & His love for the people.
- He was sincere in understanding the life of Jesus.
- We have been sincere in many areas and in many parts of our life.
- In what ways we have been sincere before coming to the church

Quiz:

Which
Scripture
compares the
Word of God
to a
Double Edged
Sword?

Ans:

Heb 4:12

Devotional Lessons

- Praying for the peace of India & Pak, going to orphanages, helping the poor.
- Pilate made many sincere efforts to relax Jesus.
- Jesus overcame the pressure by using the scriptures vs. 4,7 &10
- Is our scriptural knowledge, helping in to overcome pressures of life.

3. Hypocrisy among disciples.

Galatians 2:11-21

- Peter had his convictions right when he came to Antioch.
- When he saw his Jewish friends he became prejudicial.
- He started pleasing them, lost his convictions, purpose, zeal for God and his kingdom.
- When we encounter our friends from the past, how does it affect our prayer life, Bible study.
- Do we feel embarrassed to evangelise.
- Do we come back without sharing our faith with our friends.
- In order to please them, do we join them in their life style.
- Because of Peter, even Barnabas was led astray.
- Have we been leading others astray because of our lack of convictions.
- Our life as an imitator of Jesus, needs to be an inspiration for others to come close to Jesus.
- Mk- 7:6 our heart go away from God, as we lead by a hypocritical life.
- When we repent, from our hypocritical hearts, our hearts will come back to God.
- Lets not be like the hypocritical Nicodemus, but lets be like Jesus
- Lets not be like the hypocritical Pilate, but lets be like Jesus.
- Lets not be like the hypocritical Peter, but lets like Jesus.

Memory Scripture
for the week.

Philippians
4:13

I can do
everything
through him
who gives me
strength.

JESUS' MIRACLES IN NEW TESTAMENT

Quiz :

Who was

the Roman

Governor

who sentenced

Jesus

to be

crucified?

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Miracle: what is it? It is an unusual happening. Miracles are done by the power of God.

Today we are going to answer many questions about Jesus miracles from the Bible.

1. Why did Jesus do miracles?

John 20: 30-31, The purpose of miracles is to believe in Jesus Christ and to have eternal life, So why didn't we have miracles today? According to vs. 31, the written down miracles are enough for us to believe in Jesus.

John 10:37,38, According to this passage the miracle authenticates that Jesus is divine or He is God.

Mark 1: 41-42, Jesus also did miracles because he was compassionate. His heart went out to people who had needed. He touched them and loved them. Why? - Jesus cared. Do you?

2. What miracles did Jesus do?

He did some example of nature miracles.

1. He turned water into wine
2. Fed 5000 people & 4000 people at different times
3. Calmed the storm. Etc.,

He spoke and miracles happened.

1. Peter mother in law healed of fever
2. Cured a man with leprosy.
3. Healed a paralytic
4. Raised up the son of widow from the dead.

He touched and miracles happened. He did the miracles of touching and speaking. What? Jesus touched & spoke. Do you?

3. How did Jesus do miracles?

Jesus did miracles by fulfilling the needs of people **John 7:21**

1. When the wedding party ran out of wine and was an embarrassment for the host he turned water into wine,
2. When people were caught in a storm, he calmed it.
3. When people were hungry, he fed them
4. Widow's only son died; he raised the boy to help the widow.
5. A woman crippled for 18 years.
6. Healed 10 lepers who are socially outcast.

Ans :

Pilate

Jesus did miracles to fulfill the need of people. It astonished many. Does it astonishing. you?

Devotional Lessons

4. When did Jesu do miracles

Mk 6: 1-5 Jesus did miracle when people were desperate Jesus did miracles.

1. A women bleeding for 12 years - no doctors can cure her and she spent all that she had.

2. Blind Bartimaeus - he kept calling Jesus and again till Jesus took notice of him. ‘ Jesus son of David have mercy on me’

3. Healing of centurion’s servant. He was willing to plead for a servant.

When, others are in desperate need.

Do you feed the need to help? Or do you wait or question why, what, how and when?

Lets decide to love people and change people like Jesus did.

Memory Scripture
for the week

Colossians
2:12

having been
buried with
him in
baptism and
raised with
him through
your faith in
the power of
God, who
raised him
from the
dead.

RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Quiz :

Name the
birds
that
fed prophet
Elijah?

- ↻ **1 Cor 15: 12-19.**
↻ The basis of Christianity is the resurrection of Christ. Without resurrection, our faith is useless. We are still in sin, our preaching is useless.
↻ It was foretold in ancient prophecies that He should rise, and it has been proved by multitudes of eye witnesses that He has risen.
↻ During the forty days between His resurrection and ascension, the Lord Jesus had appeared to His own followers on ten occasions.
↻ The first five of these being on the day of resurrection.
↻ (1). To Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11, John 20: 11-18).
↻ (2). To the women returning from the tomb (Mathew 28: 8-10).
↻ (3). To Peter (Luke 24:34) probably in the afternoon.
↻ (4). The Emmaus disciples towards the evening (Mark 16:12, Luke 24:13-32).
↻ (5). To the disciples, Thomas being absent (John 20:19-24).
↻ (6). Next Sunday night (John 20:26-31).
↻ (7). To the seven besides, the sea of Galilee (John 21).
↻ (8). To the apostles and more than five hundred of the others
↻ (Mathew 28:16-20, 1Cor 15:6).
↻ (9). To James, the Lord's brother (1 Cor 15:7).
↻ (10). The last recorded appearance (Acts 1:3-12).

1. RESURRECTION BRINGS PEACE

Luke 24:36-39.

- ↻ Now His first word to them was "*Peace be with you*".
↻ Christ's first words intimate them that He did not come to quarrel with Peter for denying him or to the rest for running away from him.
↻ Instead He brought peace by forgiving them.
↻ After that His disciples travelled different places and countries to preach the same peace.
↻ Today there are marriages, families where there is no peace.
↻ But when we believe in Jesus and His resurrection it can bring peace to our life.
↻ Jesus's resurrection motivate us to live a righteous life so that we can also be resurrected.

- ↻ **Acts 24: 15-16.** When we are righteous we can enjoy the true peace in our personal life and in our relationships.

Ps 85:10 says "*righteousness and peace kiss each other*".

- ↻ I want to share about a family in Kottayam. Jopen became a disciple two years back.
↻ His family was opposing him. They tried their best to stop him from coming to church.
↻ Jopen kept on praying for them and persevering with them. After one and half years his cousin became disciple. When the family saw their life and their changes, Jopen's mother, father and sister started coming to church, they started studying the Bible.
↻ Three of them became disciples in October '99. Now they are so happy and they are enjoying the true peace. What about your life? Do you have the true peace? This is what God expects from each one of us through his resurrection. (Mathew 5:9)

Ans :
Ravens

2.RESURRECTION BRINGS JOY

John 20: 10-18,

The disciples had gone home. But this good woman had a great love for Jesus. That's why Jesus appeared to her even before appearing to apostles.

She was grateful to Jesus for driving out seven demons from her.

Jesus used Mary Magdalene as a messenger to the apostles.

She was in pain and in tears before Jesus resurrection.

But it was turned to be joy after Jesus resurrection.

Even though she had seven demons in her past life but now Jesus is using her to bring joy to others.

Even though she had a sinful life, Jesus resurrection gave her hope of being in heaven.

Luke 10:20

A person who has repented of his sins, can enjoy true joy thinking of going to heaven.

Are you a joyful person always? What brings joy in your life?

Are you waiting for something to happen in your life to be joyful or are you joyful because of Jesus' resurrection.

(eg. share about a brother or a sister who is always joyful).

3. RESURRECTION BRINGS BOLDNESS

Acts 4: 12-13

The fearful Peter says now that there is just one way to God, that too, to the rulers and elders.

Earlier he was afraid of a servant girl (Luke 22:56,57). He is preaching boldly (V13). He and John were noted for their courage inspite of being ordinary men.

Something has changed these men. That one thing is the resurrection of Christ.

All the apostles went through different kinds of trials (hunger, beatings, floggings, rejection etc.), but they kept being bold.

Through resurrection their faith increased. Their love for God become strong.

They were willing to face any problem to spread the word to all nations.

How bold are you today to preach the word? what are you afraid of?

Family, career, future, loosing your image, looking bad in front of people, persecution?

Acts 4:18-20

Here Peter and John had great boldness to tell the truth?

Are you afraid of people today. Can others notice your boldness.

Today Jesus resurrection gives us great hope for our soul.

Let us be bold like the apostles to preach the word.

CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

Quiz :

Who helped

Jesus

in carrying

his cross?

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Introduction: This is hot topic in the religious world. People love to talk. It makes you excited. Your hair stands up, your heartbeats faster.

You are carried away as if you are seeing a suspense movie.

What is the reality? How do you react to it?

Is it important to be hyped up by the issue?

What should we really be thinking about? Are you ready? How to be ready.

Mathew 24: 4,5,23,26 say do not be confused by listening to others. Read the Bible. The Second Coming is found in Mathew 24, mark 13, and Luke 21 compare it.

1. Make disciples

Mathew 24:14 The gospel needs to be preached to the whole world. Then the end will come. We know now we are in almost all the countries.

And in many cities. Now we need to go into towns, villages.

When we get the gospel to every creature under the sun Jesus would come.

In **Mathew 25: 14-30** the parable of talents teaches us that we need to use our talents to produce.

More talented people who in turn can produce more talented people before Christ can appear.

Good & faithful servants are hard working.

That is how you look forward for Christ's second coming.

If we are lazy & wicked not making disciple, we will be thrown into the darkness [vs. 30].

2. Be faithful:

Matt 24: 45-51

We need to understand Second Coming of Christ not the end but our death could also be the end. Then to face judgement.

The parable here talks about caring for the people in the household of God, which is church. Church wants us to love & care for the people in our church.

If not Christ will put us along with people whom we hated v-51.

The parable in **Matt 25:31-46.**

The sheep & goats talks about Christ separating us according to how we have been faithful to each other.

People who will be with Christ are those disciples who take care of the hungry, thirsty, stranger, without cloths, sick and who are in prison.

People who will be put into hell are the disciples who do care for the hungry, thirsty, stranger, without clothes, sick who are in prison.

We do to Jesus what do we do to others.

Ans :

Simon from
Cyrene

Devotional Lessons

3. Pray

Matt 24:20, 42-44

Prayer is what keeps us awake. Keep watch, who will be saved?
8 in times of Noah, 2 in times of Moses, in other word few.

In the parable **Matt 25:1-13**. 5 wise and 5 foolish virgin were distinguished.

By how much they were. Watching out and praying.

Some were casual & otherwise serious.

We need to personally & daily have a great relationship with god.

We cannot get others to pray instead of you. May be they pray for you.

What did the bridegroom tell the virgins, " I didn't know you" does Jesus know you? Have you been in constant relation with Jesus?

That is what matters finally.

Conclusion:

Second Coming of Christ for true disciple is to make disciples, be faithful & pray.

SIN CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Quiz :

Who was

chosen

to

replace

Judas?

↻

This is the time to talk deeply from the Word of God. I request you to pay careful attention to what the word of God has to say to us.

Today we'll be learning from one of the most humble and open man of God David.

↻

↻

Psalms 32

↻ Psalm 32 is one of the 7 penitential psalms.
(Written with broken and contrite spirit)

↻

Two facts about these Psalms

↻

a. It also carries instructions

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b. It was sung and instructed in front of assemblies.

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↻ The 7 penitential psalms are - (Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 & 143)

↻

We read here and see the David is referring to 4 types of sins :

↻

1. Transgressions v-1

↻

2. Sin v-1

↻

3. Iniquity v-5

↻

4. Deceit v-3

↻

↻ **1. Transgression : is to Trespass**

↻

God has defined and laid out in his word what we shall and what we shall not do - for our good.

↻

Crossing these limits is called as "Transgressions".

↻

From that line onwards we are on our own. And whether "big sin" of "small sin".

↻

We need forgiveness.

↻

"Blessed" is the man who's sin is forgiven. The meaning of blessed here is

↻

contented, fulfilled and happy

↻

Therefore flips side of this would be "Discountented, unfulfilled and unhappy is

↻

the man whose sins are not forgiven"

↻

Doing what we should not do is to Trespass - Transgression

↻

↻ **2. Sin :**

↻

Not doing what we should do is Sin (Jam 4:17)

↻

Examples :

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Confession

↻

Not Confession your sins is Sin

↻

Not being humble is Sin

↻

Not being open is Sin

↻

Not being righteous is Sin

↻

↻ **3. Iniquity :**

↻

Doing what we should Not Do is Transgression

↻

Not Doing what we should do is Sin

↻

↻

↻

Ans :

Matthias

Devotional Lessons

Iniquity is taking something which is good and turning it into something which is wrong.

For Example : Hugging / Fellowship with Sisters / Misusing resources / help / funds etc.

4. Deceit :

Whereas iniquity is perverting that which is right, Deceit is projecting that which is wrong. It is referred as hypocrisy. "Hypocrisy" is "play acting" or "performing behind a mask".

It is unfortunate, but in much of our day to day living, even with close family, takes place behind a mask. Deceit doesn't end with friends and family, we often play games with God - telling Him things we don't mean, singing praises which aren't real, promising things which we have no intention of carrying out.

When guilty of deceit or hypocrisy we need forgiveness.

David proclaimed about his sin in front of the Whole Assembly.

Everyone knew about his sins.

Q. Does everybody/anybody knows about your sins brothers ?

Q. When was he last time you confessed your sins to brothers / disciplers.

No one is righteous - Bible says in Rom 3:10 Neither me nor You.

Confess your sins brothers before going further.

How should you confess is also very important

It's not only :

Yes I lusted,

Yes I got angry,

Yes I masturbated.

Yes I lied / drank / smoked / chewed tobacco etc.

Leviticus 5:5 says Confess in what way you have sinned.

That's the standard of Biblical Confession.

David did that, You got to do it, I'll do it right now.

When you start exposing yourself, you'd understand how much we need God's forgiveness in our lives.

God's Forgiveness is also of 3 types.

a. Forgive

b. Covered

c. Not counted against

When we are Open and Confess Deeply followed by repentance...

God can say Your sins are forgiven Because it is covered by the blood of Jesus

And therefore not counted against you.

There is no greater relief. ... For a man to hear such a thing from God.

So lets be open and deep about our life to one another.

Our fellowship and discipling to make even more deeper.

God will forgive us and we will be able to sing the Psalm 32:11 with real understanding.

Then will come times of refreshment and we will rejoice in the lord.

Memory Scripture
for the week

1 Timothy
2:5

For there is
one God and
one mediator
between God
and men, the
man Christ
Jesus,

HOW TO HAVE AWESOME BIBLE STUDY

↻

It is really awesome to know that each one of us can have a personal relationship with God. The creator of the heavens & earth Jesus, always taught his disciples by his own example. How prayer was so important in this relationship.

↻

Prayer is defined as communication with God which includes listening to his word. Worshipping, adoring and petitioning him, as well as confessing sin.

↻

Just as we tell God what we want him to hear, in our prayers, similarly God has told us what we need to know in his word.

↻

Therefore God expects equal importance to both prayer & bible study.

↻

2 Sam 22:31 : The only flawless thing on earth is God's word since it was no error we can trust it completely.

↻

Psalms 119:105 : The psalmist inspired by God's spirit writes that God's word is a light for his path in times of confusion, God's word provides a way out.

↻

Ephesians 1:16-17 : Paul is inspiring the church in Ephesus.

↻

Saying that he was praying to God to give the spirit of wisdom & revelation to the disciples to know him better every time.

↻

We study God's word we need to begin with a plea to God to give us wisdom to understand his word & interpret it correctly.

↻

Psalms 1:2 : God considers a man blessed if he delights in his law & meditates on his word it is necessary not only to read God's word, but to 'meditate' on it, to find the deeper truths & inspiring insights.

↻

Acts 17:10-11 : God considered the Bereans noble because they examined the scriptures daily. We will not be confused about the truth, nor will we doubt any thing if we gain confidence from examining God's scripture.

↻

Acts 8:27-28

↻

Acts 8:34 : The Ethiopian eunuch who was an important official was reading God's word even after he had finished his worship.

↻

He was willing to ask questions to Philip when he didn't understand.

↻

He was humble enough. It is very important that we ask our leaders the true meaning of the scriptures when we don't understand them, rather than giving our own interpretation.

↻

1 Timothy 4:16 : When we watch our doctrine closely and live our lives accordingly, salvation comes to both us & the people we speak to.

↻

2 Peter 3:16 : God warns us never to distort his word or use it for our own convenience as destruction awaits anyone who attempts to do so.

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Memory Scripture

for week.

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard
the voice of
the Lord
saying,
"Whom shall
I send? And
who will go
for us?" And I
said, "Here
am I. Send
me!"

EVANGELISM

Jesus came into this world to seek and save the lost.

Rom 8:29 God's will for us as disciples is to become like his son.
Hence we have to walk in the footsteps of Jesus by seeking and saving the lost.

John 15:8 This scripture says that only if we bear much fruit we are the disciples of Jesus Christ. This is the certificate of a disciple (He Makes Disciples)

Mark 4:20 the good soils bears much fruit.
Evangelism is all about making disciples. This can be done only by God's help (John 5:15)

Jesus knew that only if we have the heart to make disciples we will grow spiritually and make it to heaven.

To make disciples the first thing is to have a great relationship with God.

Our prayers and bible studies have to be awesome.

If we don't we should immediately confess and get our heart leaved by repenting

1 John 1:9

Once we have a great relationship with God it is important to act James 2:26 if we have no deeds are faith is as good as not there.

The following steps are required to become fruitful.

1. Invite People : We should invite as many people as possible.
Our life style should be such that we invite people wherever we go, not only during ministry time in the evenings.

2. Contacts : It is important to note down the detailed address / Tel no. of people who are interested in God.

3. Follow us : Every contact should be followed up we should go and meet the contacts and find out about their lives. Do not be discouraged if some addresses are wrong.

4. Pick up : The contacts who are fired up should be picked up before the sunday service.

5. Visitors : People who come for one sunday service should be introduced to others we need to have a great fellowship with the them.

6. Studies : After the service it is very important to fix up studies with our visitors. Either we can personally study with them or fix up time with our leader.

7. Baptism : We should pray for our study and take sure that they are studied with and finally baptise them.

Quiz :

Who wrote

and taught

the first 5

books of the

Old Testament?

Ans :

Moses

Devotional Lessons

↻ In order to baptise more people it is important to invite large no. of people He who sow's more wil reap more (2Cor 9:6)

↻ In Christian life it is important to be personally fruitful. Being personally fruitful means inviting people and baptising them there is no retirement in Christian life we need to make disciples till we die.

↻ **John 15:2** If we stop evangelising our salvation is at stake.

↻ We can be cut off from God.

↻ Therefore evangelism is the most important activity for a Christian.

↻ As Christian we evangelise out of gratefulnes to Jesus who sacrificed his life on the cross for each one of us.

↻ God has commanded us to make disciples of all nations (Matt 24:19)

↻ **John 14:23** only if we obey Jesus, we love him.

↻ Then Jesus will make a home in our spirit.

↻ Evangelism is the most important command of Jesus, so we have to obey it to attain our salvation.

↻ Memory Scripture

↻ for the week

↻ 1 Timothy

↻ 4:16

↻ Watch your

↻ life and

↻ doctrine

↻ closely.

↻ Persevere in

↻ them, because

↻ if you do, you

↻ will save both

↻ yourself and

↻ your hearers.

GOD HATES COMPROMISES & EXCUSES

In our life we will always face tough times. Moments when our faith is tested. At these times we can either give excuses and compromise on our commitment to God or we could get determined to persevere. We need to get excited because God will bless us in these times if we are faithful. These situations give God an opportunity to change our character and make us more like his son Jesus Christ.

1. Excuses :

Excuses come because of lack of devotion.

Luke 21:1-4 : The widow had complete devotion for God so she had no excuses. She didn't see her poverty. As an excuse, nor did she see how many were being an example to her.

She gave with all her heart. Jesus approved her offering, because it lacked any excuse.

Genesis 3:11-12 : Instead of being humble and repenting of his disobedience, Adam gave an excuse for his sin. God wasn't happy and banished man from Eden. Death entered humanity because of an excuse.

God hates excuses. He puts us in different situations so that we can see his power. He expects obedience not just by words but by deeds.

2. Compromise :

Compromise comes when we put our needs ahead of our love for God.

Matt 26:14-16 : Judas saw his need for wealth to be more than his need for God. So he compromised on his loyalty for 30 silver coins. We need to question ourselves. What is my cost for compromise ?

Matt 26:69-74 : Peter compromised in his commitment to Jesus because he feared death more than God. He failed to see how God was in control and his compromise caused him great sorrow.

Luke 23:13-25 : Pilate knew Jesus wasn't guilty of any crime. Yet he feared that he would lose his position if he didn't do what the people said. So he compromised on the truth and ordered an innocent man to be crucified. Let us examine our hearts to see what is our level of commitment to God. When we face trials, rather than making excuses or compromising. We can seek advice. We need to see that God has a plan to bless us in every situation.

1 Cor 15 : 58 : Hence as God hates compromises & excuses we need to persevere fully as we are assured that our labour is not in vain.

FASTING

Quiz :

Who was

Samuel's

mother?

↻

During Jesus days on earth, he was asked many questions. One of them was about fasting...

"How is it that John's disciples and disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not ?

Jesus answered "the time will come when they will fast" (Luke 5:33-35)

The great news over here is fasting is noticed and expected by Jesus.

↻

Introduction

Though literal meaning of fasting is to deny our bodies some of its usual provision.

It's also a way to remember and be grateful for the daily blessings which are often taken for granted.

Let us see the Biblical standard and the meaning of "True Fasting"

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1. TRUE FASTING

↻

Isa 58 :3-11

Fasting should humble the body (v3)

The purpose is not just to humble the body but to do God's will and not ours (v3&v4)

Fasting goes unnoticed if we do as we please (i.e. exploiting, quarreling, striking, grumbling, evil thoughts etc.) such a day of fasting is not acceptable to God.

Any other motive of fasting, for example fasting for good marks in exams, for jobs, promotions, increments or any kind of materialistic achievements is not correct.

Fasting is being Godly, doing things that please God, doing things that Jesus has done. (Justice, sharing burden, food, clothing, shelter, giving and sacrificing)

When we fast we sacrifice food, which means we save some food which we normally consume.

What do we do with that sacrificed food ? Which is saved (not eaten).

Share it with the poor and hungry, staying hungry we feed others and experience the joy of giving and in the process also realise how grateful we should be for our daily provisions.

↻

Consequences of a proper fast

Good Health v-8, v-11

Protection from God v-8

Guidance from God v-9, 11

Activities during a proper fast

Confession 1 Sam 7:6

Prayer

↻

2. EXAMPLES OF FASTING IN THE BIBLE

↻

Moses while receiving the Ten Commandments **Deu 9:9, 18**

Elijah - fleeing from Jezebel **1 Kings 19:2-9**

Jesus after his Baptism and led by the Holy Spirit **Luke 4:1-2**

↻

↻

Ans :

Hannah

MOTIVATION

Quiz :

Whose

mother-in-law

did

Jesus

heal?

↻

As young Christians we are newly baptised. We realize that God has forgiven our sins and gifted us a new life.

In world people get motivated by money, competition, fame etc. but we as disciples got to be motivated by Christ life.

Today we shall learn how to be hot for God & be self motivated.

↻

1) **Awesome time with God :**

Jesus is the son of God in the form of human. Jesus was motivated through his relation with his father in heaven. In Mark 1:35 he prayed early in the morning

Mark 14:36 Prayer motivated Christ to go on the cross.

Luke 11:1-4 - Prayer motivated Christ to convict his disciples

Hebrews - 5:7-9 - Prayer motivated

Christ to be grateful to God who could save him from death and also helped him to be submissive and obedient to his Father.

↻

2) **Preach the gospel and make disciples :**

Luke 4: 43-44 - Purpose motivated Christ to reach out to the lost. He never forgot his purpose.

In **Matthew 4:18-22** he started his mission. His father's dream of saving the world motivated Christ to reach out to Simon, Andrew, James & John. in Luke 4:43-44.

Till the end of his life even with his last breath on the cross he was faithful to his purpose.

↻

3) **Serving & Loving :**

Jesus was motivated to serve & love his people by seeing how his father served & loved the world by sacrificing his only son Jesus in John 6:1-13

He fed the five thousand people. He loved Lazarus, the sinful woman, Samaritan woman, Peter's mother-in-law.

By reading all this we understand that Christ was self motivated we must get self motivated.

↻

i) To get up in the morning even though its your struggle and pray for atleast 45 min. everyday praying with other disciples. Praying through psalm, prayer on the beach, may be mountain side or terrace.

↻

ii) To be self motivated to evangelise. As young men we are afraid to invite people on the road (invite your friends, relatives, neighbours family)

↻

Be motivated to do life style evangelism..

↻

iii) To serving in church, bible talk, devotion, visiting sick, serving in the child care, ushering.

↻

We should be self motivated to do what Christ has done.

↻

This will help us to be hot for God. Things that can turn us to be lukewarm.

↻

1) Not serving - That's being selfish thinking about ourselves, (my priorities my life, my schedule).

↻

2) Being cowards & not wanting to make disciples, being ungrateful towards the salvation received.

↻

↻

Ans :

Peter's

BEING A SERVANT

Quiz :

Who

cheated

his

blind

father?

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People in the world always want to achieve position, power and find great pride in those. But God always called his chosen one's his servants and they took pride in being a servant and serving others.

Math 20:28 here Jesus says he came to serve not to be served.

Jesus being the son of God came to serve.

Lets learn few more things about being a servant.

1. Whom Should I Serve ?

I Samuel 12:24 here it says that we got to serve the lord our God faithfully because he has done great things for us.

Matthew 4:10 here Jesus says that we have to serve God only..

Mathew 6:24 we can't serve two masters ... Hence we can't serve both God and money. Lets make sure God has the no. 1 priority in our lives. Not money or family or job or some other relationship in the world.

2. Why Should I Serve ?

Luke 17:7-10 we should serve because it is our duty to serve. We should not serve to get a reward or to please people around us but to please God.

Mark 10:35-38 here James and John got tempted for a position. Lets make sure we are not serving to get a position to become a leader or zone leader etc.

Lets have a heart to serve God because we are grateful to him.

3. How should I serve ?

Col 3:23-24 serve with all your heart keeping it in mind that we are serving God not men .

Gal 5:13 It says we got to love another in love... with love... because you love the person you are serving.

Luke 9:62 serve with a firm decision. Once decided to serve don't look back. Any responsibility through which we are serving God we got to make sure that we don't leave it in between.

Luke 12:35 It says that we got to be always ready to serve also be alert to know / realise an opportunity to serve.

Romans 15:17 we got to consider serving a previlege not a burden. As the scripture says we got to glorify our service to God.

Particular Suggestiions :

1. Learn to serve without being asked, look for needs.

2. When given a responsibility let's make sure we are doing our best at it.

For example responsibilities like child care, ushering, communion, teaching, cleaning up, food preparation etc.

3. During the studies taking down notes or going and praying with a visitor who is studying the bible will help the person come closer to God.

Ans :

Jacob

Devotional Lessons

Conclusion :

Rev 2:19 God acknowledged this church for their service.

Matt 25:21 as the master calls his servant a good and faithful servant lets strive to be a good and faithful servant in Gods eyes

Mathew 20:26 as Jesus says whoever wants to be great should be a servant... Lets be a servant Amen ?

Suggested Scriptures :

1 Peter 4:10

Phil 2:4-5

Eph 6:7-8

1 Tim 3:13

1 Tim 6:2

John 13:1-17

Memory Scripture
for the week.

Hebrews 11:6

And without
faith it is
impossible to
please God,
because
anyone who
comes to him
must believe
that he exists
and that he
rewards those
who earnestly
seek him.

PURITY

Quiz :

In which

garden did

Jesus prayed

with great

agony?

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Our society which once prohibited sexual immorality has now reached a stage where keeping a control on it is becoming difficult.

We find this tendency the most in teenagers due to hormonal changes in them. However, God has made it clear that he wants us all to let the natural sexual desires remain dormant until they can be expressed within the marriage relationship.

In the Bible the term "Purity" is most often conferring to sexual purity, but it is also used to refer to being free from contamination by worldliness. Just as contaminated water is undrinkable, contaminated heart is unacceptable to God.

- Let's see some of the ways we can be impure.
1. Lustful thoughts fantasies and the "Second Look"
 2. Watching movies or T.V. shows with sexually explicit scenes and themes.
 3. Reading pronographic magazines or visiting pornographic sites on the internet.
 4. Listening to or telling dirty jokes.
 5. Flirting (desiring attention from the opposite sex and acting or speaking in such a way as to get it)
 6. Sexual immorality (homosexuality, petting each other's private parts)
 7. Masturbation

This study will help you to have God like convictions about purity of heart and lets watch out as any contamination & poison by the world will damage your soul. Lets see how we can strive in purity.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 God called us to live a holy life we need to have a control on our desires. If we don't we hurt God, ourselves & someone else involved in it.

2 Tim 2:22 The urge to explore thing on our own would be dangerous thus we need to channelise our curiosity through right channels to get it satisfied. We need to flee (desperately runaway) from the evil desires of the youth.

Ephesians 5:3-5 : No greed, coarse joking, foolish talk, obscenity not even a hint is permissible. Not at the cost of losing your inheritance in the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19 : Having bad motives for coming to church eg. for getting married, money, gaining a name & fame ask yourself why did you come to church ? Confess it and repent !

1 Corinthians 6:19 we are called to be God's temple & thus have no right to make it dirty. In order to remove the dirt your got to confess daily **James 5:16**

Now yours wonder what shall I confess. Well anything that contaminates your body & your soul, things that bother you or make feel guilty need to be confesed. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

Ans :

Garden of Gethsemane

PRIDE

↻

In **Daniel 4:37** and **1 Peter 5:5-6**, God expresses his feeling towards the proud. God opposes the proud, God does not tolerate pride. The devil was so proud that he wanted to be God (I Sa 14:13-14). But God opposed him and threw him out of heaven. As disciples we got to watch out from this deadly sin. Because pride can lead us to feel :-

↻

1. I am right :

↻

Mathew 7:3-7 / Numb 16:1-2; 9-11

Korah rebelled against Moses. He just felt he was right and that feeling led him to be critical. That's what pride does, it makes us feel that, we are always right and others are wrong and then it becomes critical and then rebellious.

Jesus challenges us, not to forget our own mistakes and faults.

Lets not just sit around finding faults but instead step out and help or in other words do the needful.

↻

2. I did it :

↻

Duet 8:15 / Hosea 13:6

A lot of success and victories in our lives can make us think that our talents, our techniques, our charisma did it. Its nothing but pride.

Without God we are nothing. We need to rely on God always.

How much we pray ? How much we read the bible ?

How much time we take out for Gods work ? Shows our relationship with God.

Never forget who gives us the victory, who gives us the strength etc.

↻

3. I dont need help :

↻

2 Chro 26:16-21

Uzzai's pride led to his downfall (vs16). He was not willing to listen to the advice given by the priests. Instead he was angry and decided to do what he wanted to.

He did not seek advice or even listen to the advice given.

So he acted foolishly and paid for it. Lets always seek advice before we make decisions. Seek advice about your schedule, holidays, finance, Marriage etc. It will prevent us from being foolish (Prov 11:14, Prov. 12:15)

↻

4. I am fine :

↻

2 Corin 2: 8-9 / 1 Thess 2:8,

Paul was open about his life, his weaknesses. It is not clear to us what his weaknesses were, but most definitely was known to them. Also in Thessolonlans he says that apart from the gospel he shared about his life too. In 2 cor 1:8-9 he expresses his emotions.

James 5:16 talks about confession to one another. Pride can stop us from being totally open about lives, our sins. But instead we put on a mask of "I am fine". Lets put aside our pride and be totally open about who we are ? and what we are ? really from within.

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↻

Memory Scripture
for the week

James 1:19

My dear
brothers, take
note of this:
Everyone
should be
quick to
listen, slow to
speak and
slow to
become
angry,

ALL KINDS OF PERSECUTION

In our Christian life we often go through persecutions in some form or another. Be it from family, relatives, colleagues, neighbourhood, our past church and religious community, government or even fall away Christians. Our lord was persecuted, so if we are committed disciples we will also have to face persecution (2 thomty 3:12) as our lord has foretold. We will examine and prepare our hearts scripturally.

1. Family and relatives :

One way our family can subtly persecute us is to make us feel guilty that we are neglecting them.

This might especially happen if you donot stay with them but make a visit.

As we go to the meeting they will tell us that your just came, hardly spoke to us and again you are off.

In **luke 9:17-62** Jesus said as disciples we should give 1st priority to the Kingdom ! even though God does not want us to neglect them but should provide for our families.

In **Mathew 10:34-39** Jesus talks about more blatant persecution.

Members of our own house will be our enemies as we do what's right.

We should love Jesus more than our family us he gave his life for us.

Sometimes our family and relative may make fun of us by saying we are mad or have been brain washed.

Rememebr that's what they did to Jesus in **Mark 3:20-21**. We should still love them but obey God first and his people as Jesus and in **Mark 3:31-35**

Mathew 13:20-21 talks about the rocky soil. People leave church and stop coming to the meetings because of troubles and persecution.

Ask yourself what can stop you from coming to church ?

Are you the rocky soil ?

In **Mark 6:1-6** Jesus was not believed in his own village by his relatives and neighbours. Prepare your heart for such an occasion so it will be not a surprise for you.

2. Friends colleagues & Neighbourhood :

1 Peter 4:1-4

Your Friends, Colleagues and Neighbours always knew you in a certain way.

When you become a disciple they think it is strange that you do not participale in the same things may be religious pujas, festivities or drinking, gossipping etc.

As it says in **Ephesians 5:6** people will try to deceive us with empty words and make fun of us. They will laugh at us.

The neighbours might laugh at you when you become a committed disciple our colleagues at office might ask us why we now don't work overtime.

Our old friends get upset with us because we don't spend time with them in their activities.

Quiz :

Who made

water

come

from the

rock?

Ans :

Moses

Devotional Lessons

3. Religious Community :

- ↻
- ↻ One of our main opposers is often the religious community.
- ↻ Instead of being happy we have changed for the better, our old church leader is upset that he is loosing a member.
- ↻ In **Mark 14:53-56** people were jealous of Jesus and the following he had.
- ↻ Our old church will persecute us. Its leader may visit our house and spread false rumors about the church.
- ↻ This happens when we start getting committed and change.
- ↻ All this time they probably did not realize we existed !

4. Government :

- ↻
- ↻ Its possible as it says it **Mark 13:9-11** that the government will be against us.
- ↻ For example the present government is against Christains.
- ↻ In some places in India, Christians have been killed for professing their faith.
- ↻ What will you do if people come against God or persecute your children?
- ↻ Still love Jesus or pretent you are not a Christhain !
- ↻ In 1st century AD millions of Christians were killed because of persecution by the roman emperors.
- ↻ Families were separated and then killed. Are you ready for this ?

5. Fall Away Christians :

- ↻
- ↻ We can even be persecuted by past Christians.
- ↻ Judas (he had fallen away in his heart) was the one who betrayed Jesus to death.
- ↻ In **Mark 14:43** he brings a crowd against Jesus.
- ↻ Its possible that someone we discipled or was in the church before has a bad attitude towards us, now turns against us.
- ↻ Will we still love them and be committed to the church ?

- ↻
- ↻ Let us prepare our hearts for all these types of persecution.
- ↻ As we face these let us trust God and fix our eyes on lord Jesus as he had endured the cross so we can have eternal life if we die faithful.

Memory

Scripture for the
week.

James 1:22

Do not merely
listen to the
word, and so
deceive
yourselves.
Do what it
says.

FELLOWSHIP THAT WARMS THE HEART

Today we will study the incredible power of fellowship. One of the reasons the church is different from all other churches and organisations is because of the fellowship. It is radically different from anything seen before.

There is still the need for us to take our fellowship deeper.

You may not get the chance to preach to the church but you can impact the entire church by your fellowship.

Give **examples of disciples** who give their heart to the fellowship.

Read Luke 24:13-35 - Here we read about the time Jesus had with Cleopas and another disciple. After the death of Jesus these two brothers were discouraged. Jesus felt the need to have a personal fellowship with them.

1. Ask the Question that Open the Heart.

Read Vs 17-19. Good fellowship begins by asking questions. Here Jesus began his fellowship with a question; 'what are you discussing?'

They replied by asking another question to Jesus.

Jesus asks them again, this time being more specific.

Then they began to share all their trouble with Jesus.

You too have to ask deep question to have a good fellowship.

(Shallow questions = Shallow fellowship, Deep questions = Deep fellowship)

What are some examples of shallow questions?

(How is your work? Did you have your food?,)

We have you ask about our struggles, challenges, victories and other such things.

It's not easy to open up our lives with one another, but we have to.

Proverbs 29:13-14. Our spiritual prosperity depends on confession. If we conceal the things that are disturbing our heart then no one will be able to help us.

(Share about a time you were asked some specific questions that help open your heart and confess)

2. Give the Challenges that Changes the Heart.

Read Vs. 25-26. After Jesus heard all their burdens he challenged them.

Notice he first listened to them. Fellowship is not just a time to go around and convict others; it is a time to listen to your brothers and sisters life.

Fellowship also does not end after listening.

To change a person's life there needs to be a challenge given.

In vs. 27 we see that Jesus shared many scriptures to help them to change.

Jesus' challenge to them was accompanied by many scriptures; we too need to use the Bible in our fellowship.

Quiz:

On which day of the week were the Jews forbidden to work & travel?

Ans:
Sabbath

Devotional Lessons

- ↻ **Proverbs 9:8-9** - Rebukes and challenges make us grow.
- ↻ We do have to be sensitive in fellowship. Be wise.
- ↻ Give challenges to those who are ready for it.
- ↻ At the same time make sure you have an 'iron sharpening iron' fellowship with as many disciples as possible.
- ↻ With visitors don't challenge them in fellowship, become their friend.
- ↻ Be focused in fellowship so you can help others change and you too can get help.
- ↻ Fellowship with the people that are willing to challenge you.
- ↻ Go to the preacher and share what you learned from the lesson.
- ↻ Share with your discipler. These are some people that can help you to grow.
- ↻ (Share about some challenges others gave you during fellowship that helped change your heart)

↻ **3. Stay with them to Encourage their Heart.**

- ↻ *Read Vs. 28-31.* Jesus made sure that these men were encouraged.
- ↻ He decided to spend more time with them.
- ↻ Our fellowship should lead to fixing more time with one another.
- ↻ To get close to each other we need to spend quality time.
- ↻ Sometimes the times after meeting are not enough.
- ↻ Share a meal together or do other things that will help you to get closer to each other.
- ↻ This is what Jesus did; he only had only 40 days after resurrection.
- ↻ He decided to spend one whole night with these men.
- ↻ We have to imitate Jesus to have great relationships.
- ↻ (Share about a time someone encouraged you by spending extra time with you.)

↻ **Conclusion:**

- ↻ In vs. 32 these men's hearts were 'warmed' by the fellowship with Jesus. It had a life changing impact.
- ↻ Set it a goal that you will warm the hearts of those you fellowship with.
- ↻ Today make sure you have some spiritual fellowship

Memory

Scripture for the week.

James 2:24

You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

STRENGTHENIN YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Jesus gave us a last command to go and make disciples and to teach them to obey (Mat 28 : 18-20).

To make a disciple obey all that the bible says might be a difficult, but today let us practically learn from the bible how to be a strong disciple.

1. Jesus and his disciples :

Jesus disciples were convicted by Jesus personal list.

(Mark-1:35, Mark 6:46) we see Jesus taking some time out to pray he prayed early morning and during day brakes he gave more importance to prayer.

Jesus was a busy person, but he never gave excuse to pray. Jesus did not even have place to lay his head.

How is your personal relationship with God? Are you giving excuses of lack of time? Do you pray daily? What time do you pray?

Many of you might be feeling weak, tired and hopeless (Mark 14:32 -42) when Jesus wanted to get strength he went to God the father.

When you feel faithless, sad or weak whom do you go to?

Do you go back to your old sins like smoking, drinking, sexual immorality, masturbation, boy friends/girls friends etc or do you go to God, as Jesus did.

For Jesus prayer time was very important time with God to get strength and with the strength he got from the prayer he could go out any where and preach

(Mark 1:16-20)

Jesus became fruitful four times soon after his baptism.

John 15:7 God is asking us to remain in him, then he will make us fruitful.

How is your evangelism? As a young christian do you feel lostness of the people as Jesus felt?

For last one week to how many have you shared your faith with?

When was the last time you sat in a study?

At this time I want to share about Mark. Templer, he is taking care of London Church and discipling south Asian Churches.

But, till today he has not missed his prayer time with God for an hour every day.

Because of his great example many people are impacted to pray for an hour.

How is your life? does people look at your life and get impacted? (Luke II : 1-4)

Jesus disciples went to Jesus and asked him teach them to pray.

When you have struggles to pray, do you take help from others? Do you fix up time to pray with others? We must have a learning heart like Jesus disciples only then we will be strong as a Christian.

2. Jesus' personal life :

Math 4:4 Jesus refereed a scripture from Deutr 8:3 to chase the satan.

How is your Bible Study? How many of you have finished reading the whole bible in a year. Here you see Jesus knew the scripture byheart, do you memorize the scriptures?

Quiz :

Name

the

first

king of

Israel?

Ans :

Saul

Devotional Lessons

- ↻ Many of you who are sitting here can fall into temptations.
- ↻ Like, a person whom you were once thinking of getting married to some years or days back might turn up or you may get a job opportunity to go abroad, or to get settled in a full time business were you will not be able to attend the meetings or may be a unknown relative / church pastors / family members might come to you with lot of good deals to stop you from going to church.
- ↻ How are you going to resist such temptation.
- ↻ Jesus the Son of God resisted temptations through word of God.
- ↻ Jesus could have said yes to satan and got the whole world under his control, then he would have not gone through the struggles for us on the Cross, but he would have been the worlds richest person in the universe.
- ↻ Jesus relied on God's word.
- ↻ It is important for us to be deeply rooted in God's word.
- ↻ Jesus quoted the scripture when he was just a 40 day old as a christian and this time

- ↻ I want to share about Henry Crete who memorized the book of Ephesians and Philippians. He quoted the scriptures word by word.
- ↻ It will be good for a young christian to read MY FIRST FORTY DAYS it will help you to be strong when you go through temptations as a young christian.
- ↻ Jesus not only took care of their spiritual needs but he also had deep impact on disciples family members **Mark : 1:29-31**
- ↻ Jesus went to peters house the same day he got baptized.
- ↻ Those who are young in faith, when you were studying the Bible the disciples were after you teaching you the bible, teaching you to pray, to evangelize etc.,
- ↻ For the last 40 days how many houses have you visited?
- ↻ It is good for a disciple to know each other's house, because a disciple can be strong only by having multiple relationship not just by having close relationship with his/her discipler.
- ↻ How many of you know all the disciples house who are sitting here?
- ↻ You should have atleast 5 best friends in the church. Mark Templer has a great conviction to know every disciples house this is to show that we really care for each other.

- ↻ **3. Walk with your Discipler :**

- ↻ **Acts 9:26-27, Acts 11:25-26** when Paul was still young in faith he did not sit around thinking I just got baptized, I am just a baby.
- ↻ Let my discipler do every thing, I will sit and watch him. No but he had a humble and eager heart, he went along with Barnabas he learn to preach and teach boldly he was willing to go anywhere along with his discipler.
- ↻ How is your heart? Are you sitting around and thinking I am just a baby?
- ↻ I do not know anything?
- ↻ Stop wasting time and start asking more questions to learn and grow.
- ↻ Make sure you take help to clear you doubts from a right person who can teach you as well as challenge you.
- ↻ Have a humble heart to learn from others. Acts : 9:27
- ↻ Barnabas walked with Paul everyday. Paul learned to pray, read the bible, evangelized, preach, etc.,

- ↻

SERVING IN THE CHURCH

Quiz :

Which couple

died

because they

deceived

Peter?

↻

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Serving is a very important aspect of our Christian life. Jesus, who is our role model, came into this world to be a servant of all.

Today we are going to look into different scriptures and understand how we can be serving. Church is the kingdom of God. We are part of this one big family.

All learning first starts at home. Today we are going to learn how we can be serving at home, the church.

1. Attitude of serving

Before we became Christians, the whole idea of being a servant was not a very appealing one. We know for sure that this is not something that we really look forward to and I am sure even Jesus' first group of disciples were not thrilled to do it.

We know for sure that this is not something that we really look forward to and I am sure even Jesus' first group of disciples were not thrilled to do it.

They were interested in positions of influence, not in **Mark 10:42-47**

This should be the attitude of a true disciple. .

All of us by nature want to do things that will bring glory. Remember, God looks at your heart. (2 Sam 16:7)

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

What is your motive of serving in the Church?

Have you sat down and thought about it. Is it really from your heart or is it because you will be recognized?

What are your motives today? There are times we serve but our hearts are not with the programme. What ever we do we need to do it with all our heart.

Remember as disciples we are called to be servants.

How ever young or old as a disciple it doesn't matter, we need to serve.

Whether you are a disciple or even a leader, God expects us to be a servant.

So even as we teach others to do it and expect others to obey it, it's important we do the same.

Luke 17:7-10

We are unworthy servants and that's the truth.

God saved us purely by grace; it's not because of our looks, talents or education.

God's rich mercy has given us our salvation.

Let every act of serving be because of a grateful heart.

After we have done the job let's not expect any thank you or recognition but instead have the attitude "I have only done my duty."

Challenge: Be open and deal with your heart and have the right attitude of serving.

2. Areas of serving

Acts 20:35 there are a lot of areas in the church where you can serve.

Now that we are changing our attitude towards serving let us recognize the different areas where we need to focus on.

Personal sharing: (How difficult it was & how you repented & changed.)

Ans :

Ananias

&

Sapphira

Devotional Lessons

- a. Picking up visitors for studying the Bible (even if it's not your own). ↻
- b. Singing aloud and generally has a giving spirit in a meeting.
- c. Stage setting (Before and after the service). ↻
Even cleaning the dishes or the place of worship after a Bible talk or family group meeting. ↻
- d. Ushering – (Welcoming the invitees and generally catering to them in a big meeting). ↻
- e. Visiting the sick – it does not cost anything but it does build an incredible sense of care. ↻
- f. Following up on a missing Christian the same day and making sure they are encouraged. ↻
- g. Hospitality (inviting those who are being reached out to and our friends to our homes). ↻
- h. To serve as leaders in meeting the needs of other disciples. ↻
- i. Helping the poor in the church and outside (take advice). ↻
- j. Take on responsibility of different events in the church (conference, retreats, special meetings etc.) ↻
- k. Kingdom kids- this is a tremendous responsibility. These are our future disciples & leaders. This is the second generation! It's important we give our best efforts in nurturing and teaching them. ↻
- l. Listening to the problems of a discouraged disciple and finding ways to point them to God & hope. ↻
- m. Any other area – the attitude of being available and willing. ↻

Now the question is are you quick to serve? ↻

Let's decide to take on more responsibilities. ↻

Only if we decide to serve in different areas can we see a glorious church. ↻

When we understand it's my church, we will give our best. ↻

Let's work together & give God the glory. ↻

Share: About an extremely serving brother/sister who generally doesn't get noticed in the church. Lift up few people from your fly group for different areas of serving. ↻

3. Power of serving ↻

Phil 2:5-8 ↻

Serving does not look powerful to most people. ↻

But from scriptures we learn that the most powerful event in human history was an act of service. ↻

Unbelievably humble & costly act of service. ↻

At the cross Jesus was not serving himself but all of us. ↻

Peoples lives have changed every time when there was an act of serving. ↻

Personal Sharing: How some one touched your life by their act of serving and as a result you changed. ↻

Whenever we serve happily in the name of Christ, we do something powerful. ↻

When we serve people, we show our love for them and when people feel loved something great has happened. ↻

MARRY ONLY A DISCIPLE

1 Cor 9:5

Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas ?

When Paul was talking about his rights, he said he had the right to marry a believing wife [in other words a disciple] like other apostles did.

The understanding in the NT church was that 'the disciples married true disciples only.' Why was that a conviction?

It is because in the NT church the church and the world was so different that they did not even consider in their hearts or minds about marrying someone else outside the church. Amen!

Where is our conviction? People with less conviction of the truth are tempted to look outside and marry outside.

Our conviction should be like that of the NT church.

The above conviction is mentioned in 2 Cor 6:14-18

*Do not be **yoked** together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial ? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

It says disciples and non-disciples have nothing in common!

Have convictions about who is saved and who is lost.

Are we ready to bow down to an idol to get married?

Are we ready to go back to our old dead traditions to get married?

Are we ready to please men to disobey God? Where are your convictions?

1 Cor 7:10-17

Also 1 Cor 7 is a passage about marriage. In it Paul gives us a lot of instructions about marriage. This passage implies to marry only TRUE BELIEVERS.

Because it give a lot of instructions to people who before being a Christian were married to a non-believer, what to do?

From this passage it is very clear - SAVED DISCIPLES MARRIED SAVED DISCIPLES, SAVED BELIEVER MARRIED ONLY SAVED BELIEVERS. Amen! Hence our conviction to marry only disciples.

To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband.

In the Old Testament God gave specific instructions to the Chosen people, the Israelites, whom to marry and not to marry?

There was a reason for that, as we can understand from reading the following passages.

Let us read and understand Gods plan for our lives regarding marriage.

Quiz :

Who was

known as the

Son of

Encouragement?

Ans :

Barnabas

Devotional Lessons

↻ **Gen 24:3** I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living. [Abraham advises his servant about his son Isaac]

↻ **Gen 28:1** So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him and commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. [Isaac has same convictions for his son Jacob]

↻ **Deu 7:1-6** When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—

↻ 2 and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.

↻ 3 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons. 4 for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.

↻ 5 This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire.

↻ 6 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

↻ **Josh 23:11-13** So be very careful to love the LORD your God.

↻ 12 "But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them,

↻ 13 then you may be sure that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the LORD your God has given you.

↻ **Ezra 9:12-14** Therefore, do not give your daughters in marriage to their sons or take their daughters for your sons. Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them at any time, that you may be strong and eat the good things of the land and leave it to your children as an everlasting inheritance.'

↻ 13 "What has happened to us is a result of our evil deeds and our great guilt, and yet, our God, you have punished us less than our sins have deserved and have given us a remnant like this,

↻ 14 Shall we again break your commands and intermarry with the peoples who commit such detestable practices? Would you not be angry enough with us to destroy us, leaving us no remnant or survivor?

↻ **Neh 13:25-27** I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name and said: "You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves.

↻ 26 Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women.

↻ 27 Must we hear now that you too are doing all this terrible wickedness and are being unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?"

↻ 6 commandments to follow IN GETTING READY FOR MARRIAGE or FINDING A PARTNER

THOU SHALL TAKE ADVISE

↻ Prov 20:18 Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain **guidance**.

↻ Prov 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to **advice**.

↻ Prov 19:20 Listen to **advice** and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

Devotional Lessons

DO NOT BE INDEPENDENT, TAKE ADVICE

TAKE ADVISE – about our life & marriage

TAKE HELP/BE OPEN FOR HELP – immediately about our problems in our marriage. Don't be embarrassed to talk about your worries, insecurities and your heart to your discipler regarding your marriage.

THOU SHALL NOT LOOK AT OUTWARD APPEARANCE

Rom 12:3 *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with **sober** judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

1 Sam 16:7 *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his **appearance** or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward **appearance**, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

Prov 6:25

*Do not lust in your heart after her **beauty** or let her captivate you with her eyes,*

Prov 31:30

*Charm is deceptive, and **beauty** is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

You will never find a perfect partner, why? Look at yourself in the mirror.

You are not perfect and so you will never find someone perfect.

You have to make adjustments in life

You have to make changes in life

You have to learn to appreciate the spiritual qualities in other partner rather than just focussed on the negatives.

You should have a Godly attitude towards marriage. Not "filmy" or not some preconceived ideas.

Be ready to change your expectations if they are worldly.

Don't look in your partner for worldly things – beauty, family wealth, how much is she worth financially, can she earn money for me.

Look for spiritual qualities mainly.

Don't make emotional decisions – I'll only marry this person, make that person marry me, why he/she can't marry me, you are not the only person to decide that.

Don't get offended or discouraged when the person you like does not respond positively. You got to learn to face rejection with a good humble, healthy attitude.

THOU SHALL NOT be GREEDY

MONEY – CAN I BENEFIT FINANCIALLY FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP

NO DOWRY IN THE CHURCH – because it is a social evil, encourages greed and produces strain in girls family and God does not bless you because of that.

Money gained by greed always vanishes. Amen!

Col 3:5-6 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and **greed**, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk

Devotional Lessons

in these ways, in the life you once lived.

THOU SHALL NOT HAVE SECRET MEETINGS

No SECRET NOTES AND PASSES / SECRET DEALS

2 Tim 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Tim 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

No secret drops/visiting families/calls/walking together/going to places together. All these rules are there to protect you and not to burden you.

THOU SHALL NOT BE ANXIOUS

DONT PANIC AND MAKE EMOTIONAL / WRONG DECISIONS – TRUST GOD

Phil 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Pet 5:7-8 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Don't get panicky about your marriage. Trust God.

When others are having marriage problem, don't get insecure – Trust

When others are getting married ahead of you don't loose confidence.

When the person you liked is not interested in you don't get bitter and negative or jealous.

Don't look at bad examples and get insecure. There are lots of good examples to look at and learn from regarding our marred life.

THOU SHALL PLAN AHEAD FOR MARRIAGE

Prov 14:22But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.

Prov 14:23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Prov 21:30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.

Psa 20:4 May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

Prov 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Isa 32:8 But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.

Save Money

Plan for a New House away from our parents

[Gen 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.]

Plan Marriage Expenses

Plan Now!

Memory
Scripture for the
week.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

THOSE WHO HAVE EARS TO HEAR LET THEM HEAR

Three types of Disciples

1. YES Bros. - Want to show they are eager, but don't obey, people pleasers
 2. SORRY Bros. - Who always promising to change, but remain the same, no brokenness
 3. AMEN Bros. - Who listen and obey instructions, they progress
- It frustrates us when people are always hearing but never growing and repenting.
Jesus had lot of people following him but they were not eager to OBEY and REPENT

Matt 11:15 *He who has ears, let him hear.*

Matt 13:9 ⁹ *He who has ears, let him hear."*

MATT 13:43 *Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*

1. GOD IS A GOOD LISTENER

PS 34:15 *The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry;*

ISA 59:1 *Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.*

John 9: 31-32

³¹ *We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."*

1 John 5: 14-15

- God is a good Listener / Being a good listener means you have ears to hear.
- Many times we don't use our ears even though we have 2 of them
- Because we are used to telling others what to do – we become bad listeners.
- Good learner is a listener.
- Listen to others instructions / Others challenges / other discipling / learn from others conversations.
- Listening to disciples problems / Listening to slight feeling of weakness /
- When people speak our MIND is searching for EXCUSE or DEFENSE
- Before others finish we start rebuking – That's Harsh

2. GOD HATES DEAF EARS

ISA 6:10 *Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes.*

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

Devotional Lessons

ISA 63

Why did the people wander – Because they didn't listen and obey God.

GOD performed awesome MIRACLES – but they did get the point.

JN 12:40

GOD hardens his heart after sometime.

GOD gets fed-up when there is no sign of repentance.

Eze 12: 1-2

² *"Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people.*

Jer 7:24

Some instead of growing they are going backwards.

Not because people have not encouraged or challenged them

But because they think WELL – there is LOT of TIME

Sometimes people don't hear properly when you speak on the phone.

WE keep asking – WHAT, SORRY, PLEASE REPEAT,

The reason because our hears are not attentive to listen

Either we are distracted or doing something when others are talking.

Should change from a casual attitude to instructions or challenges.

We take a lot of time to repent.

We don't quickly obey and carry out instructions

- We are told to do something – BUT – we are still FELLOWSHIPPING

- Sorry – I'LL do it. - Hearts are not there

- NEED TO LEAVE EVERYTHING AND DO IT FIRST.

3. HOW THEN TO LISTEN

JAS 1:19 Everyone should be quick to listen.

1 JOHN 4: 6

We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

- He who remembers and ponders them in his mind

- He is restless till the work is done completely

2 Tim 4: 2-5

Men will reject the truth and accept a lie

Let us listen and PAY ATTENTION to others so we can change quickly.

ANGELS

Today we are going to learn from the Bible about 'angels'!
 I looked for books or some material on angels and surprisingly could not find anything atleast in the shops I visited.
 Though interestingly angels are never a focus the very word conjures up for us "an incredibly pure, childlike, able to fly around - companion of God in heaven" picture. But angels are not a fantasy or a figment of imagination !
 Today let us decide to imitate the angels in the relationship they have with God!

1. The Credentials

Angels are created by God and Christ. (Neh 9:6, Col 1:16)
 Angels worship God and Christ (Heb 1:6)
 Angels are ministering spirits (Ps 68:17, Heb 1:14)
 Angels communicate the will of God (as you see them appearing before many prophets, apostles – Rev 1:1)
 Angels obey the will of God (Ps 103:20)
 Angels execute the purpose of God (Ps 103:21)
 But Angels are not to be worshipped (Rev 19:10, Rev 22:9)

The term angel is derived from the Greek word *angelos* which means "messenger". In general when we see angels in the Bible, his task is to convey the message or do the will of God who sent him.
 Since the focus on every text is the message, the messenger is rarely described in detail. But there are references of angels being part of the "holy" encourage of God. They are called "sons of God", "holy ones", heavenly host" and these angels are generally worshipping God, attend God's throne or comprise God's army.
 A third type as we call it are the winged angels Cherubim and Seraphim who appear in visions of Ezekiel (Ez 1:4-28; Ez 10:3-22) and Isaiah (Is 6:2-6).
 Cherubim function primarily as guards or attend to the divine throne and Seraphim who appears to Isaiah attend God's throne and voice praises.
 But all angels present us with heavenly beings in the service of God.

2. The Character

The angels are examples of **humility** and **meekness** as can be seen in the way they handled two situations in 2 Peter 2:11 and Jude 9.
 The angels are said to be **wise** (2 Samuel 14:20).
 They are also **mighty** as the Psalmist describes in Psalm 103:20.
 They are **holy** according to the gospel of Matthew in 25:31.
 They are chosen or the **elect** according to I Timothy 5:21.
 They are **obedient** (Matthew 6:10)
 They are **immortal** (Luke 20:36)
 They are **extremely reliable** because God uses them in crunch situations!
 But unfortunately not all angels were as great and so we see instances of angels falling away from God.
 Angels probably face temptations too and that perhaps explains the fallen angels!

Quiz :

Which person
 in the
 Bible lived
 the longest
 life on
 the earth?

Ans :

Methuselah
 969 years

Devotional Lessons

Of the cause and the manner of their fall we are totally ignorant but we do know that “they left their first estate” (Matthew 25:41) and that they are “reserved for judgement”(2 Peter 2:4)

But angels that I grew up knowing was the one that I had been assigned to!
I always felt secure about my “guardian angel”!

Jesus’ comment in **Matthew 18:10** and some passages which assign protective roles to angels (for example, Michael, prince of Israel, Daniel 12:1 and Hebrews 1:14) imply that a heavenly counterpart represents each person in heaven.

The term guardian angel is never mentioned in the Bible and it is more implied through these passages! Jesus in the reference of Matthew mentions that certain angels are assigned to watch over children and they have direct access to God! That should encourage and give security that God cares through his angels.

3. The Charge

All great men and women in the Bible were led by the angels even as they sought God! Angels always masquerade as normal people and are not easily recognised.

Judges 13:1-25

Manoah (the father of Samson) was a righteous man. He believed his wife and his only question was in v-8 “Let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born?”

His wife was sterile and childless and it looked an impossible situation – yet he believes in the message from the angel!

Not once did he doubt and it’s incredible in v9 God heard Manoah!

How often has it happened in the Bible when God heard the prayer of a righteous man!

How is your walk with God? Manoah had an incredible relationship with God that he could be **led by the angels!**

Today if an angel were to visit you would you recognise the angel?

Can you be as easily led? Angelic deeds and visions require an incredible faith that comes from a constant walk with God!

Even as we are enamoured and perhaps in awe of the angels the Bible emphasises (unlike the false prophets) that they cannot be worshipped!

As we grow in our christian faith, let God’s word be our guide!

Share : (how you are going to change in being led by the angels)

Challenge : Write down a small article on what the angels mean to you and how you are going to be led by the angels!

Memory Scripture
for the week.

1 John 4:20

If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

TRADITIONS AND FESTIVALS

We does it mean tradition? As per Dictionary, oral transmission of knowledge or belief from one generation to another, tale or belief or custom so transmitted Bible says, precepts and rules, not in the written law, but believed to have given by God to Moses. Orally transmitted from generation to generation, they were to be obeyed with the same reverence as the Law.

Traditions if its against the word of God we compromise with sin and simplifies the method of revering the God according to people's convenience taught by religious leaders.

The religious Leaders like Pharisees and Law teachers lead the people forcing them to obey to legalism and ritual ways, which is against God's commands.

In **Matt. 15:1-3,6** Jesus was against this tradition and condemns the ritual ways.

In V1,2 the Pharisees and teachers were very much worried about the outward (physical body) cleanliness rather than spiritual cleanliness (i.e., clearing the deceitful heart, Jer. 17:9)

1. Tradition nullifies God command

So, Jesus was emphasising to them about God's requirements.

Jn. 15:6 Jesus says, *"Thus you nullify (make invalid) the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, 'these people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men'"* **Isaiah 29:13**

God Jehovah hates, so his son Jesus also hates the ritual things

In **Mark 7:3-4**, *"The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing holding to the tradition of the elders.*

When they come from the market place they do not eat unless they wash.

And the observe many other traditions, such as washing of cups, pitches and kettles."

In **Mark 7:9**, Jesus said to them, *" You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in orders to observe your own tradition"*.

Poor and illiterate people will be attracted with this fine way of setting aside the commands of God.

This practice is still in the denomination world, such as, lighting the candles in the church, garlanding the statues, putting prayer petitions in the offering box, once in a year during Christmas and Easter Sundays attending the church for the sake of partaking in the communion, attending cemetery for all soul's day, attending church for getting blessings from Pope or Arch Bishop or Reverent, or Church Fathers etc.

In **Mark 7:8**, *" You have let go the commands of God and are holding on the traditions of men"* Jesus calls the crowds and tells in Mk 7:14,15 *"Listen to me, every one, and understand this, Nothing outside a man can make him unclean by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him unclean"*. Jesus talks about men's heart which is a deceitful and beyond cure.

Quiz :

Who

baptized

the

Ethiopian

eunuch?

Ans :

Philip

Devotional Lessons

↻ Apostle Paul cautions disciples about the traditions in Col. 2:8 *“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*

↻ In v 18-23 Paul warns about the following the tradition.(explain)

↻ **FESTIVALS**

↻ Festivals and feast are often mentioned in the Bible in the O.T. ISRAELITES CELEBRATE IMPROTANT OR JOYFUL EVENTS.

↻ Three annual feasts were require by Mosaic Law. First was Passover, the second is the Pentecost occuring fifty days after Passover, the third festival is the feast of Tabernacles on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, lasting for seven days, it commemorated the period in the wilderness (Lev. 23:33-34)

↻ All adult males were required to appear on these three occasions. (Ex.23:17; Dan. 16:16)

↻ Another important religious feast is the feast of Purim celebrating the deliverance of the Jews at the time of Esther (Es. 9:21-28)

↻ The above mentioned festivals are biblical as well as based on history of Israelites. God himself commanded them to observe, where as the other religious festivals are not having any historical evidence, only man made.

↻ Paul writes in **I Cor. 5:7,8** Christ is the Passover lamb and we Christians need not celebrate any festival or observe these days except concentrate on the cross of Jesus, who shed his precious blood for our redemption. Let us pray together.

Memory Scripture
for the week.

Revelation
3:16

So, because
you are luke-
w a r m-
neither hot
nor cold-I
am about to
spit you out of
my mouth.

TRINITY

This subject is very complicated to understand.

In **John 3:12** Jesus said about earthly things and heavenly things.

Trinity is a heavenly mystery, we will find it hard to understand.

In **Isaiah 55:8-9** God says that His ways and thoughts are higher than our ways.

Romans 11:33 says His paths are beyond tracing.

Here we will try to understand, but be prepared it is difficult to comprehend.

1. What is Trinity?

By the word trinity we do not mean three separate gods, nor do we mean one god in three roles, like a person who functions as mother, wife, and professional.

The holy trinity is three-in-one.

Biblical basis

Often the Father, Son and Spirit are mentioned together in the New testament (2Cor.13:14, Mt.28:19, Jn.14:17-23).

They are three in personality but one in nature or essence.

Again, Father, Son, and Spirit are each God (in essence), but none can be identified with the other.

All three persons are divine. Obviously our heavenly father is God.

Many verses state that Christ is divine (2Pet. 1:1, Titus 2:13, Jn.1:1,14), not to mention the indirect proofs of his deity, such as forgiveness of man's sins (Mk.2), and claiming as his own the name of God (Jn.8:58).

It is also clear from the Scriptures that the Spirit, is divine.

The dictionary definition of the Spirit is : 'The active essence or essential power of the Deity, conceived as a creative, animating, or inspiring influence'.

How does it help us to be closer to God?

It makes a difference in our lives only when we sense and appreciate that God, through his Spirit, is living within us(Jn.14).

The Spirit in nature is God; all members of the Trinity are equally divine.

2. Trinity in church history

The earlier 'ecumenical councils' (council of church leaders) strove to define and describe the relationships between the members of the godhead (Nicea in 325, Constantinople in 381, and Chalcedon in 451, to mention a few).

Yes, many in the early Christian era spent generations hammering out the doctrine of trinity, investigating the intricacies of the Spirit.

They have concluded and approved what we now believe as trinity, that God is three in one.

Quiz :

Who is

the

great

Grand mother

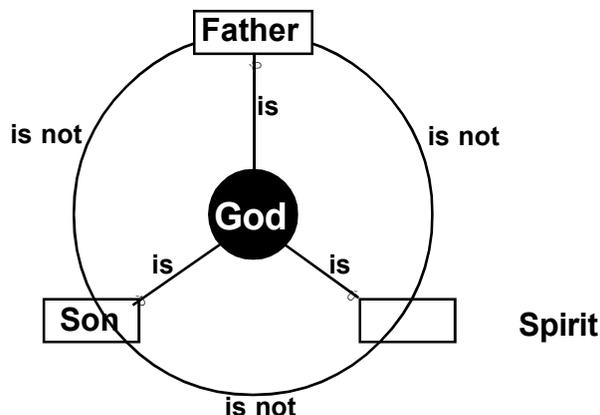
of

King David?

Ans :

Ruth

Good analogies



(Ps: please join the lines in the above illustration taken from the book true and reasonable)

This triangle illustration is a good one.

A better illustration based in human nature would be, the relation between our mind, its ideas, and the expression of these ideas in words.

There is obviously a unity among all three of these without there being an identity. In this sense they illustrate the Trinity.

Memory

Scripture for the week.

Revelation 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

3. Trinity and our walk with God

The doctrine of trinity has been firmly established.

1. Trinity brings us great assurance. The Father is God above us, the Son is God beside us, and the Spirit is God within us.
2. Trinity helps us to see that God is love. How could God have been (eternally) love if he had no one to love? The three in one God is a divine family, in which perfect love has always been exchanged.
3. Respect for Trinity deepens our humility, as we see that God's ways are not our ways.

Summary

If the whole lesson seems complicated, don't worry.

If theologians struggled for centuries to put the divine mystery into words and you cannot manage it in this short lesson, don't worry.

MIRACLES

Do we believe in miracles? Yes

Can God do miracles in our lives? Yes

Does it mean necessarily that if a miracle happened to us that we are saved by that or we will definitely go to heaven because of that? NO!

Do we have to be saved or be a Christian for God to do a miracle in our lives? NO!

How is a person saved according to the Bible? 5 steps for salvation

1. Hear the word of God – **Rom 10:17**

2. Believe Jesus is the only way, he is the only savior – **John 3:16-18, John 14:6**

3. Repent of your sins, after confessing them – **Luke 13:5**

4. Confess that Jesus is your Lord – acknowledge that he is the Lord of your life before witnesses **Rom 10:9**

5. Get baptized as a disciple for the forgiveness of your sins[at this point you are saved]– **Matt 28:19-20, Acts 2:38**

For example let us take a look at the steps of Paul's conversion: **Acts 22:1-16**

1. He was a persecutor / a sinner – Not saved, because sins not yet forgiven

2. He saw Jesus Christ – Not yet saved, because sins not yet forgiven

3. Believed in Jesus Christ – Not yet saved, because sins not yet forgiven

4. Miracle happened [he was able to see after his short-term blindness] –not yet saved, because sins not yet forgiven

5. Then he got baptized to wash away his sins [v 16] – at this point he was saved, as his sins were wiped away or forgiven.

What we see very clearly is that the miracle of seeing Jesus and getting healed did not bring salvation to Paul. Only after his repentance and Baptism his sins were forgiven and he was saved.

In the Old Testament miracles happened to and through people. But it did not prove their salvation.

For example in **1 Sam 19:23** we see Saul prophesying when the Spirit fell of him, yet we read in **1 Sam 16:14** that the Spirit had already left Saul.

What was the main purpose of miracles in the Bible? WE will learn that in today's lesson.

PURPOSE OF MIRACLES MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

We believe the main reason for miracles in the Bible was mainly to confirm the spoken word of God and not to confirm the written word.

For example: In the OT

1. **Moses - Exo 4:5** "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you."

Quiz:

Who are the two people from the Bible who never tasted death?

Ans:
Enoch & Elijah

Devotional Lessons

↻ The reason for the miracle was for people to believe that God sent Moses, so they would listen to him.

↻ **2. Elijah - 1 Ki 17:24** Then the woman said to Elijah, *“Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”*

↻ This is what the woman said after Elijah raised her son from the dead.

↻ The main backing people had was the miracles they could perform to confirm their spoken word.

↻ In the New Testament

↻ **1. Mark 16:20** Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

↻ **2. Acts 14:3** So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.

↻ **3. Heb 2:3** how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

↻ **Heb 2:4** God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

↻ **2 CO 12:12**

↻ So we see from the above scriptures that Miracles were mainly used to confirm the Spoken Word.

↻ Confirmation of the Word of God has already taken place. We don't need any further confirmation to believe in the written word of God. Even miraculous gifts were given to confirm the Spoken word.

↻ SO do we need miracles today to believe in the Word? {the written Word} –No

↻ **John 20:30-31** *Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

↻ **The reason the miracles are written in the Bible is that we may believe in Jesus. We have the written word to believe.**

↻ But people say we need miracles to have faith in Jesus! What does the Bible say about that?

↻ **Rom 10:17** Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

↻ It says that faith comes from hearing the [written] word of God-the Bible. To get faith we just need to read the Bible and we don't need any miracles.

↻ The parable of Richman and Lazarus What did Jesus say in the parable of the Richman & Lazarus, about miracles.

HEAVEN AND HELL

Quiz :

Which

Apostle of

Jesus

did not

die a

martyr's

death?

Ans :

John

↻ No one has taught so much about heaven and hell as much as Jesus ! Jesus, the son of God always knew of this because he came from one place to go to the other willfully just to warn us and save us from going to hell.

1. Judgement Day

↻ The day that God takes pains to warn us about! It is time of God's punishment and refining of the evil in the world.

↻ The expression "Day of Judgement" appears several times in the Bible as a day of dread (Hebrews 10:27).

↻ It is a day closely connected with the second coming of the Lord (2 Thess 1:7-10). It is the close of human history!

↻ God's wrath is fierce (Ezra 10:14), is kindled like a fire (Psalm 106:40), and waxes hot like molten wax (Exodus 32:10).

↻ That final divine verdict of judgement is yet to be carried out in a future day (I John 4:17) by Jesus himself (John 12:48, John 5,22).

↻ Judgement day determines the eternal destiny of the righteous (Heaven) and of the wicked (Hell) based on their obedience/disobedience of the law of God!

↻ In the great white throne judgement scene (Rev 20:11-15), the basis of judgement is first the book of life, the Bible (Rev 20:15) and then from the book of works, our deeds (Rev 20:12b-14).

↻ Our relationship with Jesus Christ is the determiner of eternal destiny (John 3:36).

↻ So even as all these sound scary they are the truth that must be spoken and should awaken the fear of GOD .

↻ Do you have a healthy fear of God? Do you ever think of the destinies of thousands around you, every day?

↻ **READ Luke 16:19-31.**

↻ It is a powerful parable that Jesus teaches to highlight his purpose!!

2. The place called Hell

↻ It is referred to as **Sheol** (Matthew 25:46) which means the invisible world of departed souls. (The unseen state)

↻ It is also called **Hades** (Psalm 139:8, Matthew 11:23) which means that which is out of sight. (The unseen world)

↻ It is again referred as **Gehenna** or **Hinnom** (Matthew 5:22, 29-30) signifying the place of torment. Recently when we visited Jerusalem we saw this place, a deep narrow glen to the south of Jerusalem, where the idolatrous Jews sacrificed their children to Molech. This valley afterwards became the receptacle for all the refuse of the city. Here the bodies of animals and criminals and all filth were cast and consumed by fire kept always burning. It thus in process of time became the image of the place of everlasting destruction. It is in this context that the Lord refers to it in Matthew 5.

↻ It is also called **Tartarus** (2 Peter 2:4) signifying the infernal region.

Devotional Lessons

Hell is often described as a place of eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46), of everlasting fire (Matt 25:41), of everlasting burnings (Isa 33:14), a furnace of fire (Matt 13:42), a lake of fire (Rev 20:15), fire and brimstone (Rev 14:10), of unquenchable fire (Matt 3:12) and of devouring fire (Isa 33:14).

As I look at the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus I am convinced of the following.

- Hell is a place of **complete darkness** with no ray of light. Darkness has always symbolised evil and men have always been afraid of darkness.
- Hell is a place of **terror**. It is Satan's horror chamber.
- Hell is a place of **fire**. If it is dark how can it have fire in it?
Today man can make fire without a blaze. If man can do it God definitely can!
A burn is the most wretched pain. Imagine suffering that pain through eternity.
Rev 20:12,14,15 says there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth in hell.
Try to imagine souls – millions screaming, crying and in pain.
- There is **no rest** in Hell. When I'm tired I want to rest.
There is nothing like getting up early in the morning and feeling rested and relaxed. In hell even when you are completely exhausted there will be no rest.
- There is no water in Hell. The rich man wanted a drop of water – not that a drop can satisfy thirst – but the need was so great that even a drop would have been satisfying.
- There is **no hope** in Hell. If I were in jail I would have a hope of getting out some day. If I did not, you may as well kill me now. If I had to go to hell for a hundred years maybe hope could help us survive.
But hell is eternal. (Isa 33:14, Rev 20:10)
- But the worst is that there will be **a memory** in hell. The rich man remembered.
He remembered his life on earth, the chances he had to change, how he could have averted hell.
Imagine remembering throughout eternity that things could have been different.
GOD'S CHOICE FOR US IS NOT HELL! It is up to you!

3. The place called Heaven

This is where God lives. This is the place God has prepared for his own.
This is God's special creation. This is a place unimaginably (no mind can conceive) beautiful more than anything man has created!

Heaven is referred as a garner (Matt 3:12) which means a treasury or a storing place.

It is also called the kingdom of Christ and of God (Eph 5:5)

It's called the Father's house (John 14:2)

Hebrews 11:16 describes heaven as a heavenly country!!

It is called a rest in Heb 4:9

It is referred to also as a paradise in 2 Cor 12:2,4.

Every good thing is found here! There is no place for the 'bad' (Gal 5:21)

This is the place the angels reside (Matt 18:10), the names of the saints are written (those who obeyed the Bible) [Heb 12:23] and saints are rewarded in (Matt 5:12).

I can go on and on about heaven – it is the most mentioned. But always remember

Devotional Lessons

it depends on each one of us whether we take hold of God's gift.
 That is what it is – a gift from God!
 Heaven is created by God (Gen 1:1), it is immeasurable (Jer 31:37), it is high (Psalm 103:11), it is holy (Is 57:15), it is the place of God's throne (Act 7:49).
 As God's dwelling place, heaven is not a divine heaven where God can isolate Himself from earth.
 It is a divine working place, where He listens to prayers of the world (every one of them), this is where he answers prayers, where He sends blessings to His people and punishment to his enemies.
 As God's creation the heavens praise Him and display His glory and His creativity (Ps 19:1), and righteousness (Ps 50:6).
 The mention of heaven is made the most in the book of Revelation than any other NT. Book!
 Heaven is promised to everyone who lives according to the teachings of the Bible. There is nothing but ourselves who will stop us from getting there! God is waiting.....
 Are you going ?
Challenge : Decide to memorize John 12:48 and remember the promise of Heaven everyday, through all your tough moments

Memory

Scripture for the week.

Genesis

2:24

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

DUTIES OF A PARENT

Living in this world there are different duties that we need to perform daily, the most important duty of all is that of being a parent.

Through our life and the way we live and what we do we are influencing and shaping the life of another human being and preparing them to go and face this world.

We can either help them to be fully equipped or ill equipped to face this world.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

It's our duty as parents to train our children and teach them all about God.

Wherever we are, whatever we do, God should be in everything we do, so that our children grow up knowing God through our life.

1. BE A GODLY EXAMPLE

Firstly in the area of love and respect.

Ephesians 5: 22-25

- Do your children see love/true love and respect for one another in your marriage? As husbands/fathers do our children see us being gentle, caring, sensitive and serving towards your wife/mother? Do they see you concerned about the needs of one another?

- Wives/mothers do they see you loving and respecting your husband and serving him.

- It is the duty of the parents to provide an atmosphere of love in the family. Love shown between parents bring security to children. In a family where there is insensitivity and constant arguments or fights, the children will grow up insecure and tend to be disobedient and rebellious.

- In our families we should verbally express our love to one another. Say "I love you" often. We should also physically demonstrate our love for one another by hugging and being affectionate.

- What is going to bond you with your kids is not the costly toys or clothes that you buy them, its not the best school that you send them to, its not the chocolates or the food that you provide them with. It's your love that you express to them and you taking the time out to show them and to tell them that you love them, that will bond the children to you. Never treat your children like they were a burden. That's the most unloving thing to do.

Secondly in the area of spirituality.

2 Timothy 3: 14-16.

- As parents we should not set a double standard. Whatever you expect your children to do, you should already be doing it. Our children should learn about God and

Quiz :

In which
book of
the Bible
the word
India is
mentioned?

Ans :
Esther

Devotional Lessons

- ↻ about righteousness from their parents not in child care or at church or from some other disciples. Don't just tell them what to do, teach them from the Bible.
- ↻ - It's our responsibility as a parent to raise our family to be spiritual.
Do your children see you reading your Bible and praying daily?
Do they see you practising what you claim to follow?
Do they see you sharing your faith? Do you expect your children not to lie or get angry, use bad language, fight, not miss meetings?
And do they see you doing the same?
- ↻ - Do your children see you making spiritual decisions in your life by taking advice from other leaders?
Do they see you obeying God's word and respecting it?
- ↻ - Our families will only be as spiritual as we are as the parents.
- ↻ Eg:- Natasha, Joshua and Tanya – Dinesh and Caroline's children who are 7,5 and 3 years old, have their Q.T daily on their own.
They read their Bible daily and one of the older ones reads it for Tanya.
Natasha writes down what she learns daily in a Q.T note book and then they pray and they help Tanya to pray as well.
They learned this from watching their parents.
- ↻ - As parents it's our duty to set the standard for spirituality in our families.

2. BE A PROVIDER

Luke 2: 51-52

- ↻ - If we want our families to grow up in wisdom, stature and favour with God and men, we need to be a provider for them.
- ↻ - It's our duty as parents to provide a healthy all round atmosphere for the children to grow up in.
In our first point we saw how an atmosphere of love and spirituality can make a child secure.
- ↻ - Besides that we also need to provide a stable atmosphere for our children to grow up in. Be organised and disciplined on a daily basis.
Make a schedule depending on your work and put in time for ministry and family. A daily pattern helps bring stability to the children's life. They will know what to expect and when.
- ↻ - We need to provide opportunities for the emotional needs of our family to be met. Have a very open relationship with one another, especially our children.
Make time to listen to them.
Ask them everyday about their time in school and their friends. If they experienced something painful don't ignore their feelings but find out how they feel and sympathize with them.

RAISING GODLY CHILDREN

Quiz :

Under whom

was Paul

thoroughly

trained in

the law?

Ans :
Gamaliel

↻

As God's kingdom is forcefully advancing so are the families in the kingdom.
A new generation is growing up. We want the next generation – our children to grow up in a godly way, so that one day, when the time comes they will become powerful men and women for God.

↻

That will not happen on its own. The work starts now even as this next generation are still toddlers or in their terrible two's or frisky fives or eight or nine or pre-teens. It's an ongoing process from the time of birth.

↻

↻

To raise godly children we got to have godly expectations.

↻

To pass those godly expectations down to them we got to teach them, train them and discipline them in a godly way.

↻

↻

1. TEACH

↻

Mathew 22: 37-40

Teach them about God and his love for them and how to love God wholeheartedly.

↻

- Teach your children to grow up with a positive picture of who their God is – Our God is a great God who created us, he loves us and wants to be our Father and take care of us as a shepherd would take care of his sheep.

↻

He knows us by name and watches over us all the time.

↻

Don't paint a negative picture of who our God is.

↻

Very distant, not easy to please, waiting to punish you for your naughty deeds.

↻

- Teach them to know their God – Prayer, Bible stories, devotional's should be part of our daily life style, so that the children can grow up learning how to have a relationship with God.

↻

All you need is ½ an hour or 45 mts daily for these activities.

↻

Unless we teach them to love God, kid's will not learn on their own.

↻

Daily devotionals can be a lot of fun, something the children look forward to.

↻

Have a song, pray together as a family, read a passage / story / incident out of the bible. Then either enact it or discuss it and talk about one thing that they learned out of it

↻

Give an example of a family in your church who has regular devotionals together as a family.

↻

2. TRAIN

↻

Proverbs 22: 6

When we train our children we are actually helping them build their character.

↻

We should not open the Bible to our children only to correct them or rebuke them.

↻

Open it out daily to train them to live their daily lives and know God's expectations.

↻

We got to train our kid's to be –

↻

a) **RESPECTFUL**

↻

Ephesians 6: 2-3

↻

In today's world its difficult to see any respect being shown.

↻

↻

Devotional Lessons

As disciples we should not let our kids grow up arrogant and disrespectful. ↵
Don't think its cute when children speak back to you. ↵
Don't tolerate temper tantrums or defiance or hitting out at you or smart talk. ↵
With older kids it can be slamming of the door, mutteringg under the breath and ↵
rolling the eyes – these are ways in which they show their temper. ↵
These are acts of disrespect. ↵
For our children to honour their parents is to honour God and his plan for their life. ↵
Expect our kid's to respect us as their parents. ↵
Don't tolerate anything other than that ↵

b) OBEDIENT ↵

Colossians 3:20 ↵

From a young age we got to train our children to obey us. ↵
Learning to obey is crucial for them as they grow up 'cos it will help them to learn to ↵
obey God's words and God's authority in their life. ↵
Those of us who grew up rebellious know how difficult it is for us to learn to obey. ↵
As grown ups we fail miserably at it. ↵
SHARE. ↵
Train your child to be obedient while he is young and it will teach him to be a good ↵
disciple one day. ↵

c) HONESTY ↵

2 Thessalonians 2: 10 ↵

Those who refused to love the truth perished. ↵
Truth or honesty is one of the essential building blocks of character. ↵
As parents we must teach our children to accept, and to love telling the truth. ↵
We got to teach them that satan is a liar. ↵

John 8:44 ↵

Have a deep conviction about this and do not tolerate any kind of lying. ↵
If they learn to always tell the truth, no matter how difficult it is we will be able to help ↵
them build a life based on righteousness. ↵
Encourage openness and you be open to them yourself. ↵

d) GODLY CONFIDENCE ↵

Psalms 71:5 ↵

We got to instill godly confidence and not worldly confidence in our children. ↵
The false foundations for confidence are physical appearance, intelligence, material ↵
possessions, talents. ↵
The right foundations are relationship with God, good character. Always encourage ↵
effort made by them more than talent or achievement. ↵

3. DISCIPLINE ↵

Proverbs 23: 13-14 ↵

In raising Godly children discipline plays a very important role. ↵
First you train and then you discipline. Discipline can be in different forms : ↵

Devotional Lessons

a) VERBAL

- ↻ When your child does something that is unacceptable you rebuke or reprimand the child verbally. While rebuking never say you are a bad or naughty boy/girl.
- ↻ This is judgemental and destructive to the child. It makes him grow up with a negative picture of himself.
- ↻ You got to explain that his act was a naughty one, not he was naughty. If they grow up thinking they are bad it destroys their self-esteem.
- ↻ Always verbally correct or rebuke your child before you get into non verbal discipline, that is a spank.

b) NON – VERBAL

- ↻ Non-verbal discipline is spanking.
- ↻ Always prepare a child to expect a spank before it comes. The first time he does something wrong correct him and explain to him, that if he repeats the same behaviour he will get a spank, so the child is not surprised he knows that why he is getting a spank.
- ↻ Or before the spank count one to three and explain to them by the time you count up to three if he/she does not change his behaviour he will get a spank.
- ↻ When you spank a child there are few important rules to follow:
 - ↻ Never spank a child in anger.
 - ↻ Always explain to the child before you spank him why he is getting a spank.
 - ↻ After a spank always cuddle and kiss the child and tell him you forgive him and expect them to go away happy not moaning.
 - ↻ When spanking try not to use your hands, try and use preferably a wooden ladle.
 - ↻ Always take the child into a private place away from other when you spank him, never do it in public, its humiliating for them.
 - ↻ Parents should never disagree when child is being punished.
 - ↻ Both should have same standard.
- ↻ When disciplining older children spanking is not advisable.
- ↻ Discipline them by holding back rewards – Eg. no T.V for a week or 2 days, Withhold things from them that they love having or doing.
- ↻ Please take advise from other leaders with children if your want more specific information about disciplining your child.
- ↻ In today's world it is so important to raise up our children in a godly way.
- ↻ The world will only lead our children astray and we need to be deeply involved in our children's lives daily.
- ↻ If we teach them about God and how to love them and train them in developing their character and discipline them where discipline is needed we will be able to raise up godly children in an ungodly world.

Memory Scripture
for the week.

Exodus 3:14

God said to
Moses, "I
AM WHO I
AM. This is
what you are
to say to the
Israelites: 'I
AM has sent
me to you.' "

CONVERTING FAMILY MEMBERS

1. Make no excuse for your spirituality

When we become christians, our relationship with family and relatives gets upset. That is natural to happen, as Jesus said in **Mt.10:34-39**.

We must be clear about our priorities.

Lk.9:57-62 Our security is in God, not in money or worldly values.

When they question your priorities and say you are wasting your time with church and bible, communicate clearly that your priority and security is God and you live by faith and not sight.

When they question your faith and ask 'what will you wear?, what will you eat or drink?', communicate faith not worry.

Our duty to God must be above that of our duties to our family.

When they make demands on frequent visits to native place, we should not give-in.

We must communicate that God is first in our lives.

Do not entertain sentimentality. Be hardlined when it comes to your commitment about marrying in the church.

In case of marrieds, you must protect and support your wife than your parents.

Your rock solid unwavering faith will convict them, and make them question their own religiosity and their love and commitment to God.

That is a good beginning.

Mk.3:20-21 Do not allow them to take charge of your life.

Mk. 3:31-35 Be willing to hurt when they are in the wrong.

Do not fear emotional outbursts, they will calm down once they realize they are wrong. In the end Mary did become disciple!

In conclusion, do not compromise on your spirituality.

They will be convicted by your love and commitment to God.

2. Understand their challenges and be sympathetic

Mt.13:53-58 Very often, our families do trust us, but because of the pressures they face from neighbours and relatives they get influenced and nag us.

You must understand their side of the challenges and be sympathetic and take time to talk them out of these pressures.

Help them see that all these neighbours and relatives are not available when in need. Question them; where were they when we were in need?

What did they do for our life?

Mk.1:29-31 Invite other disciples to home, especially when any of the family member is sick. Let them see the love of christians.

Help them develop relationship with other Christians. Invite them to picnics , sports and parties.

Jn.19:25-27 help them find security in God's family. Help them see that your christian friends will be there for them in your absence.

For this relationship to develop, you have to take much initiative in using every opportunity to invite christians home.

Quiz :

Which

Scripture

says the

Disciples

were called

Christians?

Ans :

Acts 11:26

Devotional Lessons

3. Tell them about God

Mk.5:18-19 Jesus expects us to tell our family about God.

Without being harsh and too forceful, you must bring up talk about God, and question their beliefs. You must use every opportunity to introduce to them the truth.

You may face conflicts. But don't avoid conflicts.

Ac.10:1-2 You can initiate family devotionals, and slowly but consistently introduce truth to them in the devotionals.

Be the devout God – fearing leader of the family.

4. Be a good example

For many of us, christianity is an excuse for not being helpful at home.

If your example at home is bad , you ruin the chances of your family becoming christians.

1Pet.3:1-2 You must win the unbelievers in your family by your good behaviour and your purity and reverence.

1Tim.5:3-4,8 Care for the needs of your family.

Conclusion: We will feel very bad if our family members expire without us giving our best in converting them. Let's be good examples at home.

Let us be living examples of those who love God and live by faith in Him.

Let's be sympathetic to the challenges our families face.

Let's help them see the love of our christian family.

Let's talk to them about God and help them see the truth.

Let's do our very best, because our families mean so much to us.

Memory Scripture
for the week.

Joshua 1:6

"Be strong
and
courageous,
because you
will lead
these people
to inherit the
land I swore
to their
forefathers to
give them.

CREATING LASTING MEMORIES

Some of our cherished memories are of our childhood, things that we did with our family and friends. These memories always bond us together as a family. Pleasant memories just don't happen, we have to create them. This is one of the important aspects of a happy, godly and united family. [Get a few people to share some pleasant memories with their family]. In tonight's lesson we are going to talk about some practical ways of creating memories in our christian life.

1. Plan in advance

Mk.14:12-17 Here we see that Jesus did lot of preparation and planning before he instructed his disciples about the plan for the last supper. He wanted to make it a memorable event in all their lives, so memorable that it's memory has become everlasting. Before we undertake to create special memories, the following have to be kept in mind. Time and place, budget involved, delegation of responsibility, how and what to do.

2. Creating godly memories

Mt.17:1-8 Jesus took his best friends to a mountaintop experience in prayer. This memory must have strengthened his disciples faith later on, and they recollected it and spoke about it (2Pet.1:18). We must create godly memories in our children through family devotionals, so that when they grow up and are away from you, these memories will keep them close to God. Have fun followed by prayer at rooftop, park, beach, mountain, boating etc.. Be creative in bible studies. Enact the story. Give roles to children, and for yourselves. Study out books together as a family. Quiz each other.

3. Creating lasting memories

Mk.14:3-9 She poured perfume on Jesus feet, and he said what she has done will be an everlasting memory (vs.9).
Jn.2:1-8 Jesus went to a wedding with his disciples and he performed his first miracle.
Lk.1:39-45 Mary and Elizabeth spent three months together (v56). They must have shared their secrets, their fears, their future... a lot of talking and sharing done together. These are some biblical examples of everlasting memories created. Here are some practicals. Buy surprise gifts, flowers, write notes, cards (put them in pockets, purse, dressing table, shoes, etc..) Get different families to come prepared with different kind of state foods and have pot luck meals. Cook meals together.

Quiz:

Who defeated
the
Midianites
with just
300 men?

Ans:
Gideon

Devotional Lessons

- ↻ Treasure hunt.
- ↻ Moon light dinner with music.
- ↻ Go for walks and have ice-creams.
- ↻ Go for picnics. Have bar-be-cues and camp fires and talk about childhood stories.
- ↻ Get some singles to take care of children and the couples go for dates.
- ↻ Paint together (easter eggs, christmas cards, shells)
- ↻ Decorate together. Put on the music and dance.
- ↻ Celebrate little little victories.
- ↻ Play water games, pillow fights in family times.

↻ **Conclusion:**

- ↻ We may go through the motions of life, but when we look back over the years of past life, do we have pleasant memories?
- ↻ We have to create memories so as to make life more meaningful.
- ↻ For that we need to plan in advance and make them special and creative.

Memory

Scripture for the week.

Joshua 1:7

Be strong
and very
courageous.
Be careful to
obey all the
law my
servant
Moses gave
you; do not
turn from it
to the right
or to the left,
that you may
be successful
wherever
you go.

HONOUR YOUR PARENTS

1. HONOUR YOUR PARENTS

Exo 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Lev 19:32 " Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.

Deut 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Prov 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

PR 6:20 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Though our parents may not be disciples they may know good values f life, which we need to adapt.

PR 23:24-25 The father of a righteous man has great joy: he who has a wise son delights in him.
25 May your father and mother be glad: may she who gave you birth rejoice!

Prov 29:3 Wisdom and learning

EPH 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother"— which is the first commandment with a promise-- ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Though Jesus called every disciple to hate his parents and family when it came to being committed to being a disciple, the Bible is very clear about the respect we need to show to our parents.

2. DISHONORING PARENTS

LEV 20:9 CURSED

The son is cursed for dishonouring his parents.
Disrespect or not obeying their authority will be make Lord unhappy.

DT 21: 18-20 GO THE ELDERS FOR HELP FOR YOUR STUBBORN SON

Rebellious children need to be brought in public with the elders for advice.
Take advice from church elders or leaders about them.
Let them talk to the leaders so they can get some input.
Many sons and daughters are very good in the church fellowship, but rebellious and independent with their families, because they are not disciples.

Devotional Lessons

3. CORRECTION TO CHILDREN

BY DISCIPLINE

PR 19:18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

PR 23:13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.

PR 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Discipline is God's advice for punishment.

Children should be an example to will their parents and relative by the behaviour of their lives.

Discipline is must for the children to learn to respect and honour their parents.

4. PUNISHMENT FROM GOD

EX 21:15 "Anyone who attacks his father or his mother must be put to death.

EX 21:17 "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.

LEV 20:9 "If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, and his blood will be on his own head.

DEUT 21:21 Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

The bible teaches of radical punishment for rebellious disrespecting children.
Showing anger, beating them or using force on them is terrible in God's eyes.

PR 20:20 If a man curses his father or mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.

Prov 15:20 Foolish man despises his mother
Dispises = ignores

PROV 30:11 Cursing his mother / or Arguing with them

PR 30:17 "The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.

2 Tim 3:2 Disobedience

Mark 7:11 Not providing for family
Not giving salary
(Excuse-"I gave contribution")

We need to provide for our family, love and protect them, that's our purpose in life.

The love and affection they have showed when we were young and helpless is what they need now that they have become old and helpless.

CONVERTING THE SHARP

It's great to see all of you this evening. Today we are going to learn how we can convert influential people and opinion leaders, or as some would say it - Sharp people.

We need to first of all understand why we need to convert sharp people.

Many times we are confused when leaders keep saying we need to get some sharp people in our churches or family groups.

If we want to make world wide impact that Jesus is the only way, we need people of the same calibre who can do that.

Think about it, there is a coolie and there is a Doctor.

Who do you think can make a greater impact and influence people?

Of course it is the Doctor.

Let's read Acts 4:13 - isn't it amazing that unschooled ordinary men were turning the whole world upside down.

It is true that a Doctor can influence and impact more than a coolie but to convert a Doctor you don't necessarily have to be a Doctor.

That should inspire you that all of us can make a difference in people's life, whether it be a Doctor, an engineer, a college student or a business man.

To impact a sharp person we need to first of all understand that :

1. God should be your core Isa 32:17

God has a high standard when it comes to righteousness.

The Bible says that the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. In other words when we are righteous, we will be cool and totally confident no matter what comes our way.

Think about it for a moment what are some areas we feel intimidated by a sharp person. (Take some response from the family group)

We look at their clothes, personality, family background and yet if God is not with them their confidence will not be for ever.

How are we doing in the area of being righteous with God our Saviour?

How has our prayer and Bible study been going on?

Do you get up early and seek to be with God?

Do you eagerly read the Bible and learn about God's word?

People spend a lot of time reading the newspaper, watching television, reading magazines and catching up with politics- yet all these things are subjected to change.

Nothing helps people to get along with one another; the gap between parents and children needs to be bridged; to raise up a kid stern discipline is needed.

Usually all non Christians lack in these areas but all non Christians want to be excellent in these areas.

2 Cor 3:4 -5 - The scriptures talk about our competence coming from God.

As a disciple, we have the sharpest friend in the entire universe.

This friend of ours created the entire universe, designed the stars, the sun, the moon, the galaxy..... Of course this friend is God.

He made man. He knows what's in a man.

That's all the more reason to take every sharp person to God in your quiet times.

Quiz :

Who helps

Esther

in becoming

a queen?

Ans :

Mordecai

Devotional Lessons

- ↻ God will change his or her heart ultimately.
- ↻ So in our efforts to trying to convert a sharp person, why mess-up our relationship with the sharpest friend in the universe?
- ↻ Let's keep our quiet times burning hot.

↻ **2. Don't be a bore 1 Cor 9:19-22**

- ↻ Paul talks over here that even though he's free he makes himself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.
- ↻ To a Jew he becomes a Jew, to those not having the law he becomes like one not having the law, to those under the law he becomes like one under the law.
- ↻ His whole purpose is to save souls.
- ↻ Paul was willing to be flexible and sensible to peoples needs.
- ↻ He is not talking about compromising the standard of God but rather being sensitive and relate to people.
- ↻ Many times we has disciples know only "Guard the Gospel" and the books of the Bible. We can only talk religious things and thats about it.
- ↻ We need to know the news, read papers, other books, we should be playing games like basketball, football, etc.
- ↻ We need to wear clean clothes, not necessarily costly clothes.
- ↻ If you feel you can't relate to them, then introduce them to people who can relate to them. Offer hospitality, none of us need a degree to do this one.
- ↻ Sisters should have clean nails, not half painted nails, well combed hair, wear ironed clothes, etc.
- ↻ Respect their time, don't drag the talk and hold them up unnecessarily.
- ↻ Go out for decent movies with them, visit their family, find out
- ↻ Respect their time, don't drag the talk and hold them up unnecessarily.
- ↻ Go out for decent movies with them, visit their family, find out what they like to do.
- ↻ If they are talented give them an opportunity to expose their talent like singing or playing the guitar.
- ↻ These will help them get bonded to you and they will be willing to listen to you when you teach them about God.

↻ **3. Open up your store Acts 24:25**

- ↻ Here Paul is talking Felix. The Bible says that Paul talked about righteousness, self control and the judgement to come.
- ↻ Many times we get confused as to what will make an impact on sharp people, how can I convict him, what is it that he/she doesn't have that we as disciples have.
- ↻ Felix was a Governor of Judea and yet Paul didn't hold back in preaching to him about Christ.
- ↻ We as disciples should talk about how our past lives has been, how we were involved in sin - sexual immorality, lying, anger, smoking and drinking, etc.
- ↻ Talk about the things you are struggling with now - maybe laziness, not keeping time, getting upset, not being sensitive, etc.
- ↻ This will help them to see that you are man/woman of integrity.
- ↻ This will help them to understand that you are not perfect but you are striving to be to become excellent in all areas.

Devotional Lessons

Be honest about your life, how you have really studied, how much you know, what are the things you are interested in, your likes and dislikes.

Covering up, pretending or on the spot trying to get interested will not keep you going in the long run. If you don't know something ask him/her.

It's okay to ask and learn from non-christians, in areas not related to the Bible.

For eg. If he / she is a good singer ask him/her how we can improve our singing.

If he/she is a good cook - take a few tips.

If he/she is a doctor or studying MBBS take advice on health and hygiene.

Remember they need God in their life.

Above everything in their life, they need to be saved. Love them and believe in them, that the sharp also can become disciples.

Memory Scripture
for the week.

1 Samuel 16:7
But the
LORD said to
Samuel, "Do
not consider
his appearance
or his height,
for I have
rejected him.
The LORD
does not look
at the things
man looks at.
Man looks at
the outward
appearance,
but the
LORD looks
at the heart."

BOLD EVANGELISM

Quiz :

Who was

the

Governor

who expected

bribe from

Paul?

↻

Confident, enterprising and courageous. That's how the Oxford dictionary describes "bold". That's how the prophets and the apostles were.

But, the question is, does that define you?

Can you call yourself a "bold" fisherman or fisherwoman?

Maybe yes and maybe not. But the great thing is that we can all become one.

↻

1. Become Bold on bent knees Acts 4:29

Why do you think the disciples in the first century prayed for boldness?

They also must have felt intimidated. But it didn't stop them.

Rather they cried out to God for boldness. Their prayer was specific.

What about us? Do we pray, cry, plead with God to make us bold?

Or do we resort to human techniques or human resources only?

Most of us struggle with lack of boldness to a greater or lesser degree.

But do we admit it? To ourselves and to others?

Without seeing the need, how can you pray for it?

↻

As a young Christian and even as a student intern, I Toli had failed to be bold so many times. I remember feeling bad about my lack of boldness in evangelism but I wouldn't tell my disciples in the beginning.

I remember a time when I stood next to a girl at the bus stop. I was too timid to invite her. I wished and hoped that the bus would come – either hers or mine and I would have an excuse for not inviting her.

Shameful! Disgusting! And yet, many times that's the way we are.

We're frozen, can't move, the tongue is stuck, and the mouth is zipped!

In moments like this do you realise that you actually forget God's presence?

The mission, the purpose disappears.

All you can see is a person you just can't reach out to because of the fear inside.

Fear of rejection, fear of being insulted, of looking funny at the bus stop or shopping center or campus.

Just a moment of hesitation and we end up compromising on our standard. Philip, when he saw the Ethiopian Eunuch heard the spirit urging him and he RAN, not away, but towards the chariot.

↻

Since I learned to be open and began to pray about my timidity, I have changed so much that I could go out and invite over 100 people all by myself.

The Psalmist (Psalm 138:3) knew that he just needed to call out to God and he could be "bold and stout hearted."

Do you know and do that? If you want to be bold, first get on your knees and pray to the God who will tell you "Be strong and courageous for I am with you."

↻

Ans :

Felix

↻

2. Be Enterprising not Compromising Acts 8:30-31

How is your evangelism going? Everyday we step out of our houses and we see and meet people. The streets, the buses, the shops, the campus are never empty –

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Devotional Lessons

especially in the day, right? But what are you doing about it?
Do you let people go without inviting them?
Do you make excuses for them in your mind?
We need to be creative in our efforts to evangelise.
The more enterprising we are the more likely God will bless our efforts and we can be fruitful.
Are you discovering new and interesting ways to invite people or are you stuck with the usual?
Every morning a fisherman automatically picks up his nets and heads for the sea. The bold ones go further away into deeper waters for a bigger catch.
When was the last time you did some inspiring and enterprising evangelism?
How long has it been since you had a sharp visitor?

3. Be Animated not Intimidated Acts 6:15

Stephen was definitely not feeling intimidated – or looking it.
Rather, the Bible says his face looked like the face of an angel.
Many times as disciples, we make an attempt at evangelism but we lack confidence, our words are forced, our bodies are stiff.
We act as if we are on a secret mission.
That person will not feel inspired to follow you into the Kingdom!
All you need to have on your heart is “This person is lost and I’m his/her only chance to be saved.”
What helps is knowing that Jesus is looking down on us, urging us to do the right thing.

When Mamta and Binu invited me, I was struck by their genuine warmth and friendliness.
It was a pleasant surprise to meet them in a city like Delhi, which is full of coldness and harshness.
I don’t think they practiced in front of a mirror!
After coming to know them I knew that it was their love for God and for the lost and their sense of purpose that made them go.
What about us? Do we appear different to people?
Are we warm, kind, smiling, confident, inspiring?
Lets go out and be bold when you evangelise.

Memory Scripture
for the week.

Psalms 1:1

Blessed is the
man who
does not
walk in the
counsel of
the wicked
or stand in
the way of
sinners or sit
in the seat of
mockers.

LIFE ON A MISSION TEAM

1. Zeal for your Mission Matthew 28:18-20

When Jesus came with this great commission, he came with the ultimate authority. He wanted all his disciples to be consumed with the purpose of making disciples. He wants us to make disciples of all nations, race, caste and religious background. Jesus was always zealous for his mission on earth. He instilled that in his disciples to do likewise. Whatever Jesus did, it was with God. Read **Matthew 9:9**. Jesus calls Matthew; a tax collector and he got up and followed Jesus. Jesus inspired people to follow him. We need to have a real zeal and a focused intensity on seeking and saving the lost.

I (Moses Singh -Delhi) remember the time when I was asked if I would sacrifice my career in USA and come back to India to work full time for God. Despite the initial hesitation, Jesus' zeal inspired me to have a great dream for my own country. It's that zeal that drives me daily to stay focused on my mission.

Jesus was always prayerful towards God and now he has promised us that he will be with us always to the very end of the age. Today, what is holding you back from being zealous for Jesus' mission? Are you dreaming about taking God's Word to different parts of South Asia?

2. Passion in Action 2 Thessalonians 3:8

Here Paul talks about laboring and toiling hard for others. If we feel strongly about Jesus' cause to save the lost, we need to be ready for action. We need to plan our days, weeks, months and fill them with meaningful actions. Are you a disciplined person? Remember that a disciple is a disciplined follower of Jesus. With Jesus there was never a dull moment. He was always putting his mind, soul, heart and strength to give everything to people. Are you like Paul who was so much consumed with the passion of winning souls that his life was always on the run? From converting people to raising up leaders, to strengthening the churches that are facing persecution, he did it all! To him was "to live is Christ and to die is gain." The life in a mission team is a practical way of putting your passions, dreams and desires into action.

I remember the time I had just landed in GC2 on March 11, 1992. It was like Jesus was starting his ministry. My first day on the mission field was so full of action. The action did not stop and the baptisms started happening. When we prepare and start doing things God always blesses us.

Quiz :

Who was
the runaway
slave of
Philemon,
later Paul
converted
him as a
Disciple?

Ans :

Onesimus

ZEAL & JOY IN THE CHURCH

The Church God designed should be filled with zeal and joy unlike the traditional church, which are filled with silence and deadness. We are going to learn two important keys today to make us zealous and joyful

1. Have a Heart that is dealt with on a Daily Basis

The main killer of our zeal is the burden that we carry in our heart.

(Mat 11:28-30)

Here we see Jesus calling us to cast our burdens on to him.

Once we learn to do that on a daily basis as we did when we got baptized, we will no more be burdened.

What brings burdens upon us is our unconfessed sin and unrighteousness.

(Psalms 32:1- 11)

Here we understand that how more than our sin it is our unopenness and deceit that hurts God more and makes God more upset.

When we are not open and keep silent we would be heavily guilted out and God's hand would be heavily upon us.

Because of that our hearts are always in fear, distraction and confusion.

The good news is that if we acknowledge our sins to God and be humble and real with our discipler and other brothers / sisters and open up what is going on in your heart and life daily we would be forgiven and we would become righteous in the eyes of God. We all need help to deal with our heart.

Then we will be invariably rejoicing and fired up.

When we come together for the meetings we need to understand that

- * this is not our quiet time with God
- * This is not our confession time,
- * This is not our time to express our feelings & attitudes,
- * This is not our time to share our burden and worries.

This is the time to lift up God's greatness & power and also to give to one another. So don't wait for the church meeting to deal with your heart.

Do it on a daily basis. But sadly many times we neglect our personal time with God (quiet time). We neglect our daily openness time (confession).

We neglect our weekly discipling time.

And we expect ourselves to be zealous which is not possible.

That will only destroy our zeal. This is the secret of zeal- Deal with your *Dil* Daily.

And you will be the most zealous person in the Whole world.

There is no other substitute for this.

Share about _____ who deals with his heart on a daily basis.

2. Have a Mind that understands Jesus' Godliness. (John 2:13-17)

Many of our understanding about Godliness is based on our past knowledge and

Quiz :

What was
the other
name given
to Daniel?

Ans :

Belteshazzar

GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

This evening we are going to learn about God's amazing grace that saved us and also continuing to work in us.

God's grace is the one which helps us to be what we are today.

1. God's grace saved us:

In v.4 & 5 Paul emphasizes that we do not need to live any longer under sin's fear. The penalty of sin & its power over us were miraculously destroyed by Christ on the cross. In v.6 Because of God's resurrection, we know that our bodies will also be raised from the dead (I Cor 15: 2-23) and that we have been given the power to live as Christians now. Grace by itself is a gift of God. When some one gives you a gift do you say 'That's very nice ? Now how much do I owe you? No the appropriate response to a gift is "Thank you". Yet often we even after been given the gift of salvation, we try to work our way to God. Because our salvation and even our faith are gifts, we should respond with gratitude, praise and joy.

We became Christians through God's unmerited grace not as the result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice, or act of service on our part. However, out of gratitude for this free gift, we will seek to help & serve others with kindness, love and gentleness and not merely to please ourselves. God's intention is that our salvation will result in acts of service.

We are not saved merely for our own benefit but to serve Christ and build up the church (Eph 4:12).

So, let's decide not only to be happy with the grace that has been gifted to us by God but give the same to others.

2. God's grace works in us:

I Cor 15:10 We as Christians work hard, evangelize, do follow ups, attend meetings, do d-times etc.

When we do all these activities whom do we credit the results with; is it God or ourself?

Here, though Paul undoubtedly the most influential of the apostles, was deeply humble. He knew that he worked hard & accomplished much , but only because God had power, kindness and grace upon him.

True humility is not convincing yourself that you are worthless, but recognizing God's work in you.

It's having God's perspective on who you are and acknowledging his grace in developing your abilities.

2 Cor 6:1

What makes you to receive God's message in vain?

Is it your laziness, deceit, unopenness, pride etc?

Most of the time though we hear the message of God, we do not let it affect what we do & say just because of our sins.

Quiz:

Who

was

known

as

the

Rock?

Ans:

Peter

Devotional Lessons

- That means we are receiving God's message in vain. Most of the time as disciples we believe in working hard and we do work hard which is very important. But the most important thing that we forget is that God is enabling us to work hard. So, when the result is there we forget to give praise to God. We feel like I work hard because I love God; so He blessed me. We forget to realize that whatever we are today is because of God's grace, which we do not deserve to have.
- Personal Example: When I (Malar Prabath) joined HOPE I thought I won't be able to really do much in the ministry because of lack of time. In 1998 though I was pregnant I evangelized and studied the Bible with people so much wanting to become fruitful personally. But, I didn't become fruitful in 1998. 1998 is the only year in which I didn't become fruitful. I was not very happy about it. In 1999, as I continued to devote my time and work in HOPE I evangelized and studied the Bible with people. As I was evangelizing in the month of May to meet the goal of giving invitations to 280 people-I got to invite two sisters who were really in need of God. One of the leaders in Transyamuna helped me in following up on these two sisters and we studied the Bible with them and they became Christians. To God be the glory! I know this didn't happen because of the hardwork I put in but just because of God's grace and his willingness to bless me. I am so grateful to God that though I am a sinner I always have God's grace and I am what I am because of God's grace. Brothers and Sisters, let's understand that we are chosen by God's grace though we don't deserve it and God's grace is still working in us powerfully to reach out to many people. So lets decide to respond to God's grace.

**Memory
Scripture for the
week.**

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I
formed you in
the womb I
knew you,
before you
were born I
set you apart;
I appointed
you as a
prophet to the
nations."

BEAUTY BEFORE GOD

All through the world, the most important day that a woman gives every effort to be beautiful is her wedding day. All kinds of preparations will be made.

Beauticians are in demand on this day.

Attention is given to every part of her body to make sure it looks the best.

The day arrives. The bride, radiant and beautiful, walks down the aisle to be received by her beaming bridegroom.

The scriptures teach that God himself is eagerly waiting to meet his beautiful bride, the church that he has bought with his own blood.

Revelation 21:2

I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 19:7

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready.

Isaiah 62:5

As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

We are his bride! Just like a bride gets ready for her wedding day, we'd better make every effort to look beautiful for our maker on the Day.

1. What does God consider beautiful?

1 Samuel 16:7 tells us that what man considers beautiful is not necessarily what God considers beautiful.

Man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart.

God looks at our inward beauty. Lets focus on 3 areas we can change before we can meet him on that day.

Inward Beauty of Obedience

Exodus 19:5 When we obey him fully, we will be his treasured possession.

James 1:25 How is your Bible Study?

Just as the bride uses the mirror to correct and perfect herself, we've got to intently look into God's mirror, the Bible and change ourselves.

Practically: Memorize scriptures, keep it on your heart. Meditate on it and obey it.

{Share about somebody in your ministry who is devoted to the Word.}

Inward Beauty of Quiet and Gentle Spirit **1 Peter 3:3-5**

On her wedding day, a bride adorns herself with expensive jewelry.

The jewelry God expects us to have on that day is a quiet and gentle spirit.

What do we put our hope in? How do we respond in difficult times or when we go through trials and challenges? God finds great worth in someone who trusts him and

Quiz:

Who are
the three
friends
of
Daniel?

Ans:

Shadrach
Meshach
Abednego

Devotional Lessons

is completely surrendered to him. Is there any area in your life that you haven't completely surrendered to God?
 Do you try to take things into your own hands? Is there something you are discontented with or you constantly worry about?
 Do you have any evil desires that are contrary to God's desire?
 Example: Abraham did not worry about his future, his position or his comfort. He just believed God and thus he was considered righteous.

Inward Beauty of Christ-likeness **2 Corinthians 3:18**
 We are the body of Christ. We've got to become more and more like Jesus.
 In what area have you changed and become more like Christ since your baptism? God is at work in you, shaping you and refining you through discipling to become more like Christ. What is your attitude towards being disciplined? Are you humble?

Memory

Scripture for the week.

John 4:24

God is spirit,
and his
worshippers
must worship
in spirit and in
truth."

GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today we are going to learn about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's primary work is to help us to pray and the primary objective is to do the will of God.

What we are going to see today is how our actions, rather our unwillingness to obey God's word grieves the Holy Spirit.

Let's turn our Bible to **Hebrews 12:14** - it talks about living in peace with each other and to be holy. In fact the Bible says that without holiness no one will see God.

Being holy is not an option. In **Leviticus 19:2** - God says be holy, as I am holy -It's a command of God.

When we sin we violate God's command.

The Bible says that sin separates us from God.

The Bible also teaches that we may inherit curses from God.

There are also consequences for our sins. These are some of the ways we get affected.

On God's part, God gets grieved when the thoughts of our heart are only evil.

The meaning of grief is deep or intense sorrow or mourning, I am sure none of us want to grieve God's heart.

Lets look at few places in the Bible and see how we end up grieving God and his spirit.

1. Grieving God:

Genesis 6:5-6

This scripture says that man's wickedness had increased and that every inclination of the thought of his heart was only evil.

The Bible says God was grieved that he had made man.

God had made man in his own image. Man and woman are somebody special to God.

God had made living creatures, trees, fish, birds, etc.

All according to their kind, but as for man God created him in his image.

No wonder God is grieved when our hearts are bent on doing evil.

1 Samuel 15:11 - Here it says that God was grieved that he made Saul as king.

The reason God was grieved is because Saul did not carry out God's instructions.

Disobedience hurts God. Jesus was so intense to obey God at every point.

Even to the point of going to the cross and being separated from God.

Jesus had decided not to grieve God.

2 Samuel 24:16 - Here because of David's sin, seventy thousand people died.

God had to tell the angel stop killing the people.

The scripture says that God was grieved because of the calamity.

I want us to search our hearts today - have you been grieving God by wicked thoughts?

Have you been obeying God and following his instructions?

Have you been grieving God by not helping the poor?

We have brought enough grief to God, before becoming a Christian.

Today lets decide to remain pure in our thoughts and have a willing heart to obey and have a heart that is moved when we see calamity and the poor.

2. Grieving the Spirit:

Quiz:

In which
Scripture
is
it written
"Man does
not
live on
bread alone,
but on
every word
that comes
from the
mouth of
God"?

Ans:

Matthew 4:4

HAVING FAITH IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Hebrews 11:1-2

Indeed the ancients, faced with daunting problems and impossible situations are worthy of imitation in the way they handled their troublesome times.

The images of:

Noah building his ark while people around him made fun.

Abraham setting out with his old wife.

Abraham tying up his son for sacrifice.

Joseph working sincerely in prison for 13 long years.

Moses and the Israelites stuck between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea.

Daniel and his friends in that Lions Den or blazing furnace.

Jesus carrying the cross to Golgotha.

These images seemed foolish to people around them in those days.

But today, millions of men and women have been inspired by these images of these people who lived a life of trust and faith in God.

Tonight we'll see 3 things needed to have faith in difficult times.

1. Go to God

Daniel 6:1-11

Daniel is an incredible hero in the OT inspiring people by his wisdom and amazing dependence on God.

This is a very difficult time in his life when there was nobody to stand up for him.

All were against him. Death was staring him in the face, if he dared to pray to God.

Its amazing that he went to God boldly, asking him for help, opening the windows.

What do we do when we are down and out?

Do we shut ourselves in, stop praying, start complaining, become negative and even blaming God?

Daniel 6:16

Daniel had asked God for help and he found himself in the lion's den.

What must have kept him going?

When situations worsen, even after fasting and praying, do you give up?

What about the prospect of lions eating you alive?

The Bible says in **Daniel 6:23** "no wound was found in him because he had trusted in God." Daniel continued to go to God and that's what we need to do.

Decide to intensify your prayer life.

2. Obey God

Hebrews 11:8

Difficult time it was. Age had taken a toll on him. No heirs to his property.

Abraham and Sarah could have settled down, crying and mourning about their sad situation. But they obeyed God.

I have seen trying and difficult times make me self focused and proud.

I start disobeying God and his commands because it becomes more difficult now.

Quiz:

Who was

the

adulterous

wife of

prophet

Hosea?

Ans:

Gomer

Devotional Lessons

I start worrying about my role, position and the future.
I get fearful of being open and getting challenged.
Abraham obeyed and received what was promised.

↻

Matthew 26:36-46

We see an amazing struggle in a man's heart.
Sad and filled with sorrow, Jesus prayed that he wanted to obey God, rather than his own will.
Brothers and sisters, the challenge for us is that when the results don't come and you are facing personal challenges, feeling insecure; seek God's counsel.
Seek his word and obey what he says. He will see you through.

3. Depend on God

Exodus 14:10-14, 19-22

↻

The Egyptian army was hurtling down on the Israelites.
The noise of the horses' hooves and the chariot wheels was terrifying.
The Israelites stood between the Red Sea and the swords of the Egyptian army.
What do we do when we are caught in a bind, when you find obstacles wherever you turn?
Moses had an amazing attitude: The Lord God Almighty will fight for us.
The circumstances were trying and a decision had to be made.
Surrender was the best possibility but his dependence on God saw him through.
As a result (vv. 19-22) one of the most spectacular miracles in the Bible when God decided to display his strength and love for his people. That is how our God is.
His power has no limit, nor his love. Difficult times call for us to depend on him.
What is it that you face today? Is it financial problems (outstanding loans), marriage problem, ministry not growing, sins not changing, persecution at home, what else?

↻

Today we need to decide to GO, OBEY AND DEPEND ON GOD.

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Memory

Scripture for the week.

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

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PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

Heb 10:36. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. As disciples it is important that we be extremely patient and persevering in character.

1. Be patient Eph 4:2, Ps 40:1

Suppose someone offers you Lakh Rupees as a gift and asks you to wait a year to get it in your hands, will you be ready to wait patiently?

Of course. Not just one year, if required we will wait for even more time.

When we do our schooling we are ready to wait patiently for 10 years to see our efforts becoming fruitful with our SSLC.

We work hard for 30 days and wait for the 30th Day to receive the salary.

We study for years together hoping that finally we will get a good job, even though there is no certainty.

In all these cases we are ready to persevere and wait for the results.

Yet why are we so impatient and un-persevering when it comes to our spiritual lives?

If we are optimistic and persevering in other areas of our lives how much more should we be in spiritual areas?

Because God knows our needs and will definitely keep his promise.

2. Perseverance brings victory. Rom 5:4

Do you want to see victory in your life?

When we learn to persevere our character starts changing accordingly.

We start becoming more optimistic.

Always when we have hope, we see things happening in our lives.

Even the athletes and sportsmen undergo so much of training so that they can become more fit.

Does your attitude want to be positive?

Perseverance will be rewarded. **James 1:12, Heb 11:27**

When was the last time that you gave up persevering?

(Fruitfulness / Job / Exam etc.)

James 5:11. Job could have given up but he had great faith in the LORD.

James 1:3. God likes those who persevere and will reward them at the right time.

Challenge: Pray for one of your spiritual dreams to be fulfilled and never give up until you see it happen.

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Jesus said, "For judgement I have come into this world so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind". **John 9:39**

As Disciples, we can become spiritually blind and so we need to watch for it. We can be doing the things we need to do like praying and attending all Church meeting and giving contribution and still not see God working in our lives.

1. Seeing God in day to day lives.

As you do your day to day chores, do you see God around you and working in people's lives?

Ps 8:1-3, Ps 139:13-14, Rom 8:28.

God's glory is truly seen when we see the works of his fingers all around on this Earth. It's amazing to see a newborn baby on this earth-truly a creation of God. Every good thing that happens to us and around us is from God.

Q: What are some ways you are seeing God in your life today?

Q: Are you looking for ways in which God makes himself evident?

2. Compromise hardens your heart and makes you blind.

Heb 3:8,12-13, Jer 17:9, Pro 13:12

Like Cancer spreads through the body, sin creeps into our lives and spreads through the heart.

Heart is such a deceitful thing that it easily gives into compromise.

When there is no sign of hope, the heart becomes sick and unyielding.

Q: In what area has your heart become hardened today?

Are you compromising on all the thoughts and feelings running around in your heart without being open?

3. Sin needs to be dealt quickly and completely.

Pro 28:13, Eccl 8:11.

Complete and embarrassingly open hearts and only help us in seeing our sin.

It is the first step to change. The sin needs to be quickly addressed and needs to be setup for us to change.

If this does not happen, heart gets messed up totally.

Today, are you willing to be embarrassingly open about your sin?

We cannot help others unless we are able to see our sin.

ADVICE

Pr 15:22

Pr 11:14

Pr 12:15

Pr 14:12

Pr 19:20

Pr 27:17

Pr 10:8

Pr 1:20-33

Pr 21:16

Pr 1:24-32

Acts 5:34-40

QUALITIES OF A LEADER

Great things have never happened in the kingdom of God without great leadership, and great things cannot happen today without leadership. As the Church advances into the twenty-first century, there is need for more leaders. Leadership in the kingdom of God is certainly a humbling privilege, but it is also a tremendous challenge. We should be grateful that we are allowed to be used in such an important way and have humble hearts that are always ready to learn more.

To be an effective leader in God's Kingdom, we need to acquire certain qualities of Christ as a Leader.

1. Self motivated Spirituality.

i) Prayer: Eph 6:18.

Bible says here that we should pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. At the same time we should be alert while praying.

Never forget to pray for all the saints (Disciples).

Jesus always relied on prayer. Jesus prayed on all occasions.

Q: How is your Prayer time?

Q: How much time do you spend with God everyday?

Q: Do you feel God's presence when you pray or is it a routine prayer time everyday?

Q: Are you alert and focused in your Prayer or are you distracted?

Q: Do you pray on all occasions?

Q: Do you Pray for all the brothers and sisters in your family group daily?

As Leaders it is very important that we answer these questions confidently whenever it is asked.

ii) Bible Study: 1 Pet 3:15.

As Leaders we should be ready with answers from the Bible for every question that is asked.

Not just the questions of outsiders, sometimes-even disciples have questions to ask us. We should answer all these questions.

When our Bible study is awesome, then we will be eager to answer and this will boost our confidence as Leaders.

Q: How is your Bible Study?

Q: Do you read your Bible daily?

Q: How many Chapters do you read daily?

Q: Is your Bible Study legalistic or you enjoy your Bible Study?

Q: Do you get new insights in your Bible Study?

Q: Do you have a notebook to write down your insights?

It's very important as leaders to be thoroughly equipped with the Word of God for every good work.

iii) Evangelism: 1 Tim 2:3-4.

God wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.

D. Time Lessons

When we spread the truth (evangelize) God is pleased with us.

Q: How is your evangelism?

Q: How many people do you invite daily?

Q: Do you have lifestyle evangelism?

Q: Do you just hand out the invitation or do you invite them with all your heart with an attitude to save them from Hell?

Q: When was the last time you personally became fruitful?

Q: When was the last time you brought a friend to Church?

As leaders it is very important that we are evangelistic.

Have lifestyle evangelism. Invite people wherever you go.

2. Heart of a Servant. Mark 10:43-45

Whoever wants to become great among you must be a servant.

We should be willing to become slaves for our disciples.

This is what it means to be a servant in God's Kingdom.

Even Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve.

Q: How are you in serving? Are you known as a servant in your ministry?

Q: Do you initiate to serve the church? When you see the need in the Church, do you wait for someone to serve or you initiate and help?

Q: Do you serve at home?

(Washing plates / sweep the room / cleaning the toilet)

Do you boss around with your family members?

Discipleship starts at home. We should be recognized as leaders who serve with smile.

3. Heart to work hard. Col 1:29, 2:1

Here we see Paul's hard work (labour and struggles) for the disciples.

He was willing to go through the suffering and pain for the disciples in Laodicea.

Paul's only intention was to keep the disciples spiritual.

For that he was willing to go through anything.

Q: As leaders are we willing to face hardship for our disciples?

Q: Are you willing to go and meet the missing Christians' late night or early morning?

Q: Are you willing to sacrifice your sleep to help your disciples?

Q: Do you have an attitude to deny yourself daily in order to help disciples to Pray or read the Bible or to evangelize?

There is a high expectation in leaders when it comes to hardwork.

We should be willing to work hard to advance God's kingdom and to keep the disciples faithful.

Challenge: Have a desire to grow as a leader and serve God's kingdom.

To start with, do something special to the disciples in your personal family group.

**PRIDE
HUMILITY**

Pr 11:2

Pr 16:18

Psa 18:27

Pr 15:33

Pr 18:12

Dan 4:36-37

Pr 16:5

Pr 16:25

1 Pet 5:5-6

Pr 15:25

Phil 2:5-11.

TAKING ADVICE

ONE ANOTHER PASSAGES :

Pr 27:1

Ps 141:5

Pr 27:5-6

Ecc 4:9-12

Rom 12:16

Rom 12:10

Rom 13:8

Rom 14:13

1 Thess 4:8

Jas 4:11.

Advice is a piece of illustration or suggestion for anything to be carried out in a better manner. And it is optional.

1. Advice or disobedience.

It is getting an approval for what you think best and not expecting any suggestion. Let's look at into the Bible.

I Kings 12 where king Rehoboam asked advice over the harsh labour that his father had put on the labourers.

In I Kings 12:7-8 the elders had advised him to lighten the burden, but not satisfied king Rehoboam turned to the young men who were serving under him and they advised him to increase the work load.

I Kings 12:10 He then refused to give them justice.

Probably he did not listen to the elders' advice since he too felt the same as the young men did.

Genesis 2 We also know about Adam and Eve how they were deceived by Satan and were forced in to his trap.

But then it was because they did not listen to one simple advice that God gave them.

Q: How are we today?

Q: Are we any better than Rehoboam or Adam or Eve

Or do we keep up to the advice from somebody, which is according to your desire.

The consequences of both the above illustrations were certainly not good.

Gen 3:17-29 Adam and Eve were cursed and banished from the Garden of Eden.

Do we have any excuse for not listening or taking advice?

For Adam and Eve. it could have been the serpent. But did the serpent face the consequence anywhere.

For the scriptures say in I Sam 15:22 " Obedience is better than sacrifice.

2. Advice on consistent basis.

Taking advice always helps our hearts to rely on God. But advice should always be taken from disciples. For they always think better for us.

Proverbs 12:5 " The advice of wicked is deceitful.

We should watch our hearts, it could deceive us.

Jeremiah 17:9 So we should always rely and pray that God will reveal all our sins through our disciplers and leaders

Heb 13:17. By their advice our lives can be disciplined

Pro 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him but a wise man listens to advice

Pro 19:20 Listen to advice and accept instructions and in the end you will be wise.

Pro 20:18 Make plans by seeking advice. If you wage war, obtain guidance.

Pro 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes, so lets take advice.

'Pro 3:5 Above all, trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Conclusion: Let us decide whether we should follow the example of Rehoboam and Adam and Eve or believe that advice can help us to be a better Christian.

IDOLATRY

When we talk about idolatry immediately we tend to think, this topic is not for me. I'm a disciple I don't worship idols.
But we need to think today, about whom do we put first in our lives.
For example: family, job, worldly friends, boy friend, girl friends, money, and possessions.
We need to keep our priorities right and straight. God must come first, your spouse second, your children third, and others fourth.
With proper priorities there is room for all of them.

Phil 2: 5-8

Jesus left his heavenly home to come to the missionary field of this earth.
One of the harshest rebukes recorded in the Bible is in **Mark 8:33**
Jesus is telling his disciples that he will suffer and must die, and Peter tries to stand in the way of this happening.
"Out of my sight Satan! You do not have in mind the things of God, but of man."
Jesus' mind was filled with spiritual vision.
But on the other hand Peter's feelings became his Idol.
Has your feeling become your idol? Do you listen to your feelings more than what God feels?

Let's look into some things, how people tend to put other feelings first in their life.

1. I'm different; I need a lot of sleep.
2. Life is too busy.
3. I'm just a young Christian, please excuse me.
4. I'm an older, Christian please excuse me.
5. No one understands me. I am a special case:
6. I just don't hear my alarm clock in the morning.
7. I used to be a lot worse.
8. Children need sleep, I cannot come.

Jesus said daily, but he didn't say how many times a day. (Luke 9: 23)
If you are more dependent on these explanations, than you are on God, you will always find a reason why you cannot put God first.

Conclusion. Mt 22: 37-38

What is the most important thing in your life today?
What is that Idol in your life that stops you from God?
Let's decide to put God always as No.1 in our lives.

THE CHRISTIAN RACE

Heb 12:1-3

1 Cor 9:24:27

2 Tim 4:6-8

Rev 3:11

Jas 1:12

Luke 13:23-30

Heb 10:19-25

Acts 20:24

Rev 21:1-7

OVERCOMING FEAR

We all go through fearful times. Even as Christians we do encounter lot of fear. Fear of Persecution, Failure, Challenges, Changes etc.

When our lives are filled with fear, we do not enjoy our Christian lives.

When we overcome our fears we feel much more relieved and happy.

Deut 10:12. God wants us to fear him alone.

1 Jn 4:18. Love drives out fear. There is no fear in love, since fear is to do with punishments.

1. Prayer for Boldness. Acts 4:23-31

The believers had to speak the word of God.

But because of the persecution by the Jews they were fearful.

So they raised their voices together and prayed to God for Boldness.

The place where they prayed shook and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and great boldness.

When we pray God gives us the strength to overcome our fears.

What are some of your fears?

Do you fear to speak boldly about Christ?

Are you bold in your evangelism? What if persecution arises?

Are you ready to die for the sake of the Gospel?

Let's pray for Boldness so that we can see God work in our lives in an amazing way.

2. Believe to be Bold. Mk 4:35-40

The disciples and Jesus were travelling in a boat, when suddenly a furious storm arose and the waves broke into the boat.

The disciples were filled with fear. But Jesus calmed down the storm.

Here we see that Jesus is in total control.

When we trust God and cast our anxieties on him he will protect us and lead us.

Do you believe that God is in complete control of everything?

In which area of your life do you find it tough to believe that God is in control?

Let's decide to trust him.

Challenge: Invite atleast 5 people tomorrow by whom you were generally intimidated.

WHY GOD NEEDS LEADERS?

When God saw the sin of this world, he was grieved and his heart was filled with pain. He knew the consequences would be his own children ending up their life in hell. He wanted his children to repent from their sins and be close to him.

He wanted them to know him, understand him and follow him.

That's the reason God chose his own son Jesus Christ. **Jn 3:16, Heb 4:15-16**

1. He was tempted but without sin. Faithful and loved like God.
2. God sent his son as an ordinary human being into this world to relate to his people

Jesus was a powerful leader. He made disciples and raised them to be powerful leaders to lead other people.

Ezekiel: 22:30 God wants leaders to stand in the gap before Him.

What happens if there is no Leader?

1. People become independent. **Judges 21:25**
E.g. 1. They will bring new rules in the church.
2. They might break the laws by disobeying.

So many movements have become monuments and got divided for this reason.

Leaders will inspire people and bring them to unity.

Why God needs leaders?

1. To teach people to obey. **Mt 28: 18-20**
2. To forgive others. **Jer 5:1**
3. To believe and train the weak to become strong. **1 Sam 22:2**
David became a leader for all problematic people. (Distress, debt and discontented.)
He believed in them, started training them with his personal example.
David raised up lot of powerful leaders.
* Josheb Barshebeth: He raised his spear against 800 men whom he killed in one encounter.
* Eleazar: He stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword.
* Joab: Was a commander of David's army.
4. To be a servant. **Mt 20: 25-28** To serve his people.
Are you a Leader in God's kingdom? Why are you a Leader?
What is your motivation behind your leadership?
If you aren't a leader, what do you think God wants you to be?

Pray about your role as a leader. Understand that God needs Leaders to see his dream come true in this Generation.

DOUBT

Matt 14:28-31

Heb 3:1-19

Matt 21:21-22

Ex 14:10-14

Mk 9:14-29

Mk 11:22-23,

Matt 8:23-27

Jn 20:24-29

Heb 11:6.

DAILY DISCIPLING

Discipling is an important part of doing the will of God in the most effective way possible. Disciplined Christian living is ... bringing all the areas of our lives under the control of Jesus Christ, so that all we do fits together and contributes to our one purpose — to bring glory to God.

When you became a Christian it was a decision you made to be disciplined.

Daily discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7

God has already given us the spirit of self- discipline.

Exodus 16:11-21

God requires us to depend on him daily. For that we need daily discipline

Proverbs 1:2-7

Fear of God is the beginning of a disciplined life.

Daily spirituality

To live a daily Christian life the four basic things are: -

- (a) Daily prayer - **Psalms 5:3**
- (b) Daily Bible study.
- (c) Daily evangelism
- (d) Daily confession. - **Hebrews 3:12-13**

If specific time and place is set aside everyday for the above, it accounts for our daily spiritual life.

Consider yourself to be "lost" without doing the above every day.

Is your part of your home, family ministry and yourself soaked in prayer everyday?

Does your daily bible study motivate you to change?

Does you close your eyes in sleep before confessing. Everyday?

Discipline starts with a decision - a decision to love it and enjoy pain.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Let the scriptures discipline you to lead a righteous life.

Everyone is accountable for their lives before God - not just their life but their lifestyle as well

I Timothy 4:16

People watch your life closely - You're non-Christian family, your friends, your neighbours, and your colleagues.

Our daily life requires discipline.

The solution is simple, make a schedule and stick to it.

Even women who are at home need a schedule or they will be busybodies accomplishing only a few things at the end of the day.

Is your schedule made around the kingdom schedule?

If you make one, do you keep it?

D. Time Lessons

Daily schedule includes specific appointments written down about prayer, Bible study, evangelism, family times for the Marrieds, time with friends, work, rest etc..

Let your schedule be on paper.

Challenge:

Make a weekly schedule and let your discipler hold you accountable.

Discipling our hearts through discipling is the pulse of our entire movement.

Hebrews 12:11

Daily discipline although painful, will definitely bring abundant fruits.

ENDURING TRIALS & HARDSHIPS

Jas 1:2-12

2 Cor 11:22-33

Mk 5:25-26

Deut 8:2-5

Acts 14:21-22

2 Cor 4:16-18

2 Tim 2:3,8-10

2 Cor 1:8-11

Rom 8:17-18

Heb 12:7-13

Jas 5:13

DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY

The dictionary defines it as a disturbed state of mind, known to everyone of us because we live with and around it and yet this GIANT word is strange to kids and mentally retarded people.

Students worry about their exams, the girls worry about personal appearance, young father about his insurance policies, work, schooling while his wife worries about making ends meet, or keeping her husband's affection.

Worry eats into our sleep, takes the joy out of life, robs us of our appetite and paints the future black, grim and forbidden.

So what do I do to overcome?

Psalms 37: 1-9, Mt 6:25-34.

If that's the way we have been looking at things lately, the psalmist David has good news for us.

THERE IS HOPE! There is a positive way to look at life.

Vs 3. Trust God: The alternative is to trust people with the future and that leads to dis-appointment.

Pro 3:5-6. This lines on to our relationship with God.

Q: How is your prayer time? Is it a token time or a time that we make God special?

Q: How is your trust in God? This comes from our depth in his Word (Bible). Reading the Bible regularly is a good preventive medicine for human mind and spirit.

Vs 3. Do good things. The more good we do, the less the chances evil has to succeed.

Q: Have you been helping the poor lately?

Pro 21:13, Ps 84:11

Vs 4. Delight in the Lord: Take delight in God and His will and He promises to provide what we need. **1 Pet 5:7**

Vs 5. Commit your ways to God: He will bless your efforts. **1 Cor 15:58**

Q: Have you given up your commitment for God?

Vs 7. Wait patiently for the Lord. He will prevail. Jude Vs. 24-25, **1 Thes 5:24**

Conclusion: The more we immerse ourselves in God, His word and His promises, the less we will fret (unhappy, irritated) over the troubles of this world.

Sure it's a tough world we live in, but with God we can be victors.

To make it in a tough world, keep in touch with God and all His children.

HIS WILL FOR US EVERYDAY IS THIS THAT WE SHOULD TRUST, NOT WORRY.

PRIDE

Today we are going to learn about one of the most destructive characters in our lives.

1. Pride is ugly. Esther 1:1-22

King Xerxes threw a banquet lasting 7 days.

Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace.

On the 7th day when King Xerxes was in high spirits, he wanted Queen Vashti to be brought wearing her royal crown.

The king wanted his wife's beauty to be displayed before the people and the nobles. In Vs. 11 the Bible says Vashti was lovely to look at.

In Vs. 12 Queen Vashti refused to come, this made the king very furious.

What are some reasons why she didn't come?

Probably she thought it was an insult for her or she felt I'm not respected here, my husband is drunk. She wanted to be respected, but she never thought that by her act she was disrespecting her husband.

She was very self focussed. Her self-focussed heart led her to total rebellion.

In Vs. 13-22 we see King Xerxes and the nobles discussed this matter and came to the decision to replace her with one better than her.

Queen Vashti was in a very high position and her example was very important. Her bad example would lead many to disrespect husbands.

Queen Vashti's beauty had no value when it came to her pride.

Even though she was very beautiful her beauty became ugly because of Pride.

We need to understand no matter how beautiful, talented or intelligent we are; it values to nothing when there is Pride.

2. Humility is Beauty. Esther 2:1-23

Esther had grown up in the care of Mordecai.

Mordecai took care of Esther as his own daughter.

Esther was also chosen among the many women to be the Queen.

Vs. 10. Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background because Mordecai had forbidden her in doing so.

Vs. 12. Esther was willing to go through the beauty treatment for 12 months.

It takes a lot of humility and patience.

Vs. 13. Esther had the choice to take with her anything she wanted before she went to the King's presence.

Vs. 15. She asked for nothing other than what Hegai had suggested.

Here we see a sense of humility in Esther. She didn't think that she knew better.

The Bible says she won the favour of everyone and even the King was attracted to her and set a Royal crown on her head and made her Queen in place of Vashti.

Vs 20 Esther hid her family back ground just as Mordecai had told her.

She even continued to follow his instructions as she was brought up.

Esther's respect for Mordecai was the same even after the change of her position. She always believed that Mordecai knew better.

This shows a deep sense of humility in Esther.

It was humility that made her Queen.

Humility always adds a lot of beauty to our lives.

FAITH

Luk 17:5-6

Luke 18:1-8

Mark 11:20

Matt 6:25 -34

Matt 8:5-13

Matt 21:18-22

Rom 10:17

Mark 4:35-41

James 2:14-26

BAD COMPANY

Let us look into the Bible and see what bad company is **I Corinthians 15:33**

Q: Why did Paul say we should not have bad company?

C: Because of bad company we will be corrupted, which can lead us to worldly pleasures, drinking, boy friends or girl friends, taking drugs, falling into sexual immorality, impurity, lust, greed for money, lack of obedience to God's people etc. And also it will put us into confusion and doubt.

In Corinthian Church people were involved in prostitution, there was no love, people were independent, did not obey the scriptures etc.

Let us look at 2 examples where we understand the difference between what bad and good company can do to us.

Lets look at a typical example for bad company: in **1 Kings 12:7-15**

After Solomon's death Rehoboam took over the kingdom.

Rehoboam was a very rebellious king.

He genuinely wanted to keep these Israelites who are in hard labour.

But instead of listening to the advice given by the elders, he listened to his friends who are of his age. I am sure these were the friends he grew up with, and messed up so much from young.

The advice given by his friends was so cruel (Vs 11-14) and he agreed to what his friends had said. As a result of which he was not able to be faithful to the people of Israel and God was not happy. At last he died.

Today what are some ways that we are involved in bad company?

E.g.: -

a) When our leader asks us to come for the meetings and our friends want us to play cricket or go to a movie.

b) Going out of station not taking advice, but listening to advice from bad friends.

c) Bad Company makes us to lie, cheat people, they put lot of doubts in our mind and so we stop trusting people and not open about our sins.

Let us look at the spiritual part of it i.e.

An example of Good company is Jonathan and David.

I Sam 20: 1-11, 34-41

David and Jonathan's relationship was very pure and godly.

Even though (Vs 34-41) Saul wanted to kill David, Jonathan David's friend wanted to protect him. Because both of them feared God.

Inspite of Jonathan being the king's son, he was very humble with David.

He always wanted to do what is right in God's sight.

Even when David messed up with Bethsheeba, he was humble to Nathan's advice and was willing to accept his sin Why?

He learnt to be humble from Jonathan his friend with whom he grew up with.

Many a times they listened to each other and their talks were spiritual and lifting each other in righteousness.

In Vs 42 we see how their friendship was.

D.Time Lessons

Practical: -

- (a) Good friendships always help us to fear God.
- (b) Grow spiritually.
- (c) Take advice at all situations.
- (d) Build strong conviction.
- (e) Not to give into sin easily.
- (f) Confess our sins and not compromise to go to daily ministry etc

Conclusion: So let us have good company like Jonathan and David.

**G O D S
P R O M I S E S**

James 1:5

Romans 8:28

Joshua 23:14-15

John 14:2-3

1 Timothy 4:8

Matt 19:28 -29

1 Peter 5:4

Jer 29:12-13

Matt 5:10-12

Matt 28:20

WINDOWS OF JOY

Joy and happiness is something, which everyone is looking for in their lives. Some happiness and Joy last only for a few moments, but I believe you are looking for joy that is Eternal, which can come only from the Lord.

The world cannot provide the joy and happiness, which we are looking for but surely the word of God can make it complete.

John 15: 11 – “ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

Here we see because of the Lord's joy in us makes our joy complete, bible is clear that through the lord alone we can have the eternal joy in our life.

Today we're going to learn how to have the real joy that can bring happiness in our lives.

1. Word of God gives joy.

Jer 15: 16 “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God almighty.”

Jeremiah was delighted in the word of God. Bible says when it came to him he ate it, Jeremiah was surely in love with the word of God.

He was so excited and his heart was filled with a great joy.

Isa 61: 10 “ I delight greatly in the lord; my soul rejoices in my God.”

Again we see Isaiah was rejoicing over the relationship that he has with the Lord and he praises God for how much he has taken for him and the blessings that he has received.

How is your walk with God today?

Can we say like these prophets about your relationship with God?

Brothers and Sisters where does your joy comes from? –**Pr 15:13 / 30.**

What are you delighted in? Does the word make you excited? **Psalms 19: 8.**

How is your bible study, have you completed the whole bible in your Christian life? Do something radical to be an awesome Christian. It's time for us to get in the word, which gives eternal joy.

Does earthly things makes you joyful? (Movie / Food / Sports etc.)

Earthly things cannot give the joy – Col 3:2 / Phil 3:19 / Job 20:5 / Pr 14:3.

2. Tears & Prayers brings Joy:

John 16: 24 “ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name.

Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

Here we see it is a promise by God that when we ask God surely he will bless us.

God alone can make our joy complete.

What have you been asking God lately?

Believe, it will be given, you'll be blessed.

What are your prayers like?

Psalms 126: 5 – “Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.”

When we shed tears it moves God, and it becomes a blessing for us.

It's a promise that it will become a joy.

Your tears are the joy when you shed it for others. (Lostness /others problems)

D. Time Lessons

Hebrews 5: 7 - Talks about even Jesus shed tears in his prayers and his prayers were heard. It's time for us to have some radical prayers with tears for our people and for the nation so God can change everything upside down.

Is your joy based on results? (Baptisms / Ministry / Visitors)

Does your title brings you the joy?

What about sufferings and persecution? (1Pet 4:12-13 / James 1:2-4)

Suggested Scriptures for reading –

Ps 126:2 / Acts 8:8 / 1 Pet 1:8 / Ps132:16 / Ps 16:11 / Isa 12:3.

In conclusion let's make a decision to get the real joy and happiness comes from the lord and through the tears for the lost.

GRACE

Isaiah 38:17-19

Titus 3:3-5

Rom 12:1

Rom 4:12-13

Eph 2:1-10

Cor 12:7-10

Heb 4:14-16

1 Peter 5:5-6

Psalm 84:111

1 Tim 1:12-14

SELFISHNESS

Today in our DP-time we're going to learn how when we are selfish we can lose friends and the sheer joy of living. Many times in my own life I've seen that the times that I'm selfish and self-centered it has made me more sad and lonely. We go around feeling this loneliness is killing me yet we don't see that its selfishness that killing us.

1. Selfishness leads to loneliness

PROVERBS 18:1; 2 TIMOTHY 3:1

When we're being selfish we don't make friends and the Bible says a man who is unfriendly is basically being selfish.

When God gave us life, breath and everything; family, friends education and even salvation through Jesus what more could he have done?

Yet when we hold back, and think only about ourselves- my family, my career, my job or my privacy we're being totally selfish, the opposite of what Jesus was in his life and his selfless death on the cross.

LUKE 9: 23 – tells us to deny oneself and taking up the cross daily for Jesus

JOHN 12: 24 – when we die to ourselves truly we will have so many people to help and they'll be our friends forever.

2. Selfishness leads to sadness

PSALM 119:36 MARK 10: 17 – 22

Many times we don't live according to God 's word and we get consumed with what we can get.

The rich young ruler fell into this trap – he didn't listen to Jesus' advice and went away sad.

Sometimes we do the same thing by not listening to our discipling partner advice and in the end no matter what we do we can't be happy because we think of our own selfish

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9. Jesus was the one who left heaven and came and died for us and he did it joyfully.

HEBREWS 12:2-3 – Jesus knew that if He endured the cross what joy he experiences when we all become disciples and get forgiveness of our sins.

In conclusion let's decide that we can focus on helping others and trusting God and his word and truly we'll be blessed with great friendships and everlasting joy.

PEOPLE PLEASING

Q. Why did you first become a Christian? Q. Why are you now a Christian?
Q. Think about your life: Whom are you trying to please? By everything you do are you trying to please God or trying to please people?

Prov 16:2 -God knows your motives; God knows our interior plans and desires. God knows why you do ministry. Is it for God or for men?
Q. Do you have Quiet Times, Bible study, Evangelism and all the ministry works just to give accountability to your leader?

Gal 1:10 -Paul was not trying to win the approval of men, rather he was trying to gain the approval of God. He just wanted to be a servant of God.

Eph 6:7 -We need to serve wholeheartedly as if we are serving God and not men.
Q. What is your character? Do you love compliments/appreciation, or are you easily discouraged? Maybe then you are a people pleaser. The person who pleases God will be opposite to this.
Q. Why do we try to please people? Let us discuss about different reasons why we try to please men and how to overcome it?

1. Pride: **Matt 14:3-10**

Herod made the mistake of promising to give his daughter whatever she asked. But because of his pride, he couldn't correct his statement. He pleased his guests and everybody except God. Ultimately he fell into the sin of murdering an innocent man.
Q. Do you accept your mistakes or are you prideful? If you are prideful, you end up in pleasing everybody except God.
We need to be humble to accept our mistakes. **1 Peter 5:5-6.**

2. Position: **Mark 15:15**

To satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. To protect his position as a Governor, he compromised his conviction and the facts.
Q. Do you compromise on your convictions for protecting your position as a leader, as a loving son / daughter for the family? As the committed employee for the boss?
We should not be afraid of losing our positions for God's sake, because God will not be pleased with us. **John 12:42-43.**

3. Pleasure: **1 Kings 11:7-9.**

Solomon tried to please his wives, by building high places for foreign Gods, offered sacrifices and burned incense to their gods, because of this God turned away from him.
Q. Are you trying to please your peers, spouses, and girlfriends / boyfriends more than God? We need to love our God with all our heart, soul and mind. **Duet 6:5.**

Challenge: Learn to please God more than people.

HELPING THE POOR

Deut 24:14

Acts 10:1-4

Pr 19:1

Jas 2:14-17

Matt 25:31-6

Pr 31:20

Pr 21: 13

Acts 9:36

Jas 1:27a

Matt 6:1-4

BOLDNESS & TIMIDITY

2 Tim.1:7 We're given the Spirit of power, love and self-discipline. We don't have the Spirit of timidity. As a disciple you're expected to be bold. You can't afford to be timid.

1. God expects us to be bold.

Exo 3:5 -God expected Moses to be bold without paying any attention to his weaknesses.

Jos 1:9 -God commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous and not to be terrified & discouraged.

Judges 6:11-16 -God commanded Gideon to be bold to save Israel.

Isa 6:1-8 -God expected Isaiah to be bold and leave GUILT feelings behind.

Jer 1:4-10 -God expected Jeremiah to be bold.

GOD EXPECTS HIS PEOPLE TO BE BOLD.

2. Where you need to be bold

a) Bold to be open:

Open about sin (1 John 1:8-10)

Open about struggles (Mark 14:32-34)

Open for taking advice (Pro 12:15)

Open to correction (Pro 12:1)

b) Bold to stand for truth:

In the time of opposition (Mark 3:20-23)

In the time of persecution (Act 8:1-4)

In the time of troubles (Rom 8:35-37)

c) Bold to save people:

Bold in evangelism (Acts 17:16-17)

Bold in follow-ups (Act 18:7-8)

Bold in teaching Bible (Act 19:8-10)

Bold in speech - preaching (1 Pet.4: 11)

3. How you can be bold

a) Pray to be bold: (Ps.138: 3; Acts 4:29-31)

b) Read Bible to be bold: Learn from the life of first century disciples:

Suggested readings: Paul (Acts 9:1-30), Stephen (Acts 6&7),

John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-20)

c) Immitate your leaders to be bold: (Heb 13:7,17)

CONCLUSION: Don't be ashamed of Gospel (Rom 1:16-17)

Don't be ashamed of Jesus (Luke 9:26)

SINGING & WORSHIP

Note:

Have a songbook to teach new songs to your disciples.
Understand "Teach them to obey everything" includes your responsibility of teaching your disciples to worship God through singing.
Make them understand the biggest book in the Bible is a worship / song book! (The book of Psalms) Spend 15 minutes praying / singing.

1. Why should we sing?

- Psalms 30:4** It is command / It is to praise God.
Psalms 13:6 To thank Him for his goodness
Psalms 12:5 To make known to the world what He has done.
Psalms 5:13 To express happiness / joy

2. How to sing?

- Psalms 33:1** Sing Joyfully. Are you singing Joyfully in the church / family group?
Eph 5:19 Sing with all your heart.
(Mark 7:6 They worshipped with their lips.... we don't want to be like that!)
- 1 Cor 14:15** Sing with your spirit and mind If you sing a song in another language, learn the meaning
Focus your mind / Don't be distracted.
Sing in your quiet time.
- Psalms 33:3** Sing new songs Be creative. Take a Psalm and try singing.
You may feel awkward in the beginning but don't
- Psalms 40:3** give up.

3. Types of singing

Singing is a way of communication, When you sing either you are singing to God, fellow believers or new comers!

- Ephes 5:19** Speak to one another through songs.
Examples - Don't you want to go to that Land? – Singing to brothers / sisters
Teach them to understand to whom they are singing.
O, Lord prepare me — Singing to God.

Great men like Moses, David, and apostles sang!
Great women like Miriam, Hannah, Deborah, Mary, and Elizabeth Sang!
Above all our Lord Jesus himself sang songs (Mathew 26:30)...
So let us glorify God with our singing.

Challenge:
Teach them 2 new songs.

ILL-GOTTEN GAIN

Pr 10:2-3

Pr 11:18-21

Ex 23:8

Deut 10:17

Pr 10:9

Pr 10: 16

Pr 11:1

Pr 17:23

Pr 12:28

Pr 13: 5-6

RICHES IN POVERTY

Today we will talk about are we rich or are we poor.
Financial discipline is crucial for Christian.
Often people think about their poverty.
If I am a poor person how can I give to others.
Let us look at the bible and see how can you become rich in your poverty.

1. Put God first

We shouldn't desire riches / poverty, but just what we need. **Prov 30:8-9**

Keep falsehood and lies far from me.

Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread..

Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say ' who is the lord?'

Jesus was very clear, even though you are very poor in this world; you can be a rich person in god. Only one thing, you need to put God first in your life.

2 Cor 8:2

Here Paul is talking about Macedonian churches v.2

We can see even though Macedonian church was poor they forgot poverty, and they gave to the Lord beyond their capacity.

1 Thess 4:11-12

Even though you don't have anything in this world instead of getting lazy, start to do something practical with a clear plan.

2. Give with full heart

Psalms 1:24

God is the caretaker of your money. When you give He will give back to you.

Prov 3:9-10

What does God do when we give to him? He will bless us in a great way.

3. Think for others

Mt 16:25

Don't worry about yourself, but about others.

In short if you think you are poorer than others, you put God first in your life; you give with full heart to God as to others also.

When you start thinking about others God will save you plus you will be the person who has riches in poverty.

JESUS' FAMILY MEMBERS

Let's today look at Jesus' conviction about his family background.
The family of Jesus was a very ancient religious, Jewish family.
Having come from a line of great men in the OT like Adam, Moses, Abraham, David etc. They were very devoted to God
Lk 2:41 says Jesus had 4 brothers younger to him.
Mk 6:3, Gal 1: 18-19 and had sisters also. They used to give him trouble.
Mk 3: 20-21, 31-35, Jn 7: 1-5 They never understood his principles.
As the eldest son in a big family, he helped them, with his carpentry work.

1. Distinct vision. Lk 2:42-50

Even when he was a boy, Jesus counted the cost in his heart about his mission.
Gives a very still answer [v.49] to his agonising parents who were searching for a missing boy Jesus for 3 days.

He even asked them, "didn't you know I had to be in my father's house"?

Mk 3 20-21, 31-35

Years later, when he got into the ministry, Jesus literally gives a very uncompromising, unemotional answer to his emotional mother and brothers, who come to take charge of him, when he heard ' he is out of mind'
He understood what it means to serve God, obey God and give priority to God, though his parents could not understand any of His convictions. [V50].

- How do you distinguish between your family and God's family - the church?
- Who holds the first priority in your life? Why?
- Whom do you think Jesus gave first priority to? God's family i.e., the church?
- Why do you think it is important to speak up your convictions?
- How do you think Jesus' behaviour helped his family to be saved?
- How about your family?

2. Distinct love Lk 2 51-52

After giving them a peace of mind, he went along with them and was obedient to them. Though Jesus' mother could not understand any of his new convictions, by looking at his life and righteousness could treasure all these incidents in her heart, which in turn helped to change her life and become a disciple.

- Do you take care of your parents [physical needs?]
- How often do you visit them?
- Is there enough time to get provisions and supplies to home without disturbing your ministry?
- Have you sat down and talked to your parents about your schedule?
- Can they see your repentance through your deeds?
- How often do you pray with them/ share scriptures with them?

Conclusion: John 13:34-35

- Jesus challenges us to be true disciples by truly loving others / our parents .
 - Jesus loved his parents to talk about the truth on to their face.
- Do you love your parents enough to speak to them the truth?
Get a response / pray together.

JUDGEMENT

Ecc1 2:13-14

Matt 12:36-37

Ecc 3:17

Rev 20: 11-15

Jer 17:10

Matt 13:24-30

Rev 21:1-8

Rom 14:9-13

SUFFERING & SICKNESS

This study helps us to be faithful during the times of suffering and sickness. When a person is physically sick he will automatically will become sick spiritually also. . But if we go through the bible we will understand that sickness and suffering are part of life which we should face boldly and which teaches us to love Jesus more and we shall taste more of his love.

1. Attitude. Job 2:4-10

Job was a righteous and upright man.

When he went through physical suffering his attitude was godly.

He never blamed God or anyone in this world. He didn't feel self-pity about himself but he accepted what God gave him.

Brothers & sisters how is your attitude at the times of suffering?

Are you blaming God or anybody for that? Are you feeling self-pity about yourself? Attitude is everything.

2. Rejoice Rom 5:3-5

Paul rejoiced in his suffering because he understood that this suffering produced a character of perseverance in his life. That helped him to face any problems in his Christian life. Sickness is a refining process. God sends it to us with the request 'practice patience now' and later you will be able to endure patiently in all kinds of trouble and suffering. We will grow spiritually strong by dedicating our will to god. Are you rejoicing today when you go through physical sickness? Do you feel that god is allowing it to happen to refine you more? When we are sick we need to be more joyful.

3. Blessing

Blessings lie hidden in trials of sickness.

When we are well, we are totally involved in our work, our families, daily events, having little fellowship with the heavenly father through out the day.

At times of sickness and suffering, all of sudden we encounter with God.

We find ourselves confronted with the holiness of God.

There was a spiritual awakening in our, a conviction of sin, a realisation that we had strayed from God and had not lived as a disciple of Jesus in thought, word, and deed.

This awareness was followed by repentance, confession of sins a change of heart, yes, even a total renewal of the person's life.

When our body suffers sin loses its power **1 Peter 4:1**

Thus there seems to be no end to the treasures that lie hidden in sickness.

Brothers & sisters, do you think that suffering is a blessing from God to come closer to Him? Do you thank God for the suffering you had? OR are you complaining and grumbling to God?

When you are sick pray more, read bible more, be more joyful

Prov 24:10- if you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength.' So stand strong and stay faithful in times of sickness and suffering.

MAKING BEST FRIENDS

JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

Making best friends is very important, in a disciple's life.

Best friends are the ones who calls us higher spiritually and their presence makes a major difference in our lives.

Today we can see the life of Jesus and John the Baptist and what kind of friendship they had. The family background: **Luke 1:39-45; 56.**

Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist and Mary, Jesus' mother were close relatives. They visit each other homes very often, so Jesus and John as cousins would have probably had a close friendship from their childhood.

They grew up together, know each other, What do we look in spiritual friendship?

1. Know each other **Mathew 3: 13-17**

Not only the relations by birth, John knew that Jesus is righteous & godly than him. He considers Jesus better than himself, and uplifted Jesus characters.

Jesus also shares great opinion about john the Baptist, **Mathew 11:11-15**

They knew each other but still they were eager to know what is happening in their life & their purpose. They sent their disciples to know that.

Mathew 11:2-6 Spiritual friends will know the true life, the strength and weakness of each other's life.

2. Have a mission in life **Mathew 14:13**

Jesus and john the Baptist- they both had a mission to save the lost, even though they are far. When john was beheaded, Jesus went to a solitary place [most probably to pray] but it didn't affect Jesus preaching to 5000 people. John was proclaiming about Jesus in desert. [Luke 3:1-4]

3. Humility to each other

Pride never interfered in this true friendship. John was in ministry of saving the lost much before Jesus. John the Baptist was waiting for his baptism **John 1:32-34**. If the spirit comes down as a dove on baptism it will be revealed that He is the Son of God. Yet, he was humble, when he said 'I need to be baptised by you' **Mat.3:13**

We see Jesus asking john to baptise him, answering John's disciples with respect **Mat. 9: 14-17**

True spiritual friends are humble and submissive to each other.

4. They grew together

Jesus and john the Baptist both were committed to save the lost.

In **John 3:22** we see Jesus & John baptising and the no.of people they saved grew. Best friends call each other higher- to do great for God, they spur one another, get corrected in weaknesses to change.

Challenge: Let us look for spiritual characters as given above in making best friends.

**LIES
DECEIT
HONESTY**

Acts 5:1-11

Jn 8:44

Pr 19:22

Rev 21:8

Pr 6:16-19

Pr 26:24

Pr 12:19

Pr 16:8

Pr 28:6

1 Peter 3:10-11

FORGIVENESS

Brothers & sisters today we are going to discuss about one of our heart feelings. When we are going for our discipling time with our discipler actually we are going before the lord. We see in old testament Moses always went to God for correction as well as the correction for the people in Israel. I definitely believe that as you come for the DP time your attitude should be the same as Moses.

Today we are going to discuss about one of our heart feelings that is forgiveness. We all have different kind of feelings in our heart. One of them is not forgiving others. Many times we are not really understanding what we are getting into if we are not forgiving. Let us see what are the things that will happen when we are not forgiving.

1. Forgiveness brings purity I Timothy 5:22

When we have something against somebody we have to confess it to that person and forgive from our heart. When we are not forgiving we are taking part in other people's sin. That cannot control us.

People pleasing attitude will keep us from forgiving others and we are not bold enough to go tell the person that he / she hurt us.

This will bring so much of hatred in our heart that will kill the purity of heart. One thing we all have to understand is that forgiveness is a godly character.

Colossians 3:13 say that forgiveness will take out the grievances.

For our purity we must forgive one another.

2. Forgiveness brings righteousness Rom 5:18, Luke 23:34

God is looking for people to be righteous. How can we be righteous unless we keep our heart pure. Because of Jesus' willingness He brought righteousness into our life. Same way we must be willing to forgive others. Many times we will have excuses not to forgive but Jesus had more excuses than we had still he was willing to forgive. When we forgive we are taking out the sin from our heart making our heart righteous before the lord.

3. Forgiveness brings joy and gratefulness Mathew 6:14-15

If we are grateful to God we will be willing to forgive others.

We know that our sins, how bad they were but still God was willing to forgive them all that in return we must forgive others. Grateful people are the happiest people in the world.

Forgiveness of our sins can make us to be joyful **Acts 8:39** when we don't forgive others we are not grateful or joyful but we will have hatred in our heart.

Many of us struggle with the same sin not willing to forgive others show that how selfish and uncaring heart we have and that will take the joy away from our hearts.

Whoever forgives from their hearts they are the strong Christians.

Forgiving doesn't mean that you should overlooks or be careless but take that in your heart and deal with it in a godly way. Christianity is nothing but a relationship if we are not willing to forgive others then there is no Christianity in us.

In conclusion, I challenge all of you to go and spend time with the people who hurt you.

PRAYER

"This kind can come out only by prayer' (Mark 9:29)

These are the words spoken by Jesus, when his disciples asked him why they couldn't drive out the evil spirit from a boy.

Surely, Jesus disciples understood the importance of prayer and the power of prayer. Jesus himself is a great example for us, how much we need to rely on God through our prayers.

Prayer is absolutely essential for every disciple (I Thess 5:17)

As young disciples of Jesus, we need to be clear in our minds that spiritual battles are won in prayers and the fight for the world will ultimately be won on our knees.

Basically, prayer is a communication with God which includes listening to his word, worshipping, adoring, and petitioning Him, as well as confessing sins and interceding for others.

In luke 11:1-4 Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray. Let's look into different aspects of prayer in details.

1. What to Pray ?

1. Praise - To praise is oral adoration of God. It is acknowledging God as God and accepting his significance and his power. Praise is unselfish prayer.

- Praise him for (1) his names-Rock, Fortress, Alpha & Omega, Shield, Guide, Light, King of Kings, Lord of Lords etc. (2) His qualities : Righteous, holy, gracious, powerful perceiving, bold, gentle etc. (3) His creation : Sun, moon, stars, animals, trees, mountains etc. useful scriptures : psalm 22:3, Hebrews 13:15, Psalm 115:1

2. Confession : To confess is to admit guilt. It is heart felt recognition of who we are and to show to God that we take our sin seriously. When we confess, God forgives our sins & sees us as perfect (1 John 1:9)

Confess What ? 1 Thoughts 2. Attitudes 3. Actions 4. Inactions

Useful Scriptures : 1 cor 6:19, Psalm 66:18, Psalm 139:23, Psalm 51.

3. Intercession : Intercession is prayer for others. Your prayers can reach around the world. Pray for sick, family, disciples, lost souls.

Scriptures : Gen 20:7, 1 Tim 2:1-4, Rom 1:9-10

4. Petition : A petition is a personal request. God wants to know what you want. Pray for your school, college. Work, dating / marriage, health, schedule, character to change. Pray Specifically. Gen 24:12-20.

Scriptures : James 1:5-8, 4:2 I chronicles 4:9,10, / James 1:5 / Matt 6:11 and Luke 11:9-13

5. Thanks Giving : Thanks giving is acknowledging what he has done for us. Give thanks for (1) spiritual blessings fruit, growth, love, forgiveness (2) Material blessings : House, Clothes, food (3) Physical Blessings : Health (4) External blessings : To other individuals, to the church as a whole etc.

OBEYING GOD

Ge 3:1-24

Joshua 1:6-9

Deut 11:1-32

Matt 7:21-23

Acts 5:17-29

Jas 1:22-25

1 Kings 5:1-16

Matt 12:46-50

Matt 21:28-31

D.Time Lessons

You can do much more than mentioned above in prayer - singing, praying through scriptures praying with others and learning from them.

If every disciple prayed for only six minutes on all five areas above.

He could move the heavens for thirty minutes.

Here is a small passage about prayer.

"The Difference"

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day,
I had so much to accomplish, that I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task.

Why doesn't God help me ?"

I wondered He answered, "You didn't ask"

I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, gray and bleak,
I wondered why God didn't show me.

He said, "But you didn't seek".

I tried to come into God's presence,

I used all my keys at the lock, God gently and lovingly Chided,

"My child, you didn't knock".

I woke up early this morning and paused before entering the day,

I had so much to accomplish, that I had to take time to PRAY.

COMMUNION

Exodus 12:3-30 describes the whole event of the passover feast. The communion is a part of the same feast. See, 1 COR 5:7-8, Clearly indicates the connection. But most importantly, Jesus eagerly desired for it in Luke 22:15-16. He desired it as a part of the passover feast as in (a) Mathew 26:17-30 (b) Mark 14:12-26 (c) Luke 22:7-23

Even the early church considered it as

(a) **Part of Church meal - Cor 11:17-34**

(b) **Part of fellowship of disciples - Acts 2:42**

(c) **Part of Sunday meeting - Acts 20:7, 11.**

The "Communion" is significant to the disciples.

I. But would the taking part of "non-disciples", bring judgement on them, is one of the major questions today.

Well, it is clear from Exodus 12:19 / Num 9:2-3; 14 / and Romans 9:23-24 / that even unbelievers could take part in the passover.

Also, Judas taking part in the communion, though Jesus knew that satan had already corrupted his heart; is a point to be pondered about.

Because Jesus knew Judas is already an un believer in his heart, yet allowed to take part.

The **1 Cor 11:28-29**, passage is most significantly for the disciples.

If we as disciples do not examine our hearts and do not take part in the communion with a sincere heart, is under the fear of Judgement.

Not allowing an unbeliever to take part, is an indirect condemnation, or in other words classifying them as "Sinners" and classifying Christians as "Righteous".

Being a true Christian, does not mean that we are sinless, we too are sinners.

An unbeliever is already under judgement, how much more can he be judged.

Do you think God will send an unbeliever to hell because he took part in the communion ?

II. According to,

Mark 14:22 - 1 Cor 11:24 = Body of Christ = Bread.

Mark 14:24 - 1 Cor 11:25 = Blood of Christ = Wine.

So some believe that at the time of the communion the bread and wine literally becomes body and blood of Christ. This is a totally wrong doctrine.

In Luke 24:30/35, we see the resurrected Christ breaks real bread.

Definitely he does not eat himself. Surely this shows that it is not literally the body and blood of Christ.

III. Also in 1 Cor 11:26, It is clear that the communion is the proclamation of the Lord's death until he comes, and not taken for the forgiveness of our sins (as some believe).

Also it is, a reminder, of God's covenant with his people, through Christ.

PERSECUTION

Matt :10-12

1 Pet 4:12-19

Jn 15:18-25

2 Tim 3:12

Acts 4:5-22

Acts 8:1-3

Matt 10:34-37

Matt 5:44

Rom 12:14-21.

THE MISSION

What was Jesus' mission ?

Luke 19:10 / I Timothy 1:15 / Acts 20:24 / Matthew 28:19-20

What is our mission ?

1. Disciples Must Go....John 15:1-16

Relationship with God

Jesus' plan to multiply

See the growth of the church when all Christians are fruitful - making disciples

1. Acts 2:41 5. Acts 6:1
2. Acts 2:47 6. Acts 6:7
3. Acts 4:4 7. Acts 8:4
4. Acts 5:14

Discuss :

1. World Evangelism
2. Mission Teams
3. Your Dreams

2. Persecution will Come ... John 5:18-16:4

Jesus called these names, lies and half-truths:

1. Matthew 11:19
2. Mark 3:21 (by his family)
3. Mark 3:22
4. Luke 23:2
5. John 8:48
6. John 9:16

Attitude of Jesus

1. Luke 23:24
2. Hebrews 12:1-2

Attitude of Apostles

1. Acts 5:40-42

Lets have the same attitude and heart for the mission that Jesus called us for.
Pray together (suggest on knees)

THE POWER OF LOVE

Introduction

The cross - the very word brings to mind-death. A death caused in cruelty & pain. The cross reminds us of Jesus; an image of love, patience, belief and grace who was crucified brutally by selfish & jealous people (**Mark 14:16-65, Mark 15:13, 16-19**)

The cross - a turning point in most of our lives when we were studying the bible. It made us make that crucial decision between heaven and hell. It taught us the extent to which someone was willing to go out of love for us, in order to save us.

(**Phil. 2:5-8**)

Mark 14:22-24 To Jesus the cross was the ultimate expression of love. This chapter talks about the farewell party that Jesus organised for his disciples. He wanted them to know that he was willing to sacrifice himself for their benefit and for ours.

There are many examples of people's life changing permanently because of the love they experienced at the cross.

- (a) The Centurion at the foot of the cross believed in Jesus. (**Luke 23:47**)
- (b) Jesus family who earlier came to take him away from the disciples (**Mark 3:31**) after his death joined the disciples in prayer. (**Acts 1:14**)
- (c) Paul who persecuted the disciples (**Acts 8:1; 9:1**) started preaching powerfully after being baptised (**Acts 9:20-21**) about Jesus.

I. Allow the cross to change you

Eph 2:1-5

We must understand that what we've got is far more than what we deserve.

We all had a sinful past but God forgave us so that we could also forgive each other and out of gratitude we could help many others to draw close to the cross of Jesus.

God loved us enough to make us alive in Jesus Christ through his pain on the cross for our sins. We have got to remember this every day of our Christian lives.

2 Cor 5:14 Therefore we will no longer live for ourselves but for him who died for us.

Col 3:1-3 Let us set our minds on things above and do away with bad attitudes, fault finding, petty quarrels, sexual immorality and the like and focus on the love that God has showered on us.

II. Love Unconditionally

Rom 12:9-21

This scripture teaches us to love like Jesus. Being devoted to one another is not easy since each one of us have our own opinions.

But out of humility for God we must learn to obey.

It is not easy to bless your persecutor but when you decide to love like Jesus you will be able to deny your feelings. (Share about an instance where it was difficult to bless someone who wronged you but you did it)

John 14:15 To love unconditionally you have to love God first.

Have a great relationship with God through prayer and bible study.

PRAYER

Gen 25:21

Dan 6:10

Lk 11:1-4

Acts 12:1-19

Eph 6:18

Col 1:9-12

Jas 5:16-18

1 Pet 3:12

Col 1:9-12

Joshua 10:1-15.

TAMING THE TONGUE

In this lesson we are going to learn about Tongue - which is the most important part of our body. We will see how we can be more effective.

James 3:3-10

Through the ships are so huge, carrying loads but still it is steered by a very small rudder.

The bible compares it with a tongue.

It is very small, not very obvious but does the biggest job - Talks - Good and bad.

Vs 6 says because of our tongue we can go to hell.

It is restless, evil, full of deadly poison.

Ask yourself what is my tongue known for.

Vs 10 Bible Warns us to use our tongue in a righteous way.

Psalms 34:12-13 :

If you want to see good days then keep your tongue away from evil.

That means Gods blessing will be on us when we stop our tongue from lies, curses, filthy words, boasting.

Psalms 31:1 : Here we see the devil wants to take hold of his tongue.

He doesnt want to blame others.

When you speak do you blame others or do you take responsibility for your own sin.

Are you taking hold of you tongue today ?

Proverbs 10:19 : When we hold our tongue we are wise.

Proverbs 25:15 :

A gentle tongue or are your words helping others to change.

Is a broken man inspired by your talks ? When we speak there should be love in us.

Psalms 51:14-15 :

Our tongue can be used to praise God, to be Righteous, and also to help other to grow.

Lets make a decision to use our tongue in a most spiritual way.

Lets use it praise God.

HONESTY

Introduction

Dictionary meaning of honesty is : Upright, Sincere, faithful, fair

Dictionary meaning of dishonesty is : Fraudulent, Knavish

Complete honesty is undoubtedly painful, but loved by God.

Dishonesty is easy, but hated by God.

Proverbs 6:6-19

'These are the things that Lord hates.. a lying tongue ... a false witness who pours out lies...'

In short, dishonest people are not only disliked but **hated** by God

(Worst thing that can happen to man is to get HATED by God)

In fact the very first recording sin in the life of the early church was the bad example of dishonesty set by Ananias and Sapphira.

Acts 5:1-10

How we see a couple who were :

- Little bit God fearing
- Had some knowledge about doing good
- Had an inclination to sacrifice. Some thing (a piece of property)
- Had courage to face the leaders

But what went wrong?

They pretended to be generous. They were DISHONEST in their claims.

They had a right to keep back whatever they chose, but to make it appear that they had given all when they had not was Dishonesty (Sinful)

Dishonesty : is DECEIT, Saying what you do not mean / Half truths

"satan filling your heart" (v.3)

Comparison with v4 means 'dishonesty towards men, is dishonesty towards God.'

Dishonesty is often followed by fear (v11)

On the other hand we see a bold example of honesty which led to a miracle and joy in **MARK 5:24-35**

This definitely was an remarkable miracle but what is even more striking is her honesty and openness before Jesus and every one else. (a large crowd).

This woman was not afraid of the humiliation she would have to face in front of such a large crowd and moreover Jesus, by openly telling about her personal weakness and frustrations.

The most convicting thing here is (v33) that She "told him the Whole Truth"

Honesty : is Whole truth

Not hiding our weakness (even though it pains)

Speaking the thoughts / Being real and plain

It requires lot of boldness to speak the Whole truth (Honesty).

It's so easy to fall in to the trap of being deceitful and speaking half truths.

Consequences of Honesty : v34. "go in peace and be freed from suffering"

The greek of 'healed' actually means 'saved'.

Here both physical healing ('be freed from your suffering") and spiritual salvation ('go in peace') are meant.

SATAN'S TACTICS

Lk 4:1-13

GE 3:1-8

Job 1:6-22

1 Chor 21:1-19

Jn 8:42-44

Mk 14:13-15

Acts 5:3-4

1 Pet 5:8-9

Rev 12:7-17

Eph 6:10-18

D.Time Lessons

Conclusion :

If you have a problem with lying, here are four good reasons for changing your behaviour :

1. God's Word commands us not to lie (ex. 20:16; Lev. 19:11; Col. 3:9)
2. Lying is often an attempt to cover our feelings of insecurity, but in the long run it makes us look worse, not better (Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18; 26:6-16).
3. Lying doesn't work. People lie to protect themselves or to cover their deeds. But God always makes sure the truth comes out anyway (Num. 32:23; Prov. 10:9)
4. Lying creates a trap. One lie leads to another. we forget what lies we've told and to whom we've told them.

We finally get caught and are embarrassed.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." **Exodus 20:16**

This commandment also exposes two motives that God hates - malice and pride. When we are dishonest or when we lie, it is usually to cast a person in a bad light or to place ourselves in a good light.

The first comes from malice, the second from pride.

The eighth commandment reveals God's desire for that kind of society.

It's based on the principle that everything belongs to God and that when we cheat an institution or a person we are stealing from the Lord.

Examples of Honest people in Bible

- Honest in prayers - David
- Honest in Contribution - Barnabbas

EMOTIONS

(Bitterness, Bad attitudes, Hurt feelings)

Emotion is described as the moving of the feeling or the agitation of the mind due to any of the various phenomena such as anger, joy, fear, sorrow etc. associated with an outside cause.

Emotions are usually spontaneous and it is an every day struggle and it can often lead us to make decisions : Righteous or unrighteous.

As disciples we need to learn from the scriptures as to how to control our emotions and to continue to do what is right in the eyes of God.

Some of the emotions that we struggle with so often are that of bitterness, hurt feelings and bad attitudes.

1. What is bitterness, hurt feeling etc ?

i) Bitterness is the feeling of resentment that we hold against someone who would have done something hurtful.

ii) Bad attitudes is attitudes that we have against someone or against a lot of people because of hurts, insensitive talks, insensitive dealings etc.

Now are these feelings right or wrong ? Do we have to talk about it or not ?

Will the other person get hurt if they are talked about ?

Bitterness and hurt feeling will creep up at some point or the other.

2. The way to deal with it is:

1. Identity your sin : **Pro 14:10** says that each heart learns its own fillings.

We know our own hearts. We know as to what we are struggling with.

Rom 3:14 says that no one of us is righteous.

2. Get rid of the sin by talking about it **EPh 4:30-32**.

This scripture says that we need to get rid of very kind of bitterness, anger and rage and instead be kind, compassionate and forgiving towards each other.

If we do not do so as disciples, the Holy Spirit that lives in us is grieved..

3. It is wrong to follow our own feelings. **Pro 3:5, Pro 14:12**.

Following our own feelings could lead us to do something against God.

Jer 17:9 - Our own hearts can deceive us.

So let's make a decision to repent of any such attitudes and get our hearts right with God.

THE TONGUE

Lev 19:16a

Ps 15:1-3

Pr 11:12-13

Pr 20:19

Pr 17:9

Pr 12:19

Pr 15:4

Pr 21:23

Pr 25:15

Pr 26:28

LEAVING OUT OF TOWN

Holidays, short trips, out of town may sound fun but should not be attended to, prevent the occurrence of sin.

It does not imply that one shouldn't leave the city at all as, many among us are out towards, which might call, to attend for an emergency.

This lesson focusses on the urgency to be back with the body and also the importance of regular worship.

Jesus being our example, suggests this attitude in **LUKE 4:16**

Jesus went to synagogue as was his custom.

Even though he was the perfect son of God and his local synagogue undoubtedly left much to be desired, Jesus attended services every week.

His example makes our excuses for not attending the church (out of Town, delays, extended trips, fun holidays) sound weak and self serving.

Therefore, we as honest and true disciples of Jesus should make worship a part of our life.

Act 6:4 also specifies how we need to give attention to prayer as well as "the ministry" of the word.

Heb 10:25 says that to neglect Christian meetings, is to give up the encouragement and help of the other Christians.

We gather together to share our faith and to strengthen one another in Jesus & our Father.

As we get closer to the "Day when Christ will return, we must face many spiritual struggles and intense temptations & even hard times of persecution.

Anti Christian forces, be it forced marriage from your parents to a non-disciple, persecution in the residential area, sent back to your home town, & tempting you with bad company - will grow in strength but difficulties should never be an excuse for missing church service.

Rather, as difficulties arise, we should make effort to be faithful in attendance.

Paul rebukes disciples and wants them to wake up for the right cause in correspondence to disciples who have been used by bad company - **1 Cor 15:33-34**

Not forgetting that **1 Cor 12:12-24** mentions how the body of Christ is like a human body & each part has a specific function that is necessary to the body as a whole we need to understand that the parts are different for a purpose & in their difference they must work together.

Using the analogy of the body, Paul emphasizes the importance of each church member. If a seemingly insignificant part is taken away the whole body becomes less effective.

This, makes aware of the hurt that we cause to God & the body because of things that we do like neglecting the scriptures & the discipling.

Therefore, get determined to make the right decision for a relationship with God & walking righteous in the word.

HUMILITY

Humility is often misunderstood in today's world .

When we talk of the word humility we usually get an impression of a wimpy person who lets people walk over.

But humility has great biblical significance. The opposite of humility is pride and God is not at all happy with those who display pride **Prov 3:34**.

Humility is a character which is not really in built in us but we need to ask ourselves at regular intervals as to whether we are being humble.

Pride is a character which satan uses very effectively to disrespect God's word

(1) It makes us stubborn and rebellious

(2) It makes you think that you are better than the others

(3) Makes you think that your ideas are the best and that things should go your way

(4) It makes you hate to apologise.

As a young kid, we all must have heard about the race between the tortoise and the hare.

The hare was much too confident that he would win the race since he had a lot of speed and stamina.

Pride got into him and he started thinking that he was anytime better and faster as compared to the tortoise. And so he took a nap during the race ultimately he found that the tortoise defeated him while he was asleep.

From this we need to learn that pride makes us losers.

Phil 2:13 In humility consider others better than yourselves..

Our attitude towards humility should be the same as that of Christ.

How was Jesus humble ?

1) He was God but still came to the earth in the form of a man.

2) He was humiliated & then died on the cross for others.

We need to be humble in our practical life :

- We need to be willing to accept our faults and apologise.
- We need not get upset when someone blames us falsely.
- We should not take revenge or keep any attitudes in our heart.
- We need to be patient with others (for e.g. when you are travelling in a crowded train and someone stamps your foot very hard & you need to smile and not retaliate or argue.

To be humble is not an easy task in today's world but as Christians we need to constantly pray about it and remind ourselves from time to time (as it says in **1 Peter 5:5-6** that we need to clothe ourselves with humility)

Practical challenge : Go up to your discipler and ask him the areas in which you need to change and focus on changing them !

WORLDLINESS

Matt 16:26

1 Jn 2:15-17

Rom 12:2

Jas 4:1-4

Rom 8:5-8

Matt 6:19-24

Pr 23: 4-5

Heb 13:5-6

Lk 12: 15-21

Matt 13:7.

THE DREAM

When we think of the word "Dream" we always picture something fabulous. None of us like to have night mares. But we like to see good dreams. At the bottom of our heart we always wish that those good dreams would come true.

T.S. Eliot wrote that the true dreamer is not of the night but he who dreams and acts by day.

The greatest dreamer that ever lived was Jesus. His dream became reality. He dreamed to change the world in one generation.

1. Dream and pass on the dream :

Mark 1:16-18

Over here we see Jesus expected Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow him. Jesus dream is to evangelise every nation and so he passed on his dream to his disciples and taught them to be fishers of men.

Mark 3:13-14 he chose 12 apostles to have his dream come true.

He used them and gave them the purpose. As disciple we must dream the dream that Jesus dreamt of.

We must dream of evangelising the area we stay, in office, and every where we go praying every single day for our dream to come true, working hard toward's it.

2. Dream to take up the responsibility :

John 4:1-2

Not only did Jesus Dream of doing his purpose.

But even to see that the disciples also got the picture of Jesus' dream.

They were willing to take up the responsibility and they gave their best.

Even after Jesus' resurrection we see the apostles took Jesus' dream higher and higher.

We as young disciples need to take up the responsibility of evangelising the nation, one person alone cannot do it but we all must be united to the purpose and help God's kingdom to grow very fast.

3. Dream to fulfill it :

Luke 10:1-3

Jesus shows over here how the dream can be fulfilled.

Harvest is plentiful and workers are few.

He gave them the dream of being fruitful.

As young disciples we should be eager to become fruitful and bring visitors, evangelise intensely.

In **Matthew 28:19-20**

Jesus even while leaving to go to heaven he gave his dream of saving people of every nation to his disciples is the same Christ dream is passed on to each one of us.

Let's have Jesus dream come true !

HUMILITY AND SUBMISSION

When we look at the greatest leaders in the world, we rarely see examples of submission and humility. Jesus was filled with these qualities. Today we will see Jesus' attitude towards humility and submission. Let us learn from Jesus how we can take on that role.

1. Jesus the perfect example of Submission.

Matthew 26:39-42

Do you have any area in your life where it is difficult to submit to God?

(Time, money, meetings, discipler, leader...)

How have you tried to over come? (Share an example from your life)

Jesus continued to go back to God until he got his heart right to do God's will.

Can you think of that last time you consistently prayed till your heart got right?

When was the last time you prayed with your face to the ground?

If so - How did you feel after?

Here are some extra scriptures on submission:

Matthew 6:10

Luke 1:38

James 4:7

Our submission problems will seem minor compared to what Jesus was willing to submit himself to, death on the Cross.

2. Jesus the perfect example of Humility.

John 13:3-5,15

Imagine Jesus with his disciples: He washed their feet, not caring how dirty they were, not caring where they came from, and what they stepped on.

Then he dried it with the towel wrapped around him.

Have you practiced this scripture lately? (Try it and see how humbling it is)

The challenge of this scripture is to have unlimited humility.

This is Jesus' heart. How are your relationships with the brothers and sisters?

Is there anyone you feel hard to be humble to?

If there is anyone that you have to be humble to take the Jesus challenge.

Go wash their feet and share their good qualities with them.

Build your friendships with humility.

Here are some extra scriptures to help the areas of humility.

Proverbs 22:4

Matthew 18:4

Luke 14:10

James 4:10

Let's take on the heart of Submission and Humility like Jesus.

LEADERSHIP

Lk 6:12-13

Lk 5:16

Mt 11:1

Jn 10:11-18

Phil 2:19-23

Acts 4:12-13,19-20

1 Pe 4:10

Isa 6:8

Jas 3:1

1 Tim 3:1-13.

UNITY AND DIVISION

God is greatly concerned about the unity of the church.
Many movements have fallen for lack of unity among the leaders and members.

1. Eph 2:19-22

We are no longer individuals who can live as aliens – We are a family – members of God's household.

2. Rom 14:13-15:3

How far we should go and how much we should bend to keep the body of Christ together.

3. Luke 11:17

Why is unity important to keep God's Kingdom together?

4. I Cor 1:10

It is important to agree with each other, make an effort to be united in mind & thoughts.

Are you open when you have critical thoughts?

5. I Cor 1:10-13

It is wrong to criticize our past leaders and compare one another. Respect all. Have attitude of Jesus. Consider others better than yourself. (Phillipians 2:3-5)

6. I Cor 3:1-5

We need to grow up & help each other to be united, different from the world.

7. Eph 4:25-32

We are united when we resolve our bad attitudes and forgive one another.

Satan wants us to be divided, do not give devil the victory.

Work it out, talk, resolve, and take help from others to be united in mind and thoughts.

(Matt 5:23)

Silence is not an option. **(Psalm 10:18)**

Otherwise bitter roots will grow **(Heb 12:15)**

8. James 1: 19-20

In your anger don't sin. Take advice and listen to others.

Understand what God wants from you.

9. I Cor 12: 12-27

You are important part of God's church.

Use your energies to keep God's church united.

FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Today we are going to have an awesome time learning how important it is to have FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP in our lives.

What do you think does these three have in common? (Fun, food & fellowship)
Well I also think it has JOY written all over those words

FUN is joy (games, sports, parties etc....)

FOOD is a joy (eating together, cooking together)

FELLOWSHIP is a joy (talking, building lasting relationships....)

Don't you think so? Let them reply.

Ecl 8: 15 Joy is fun.... Being outward focussed.

Would you rate your self as a joyful person? On a scale of 1-10!

1 Thes 5:16 Be joyful always.

When was the last time you invited someone over for a meal?

Do you have a lot of close friends now?

(Friends whom you confess with, pray with etc)

Fellowship is very important. **1 John 1:7**

Talking about feelings? Is it important?

Acts 2: 40-44 The disciples shared almost everything.

It's very important to talk about how you feel to someone close and that can happen only when there is close fellowship and friendship.

Let Jesus lead your joyful life with the Letter J in being a fun person...

J ESUS (He is our lord)
O thers (Feeling for them)
Y ourself (Denying)
F resh (Giving always)
U nited (As disciples we stand)
L ove (To live)
L ive (To love)

WE SHOULD MAKE A DECISION TO BE GREAT FUN-LOVING, JOYFUL, AND GIVING DISCIPLES TO MAKE OUR CHURCH AN AWESOME ONE.

Please Pray & Decide to make a decision from your heart that you're going to be a joyful person.

JOY

1 Thess 5:16-18

Phil 2:1-4

Ps 21:1ff

Ps 100:1ff

Ps 66:1ff

Jas 1:2-4

Job 8:20-21

Ps 5: 11-12

Ps 119:111

Ps 49:1ff

HURTS, BITTERNESS & BAD ATTITUDES

Hurts, Bitterness, Bad Attitudes create resentment and destroy relationship and causes disunity. Some have left the kingdom because they could not resolve and forgive.

Ephesians 4:25-32

Especially in the church to keep the perfect unity we have to resolve quickly, forgive and forget. There are two sides to deal with:

1. When someone sins against us.
2. When we sin against others.

If we believe someone has sinned against us, treating us unrighteously or misrepresented us, the Bible tells us:

Mathew 18:15-17

Jesus expects us to go to that person and express our feelings.

We should go with gentleness and respect (Gal 6:1) Gather all the facts.

If they confess and ask for forgiveness the matter is resolved and it never need to go further. We should forgive completely and bring up the matter no more.

Jesus says you have won the person over.

If we do go and they do not give a fair hearing or dismiss the matter and put it back on us, we have to go to wise, spiritually minded, objective people to help both of us to sort out the issues.

If we are hurt by the leaders we need not 'stuff' matters and hope they will get better, remember anything stuffed comes out.

However, with leaders Bible expects Submissiveness.

Hebrews 13:7,17

It does not mean that we should never ask questions or give inputs, but no room for critical attitude, pricking at actions, resists directions that are given.

The other side of the coin is that when the realization comes to us that we have sinned against others, Jesus tells us what to do.

Mathew 5:23-24

However inconvenient it may seem, Jesus expects us to leave the sacrifice go find the person, get resolved, come back and offer the sacrifice to show how crucial it is to keep things working out with God.

Most conflicts in the Kingdom work out quickly.

If something does not get resolved immediately we have to keep our heart soft, forgive, pray; keep working on the relationship.

It is the only way to keep the Kingdom united.

If the other person is not willing to forgive after an apology, our effort to resolve, leave them alone.

Let us be righteous and leave the judgement to God. **1 Peter 2:19-25.**

JOYFUL ALWAYS

Phil 4:4

- Rejoice in the Lord always
- Being a disciple is a fun-life – happy life

1. Joy is a promise from God

Ne 8:10

- Joy of the Lord is our strength
- Enjoy – food/drink
- Have a party- happy to be with disciple

Luke 10:21

- Jesus full of joy because of us becoming disciples

Psalms 30:5

- God's discipline and anger for a short time only
- But favor and joy for a lifetime

Psalms 126:5

- Sow in tears
- Reap with songs of joy
- Our hand work will only produce unlimited joy

Isa 12:3 - With joy - drawing water of salvation

Rom 14:17 - KOG is not just eating/drinking

2. Joy in spirituality

Jer 15:16

- God's words were joy to my heart
- 1. In God's word
- 2. Saving souls
- 3. Reputing

Joy in saving souls

Luke 15:5

- Finding the lost sheep
- Meeting and encouraging weak disciples

Worldly Joy

Job 20:5

- Joy of godless only a moment
- Worldly friends/smoking/drinking/course joking/dirty jokes
- /teasing girls/movie jokes/jokes about disciples/disciples-Boss

WORLDLINESS

Matt 16:26

1 Jn 2:15-17

Rom 12:2

Jas 4:1-4

Rom 8:5-8

Matt 6:19-24

Pr 23: 4-5

Heb 13:5-6

Lk 12: 15-21

Matt 13:7.

D.Time Lessons

Pro 14:13

- Laughter may bring heartache
- And joy may even bring grief

Ecc 2:10

- Denied no pleasure- enjoyed everything
- Joy in all hardwork
- Later someone takes it away

Ecc 7:6

- Like thorn under a pot
- Laughter of fools

James 4:9

- Grieve, mouth, cry
- Get broken – time to change
- Laughter to seriousness

3. Joy in Heaven

Luke 2:13-14

- When Jesus was born

Luke 15:7

- Joy when a sinner repents
- More rejoicing in heaven

Rev 14:2-3

- When we get to heaven
- Sing together

Rev 19:6

- Fired up in heaven
- “God almighty reigns”
-

WHAT IS THE SABBATH?

What is Sabbath? Sabbath is the time period (generally considered as a day) where God wanted people to keep it holy by not doing any work (**Exo. 20:8**)

Do you know when is the Sabbath day? It is on the 7th day, which is Saturday. (**Exo. 16:26**)

If we don't follow are we disobeying God? No.

How can we say that?

1. According to the Bible in the New Testament period no special days are encouraged.

Col 2:16,17. (Further Reading. Rom. 14:5,6; Gal 4:8-11; Heb 4:9)

2. Moreover according to the Bible there is not only Sabbath day but also Sabbath year.

Lev. 25:1-7. Imagine what will happen if every seventh year people stop working! Is that practical now?

3. We are not under the Law of Moses. **Galatians 3:19, 24-25.**

4. If we look Jesus' life, the Pharisees condemned him of not keeping the Sabbath. **John 9:16.** (Further reading. Jn. 5:10-18; Lk 13:14, Mk 2:27)

Are we better than Jesus is by saying we want to keep the Sabbath?

Do you know any other law for example we are not really following it? Yes.

One such example is the food, if we read through the book of exodus there are lots of food items we are not supposed to eat.

But in **Rom. 14:20** the Bible says all food is clean.

Why do we meet on Sunday and not on Saturday?

Do we consider Sunday a special day for God?

Not exactly, Bible doesn't encourage any day to be a meeting day or a special day.

Sunday is a holiday where people are free from their jobs so we take that day for gathering. In some countries, church meets on Fridays or Saturdays.

That doesn't mean we consider the day special. We make use of the opportunity.

Do you know what day the first Century Christians met?

The first day of the week, on Sunday, **Acts 20:7.**

Also Jesus resurrected on that day! **Luke 24:1.**

HOLINESS

Matt 5

Ps 73:1

Heb 12:14-29

Rom 6:1-23

1 Pet 13:25

Rom 12:1-2

Lev 20:7-8:

Matt 23:27-28:

Rom 13:12-14

WHO ARE FALSE PROPHETS?

Eph 2:19 FOUNDATION of the church is Bible, the sound Doctrine.
Assisting Christians to become rooted in consistent, productive personal Bible study is one of the top priority for a successful Christian Life.

Matt. 24:4-5 Jesus predicts “Many will come and deceive people, claiming themselves to be Jesus” and in vs. 22-25, false Christ and false prophets will appear perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect. Jesus warns us to be watchful and not to be deceived.
Gospels and Epistles clearly says about the coming of false teachers and false prophets.

Matt. 7:15 Jesus wants us to be watchful and identify false prophets.
2 John 7 says, “Any one who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ came in flesh is the deceiver and Anti-Christ”
2 Peter 2:1 says, “They secretly introduce destructive teachings even denying the Lord and bring the truth in dispute”
Today in our generation, we see countless numbers of Churches owned by individuals known on their names which is against God’s word (Col. 1:18)

Crowds gets attracted to them through their so called miracles.
Jesus came to this world to seek and save the lost and to destroy the works of the Satan (I John 3:8) He wants every Christian to do the same and to stay away from sinful nature.

Rev. 16:13-14 says False prophets are the spirit of Demons performing miracles and signs and wonders.
Jude 4,17-19 says, they are godless men who change the grace of our Lord into a licence for immorality and deny Jesus the Lord.
I Timothy 1:13-20 says, some have shipwrecked their faith and such people are handed over to Satan.
2 Peter 2:12-13 says, these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct born only to be caught and destroyed, they too will be perished like beasts.
Duet. 13 describes we should not listen to such false prophets and dreamers. V5. Says that such prophets or dreamer must be put to death because he preached rebellion against the Lord.
2 John 3:11 tells us, “we should not even welcome such people to our houses because if we welcome them we too share in their wickedness”
I Timothy 4:15 cautions “Watch your life and doctrine closely, persevere with them because, if you do you will save both yourself and your hearts.
2 Thes. 2:15 encourages “Stand firm and hold to the teachings, we passed on to you.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS: - Read Deut 13:1-18; Jeremiah 23.

WHY PEOPLE FALL AWAY

Today lets look into few details why people want to leave the Church or Fall Away. What are the reasons you think people want to leave the Church. Let's see few reasons from the Bible.

Matthew 6: 19-24:-

Some people want to fall away because they want to earn lot of money. They want to go abroad and want to take care of their family, enjoy worldly life. Want to please their boss by working over time and missing meetings expecting to get higher salary or higher post.

Did you ever feel like going behind money – why – what made you think this way (share yourself).

Bible says, we cannot serve both God and money.

Money is so bad; it will make you a slave if you run behind it.

Even Judas betrayed Jesus and lost his Salvation just because of money

(Matt 26:14-16 & Luke 22:16)

Matthew 7: 1-5:-

Some people want to fall away because they look at others sins and judge them.

No one is perfect in our church but they want to change and imitate Christ.

When someone does something wrong or when they are hurt, instead of speaking to the person, they keep it to themselves or talk to others and slander. This is sin.

Do you have any feelings or attitudes towards anyone?

Did you speak about it? If not, why not?

We got to clear our hearts before we try to see others mistakes.

This is why the bible says in **Matt 5:23-24**, we need to get our hearts right with each other even before we pray.

Is there anything else that is bothering you, which you have not been open about?

Ask questions about specific weaknesses.

How are you feeling now?

I believe you can change and do great for God.

THE HEART

Prov 4:23

Prov 16:2

Matt 15:18-20

Lk 6:43-45

Heb 3:12-13

1 Cor 4:1-5

Jas 4:1-3

Pr 28:14

Jer 17:9-10

Jer 20:12

DAILY DUTY

Ministry is doing daily

1. Evangelism

Exodus 16:4

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

Everyday they went out to collect manna
Everyday we need to look for fruit
Everyday focus on visitors and studies
Not only in the end of the month

2. Teaching the Bible

Nehemiah 8:18

Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

Everyday Ezra read out the word of the Lord to the people.
In the assembly he made everyone listen to the words.
We need to teach the Bible everyday to the studies
And do our follow up studies with disciples.
From beginning to end we need to keep teaching

3. Daily Challenges

Psalms 61: 8

Then will I ever sing praise to your name and fulfill my vows day after day.

Everyday we need to keep our vows – our goals or challenges for the day or for the month
May be sacrificing something – or doing something special

4. Daily Prayer

Psalms 88:9

my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, O LORD, every day; I spread out my hands to you.

Everyday we need to pray as a disciple

Prayer moves the ministry – not hard work
Let God give you the answers
You will feel tired / critical / overwhelmed on your own
You cannot give more because you are only doing to please someone.

D. Time Lessons

5. Daily Discipling

Proverbs 8:34

Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.

You are blessed if you are watchful over your ministry everyday

Keep an eye on disciples see if they are progressing

You initiate and spend time with them – or pray with them

See their friends in the church are they going with strong disciples or weak disciples.

Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

We have to carry our personal burdens and still care for others.

Only a spiritual disciple will care for others burdens.

Your ministry is the size of your burden.

If you take care of it well God will entrust you with more.

You have to make the ministry GROW.

6. Daily Encouragements

Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Disciples need encouragement

Leaders have leaders meeting / Zone meeting – leaders retreat so we are very encouraged.

Need to keep your eye on disciples needs.

Picnic / Fun time / Tea or Coffee – Or a time to relax

The disciples don't have faith because they are not encouraged to see there will be good times.

Inspire people not beat them

Lift them up – Make them feel like a team

**LOVING
CORRECTION**

Pr 13:1

Pr 13:13

Pr 12:1

Pr 5:7-14

Pr 15:5

Pr 15:10

Pr 15:12

Pr 15:31-32

Pr 10:17

Pr 6:23.

OBEDIENCE AND REBELLION

Lets learn from Jesus' character how He was obedient and to what extent He never retaliated.

Philippians 2:8

To see Jesus character, he was always a mark of humility because he always obeyed his Father in heaven, even to the extent of dying on the cross.

When we look at Jesus, he was totally surrendered towards the purpose he had come into this world for. It was very challenging for Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:35-36)

But through prayer he was able to go through the time of temptation.

Obedience is an act of faith. It depends on how much you believe in the person whom you have to obey.

How do you feel or react when challenged?

Are you tempted not to obey? (why)

Do you reason others for your obedience? (if yes, why)

Disobedience is a sin. Many times we are tempted to be rebellious in different areas especially when we are sick or hospitalised or challenged.

How are you?

Challenge them to be humble and submissive towards the authority and leadership.

Are you subject to the authority, church, leadership, job-boss, schoolteacher etc?

Isaiah 15:22 says, it is better to obey than to sacrifice.

Not obeying is being rebellious.

Genesis 3:1-24 (read)

We are all born with Adams nature of being disobedient which lead him to a big fall. He was banished from the Garden of Eden (Gen.3: 23).

Many times we are not obedient in many areas we are given advice but we do our own, we bluntly disobey.

Do you sympathize with yourself when challenged to obey?

How do you feel when you are told that you are rebellious?

Would you accept challenge / walk off / argue back?

Conclusion: - God wants us to have obedient nature.

Philippians 2:5, Hebrews 12:1-2.

Let us learn to imitate Jesus humility and obedience. When we obey, God is with us and helps us to be successful.

E.g.: - When Moses obeyed God to lead the Israelites out of bondage, God helped him to be successful.

Let's be obedient and not rebellious.

LUKEWARMNESS

We were hot, fired-up, full of zeal while we became a disciple.

As we live in this cold world we tend to loose our fire.

That's why Paul writes, "Do not put out the spirit's fire"- **I Thess 5:19.**

In **Rev 3: 16** God categories the spirituality into three category -Hot, Lukewarm, Cold.

Anybody who is not hot is Lukewarm or Cold. How are you today?

In the scale of 1 – 10 where will you be?

50 signs of being Lukewarm

1. In the ministry:

1. Coming late to the meetings.
2. Leaving early as soon as meeting gets over- not enjoying the fellowship.
Acts 2:42
3. Not singing loud. **Ps 33:3**
4. Not carrying the Bible, contact book, and invitation card always. **Acts 8:4**
5. Not evangelizing & not bringing visitors. **Philemon 6**
6. Not keeping in touch daily-coming for only 3 meetings a week **Acts 2:46**
7. Not taking notes. **Rev 21:5**
8. Having no responsibility in the family group- not asking for responsibility. Taking responsibility as burden rather as a privilege.
9. Not sharing about what we learnt from the messages.
10. Missing the DP-time. **Pro 29:17**
11. Not preparing our hearts/minds before DP time / message **I Pet 1: 13**
12. Bearing less fruit (No fruit means cold) **John 15: 2**
13. When somebody has to remind you about giving contribution. Not giving contribution **Mal 3: 8 – 11**
14. When somebody has to tell you to follow-up on missing Christian in the same day. **Matt 18: 12**
15. Always sitting at the back row.

2. In Personality and Character:

16. Getting up late. **Pro 6 : 9**
17. Postponing the prayer time to evening **Matt 1: 35, Ps 5:3**
18. Not shaving, not ironing, not taking care of nails, - A man's shoe talks something about their character. **I Cor 6: 20**
19. Going late to Job. – Not working hard but hardly working **Pro 22:29**
20. Not smiling at People.
21. Giving lukewarm hugs **Luke 15:20**
22. Not being keen in listening **James 1: 19**
23. Afraid to make mistakes (Not the same mistakes but the new ones)
24. Feeling shy. Not being bold. **Pro 28:1**
25. Postponing responsibilities tomorrow while you can finish it today **Jer 48:10**
26. Not confessing sin on the same day.
Being deceitful in confessing **Pro 28:13**

GOD `S WORD

Isa 40:8:

1 Pet 2:2

Col 3:16

Deut 6:6–9

Isa 55:11

Jas 1:22–25

Matt 7:21–23

Jn 8:31–32

Heb 4:12–13

Pr 30:5–6

D.Time Lessons

27. Not challenging sins in others life **Matt 18:15**
28. Saying, "I forgive you" but not forgetting. **Matt 18:35**
29. When "yes" becomes "Yes... but..." and the "No" becomes "No... but..." **Matt 5:37**
30. Saying "I'll try" rather "I will do"
31. Being a boring person – not excited and enthusiastic.
32. Getting the same challenge again and again
- taking long time to repent
33. Missing opportunity **Eph 5:16**
34. No dream, no goal, no vision, no ambition.
35. If you don't know your strength and weakness
36. Not self motivated, not initiating, not getting involved in others life
(Mr. Lukewarm does not like Mr. Self motivation)
37. Many words but less deeds.
38. Giving excuse **Luke 14:18**
39. Not encouraging when others do well **Heb:3: 13**
40. Not using your talents for Kingdom of God. **Luke 19:20- 24**
41. Not taking advise **Pro 12: 15** and **20:18**
42. Not growing up in leadership **I Tim 4:15**
43. Less friendship in church – **Ecc : 9 : 9-12**
44. Walking up and down during the message is preached (Finish going to toilet and drinking water before the meeting)
45. Just maintaining -Not being creative.

3. In Marriage:

46. Compromising sin in each other life. **Acts 5:1-11**
47. Uninspiring family time.
48. Less time for children – not rising up godly kids. **Luke 2:40**
49. Not keeping the house clean. **Deut 23:14**
50. When your marriage style does not inspiring visitors to become disciple. **I Tim 3:5**

Caution: Your zeal / fire in one character is not an excuse for being lukewarm in another character.

Jesus is hard-line with sin but He showed mercy to the woman who was caught in adultery.

Character of being hard line is not the excuse for being lukewarm in showing mercy.

Going for pick-up is not the excuse for coming late for church.

Conclusion:

Let us be fired-up, radical, jealous, excellent, forceful, first class, prophetic, revolutionary, dangerous, adventurous, great, wonderful and awesome.

HAVE YOUR OWN CONVICTION

What is conviction? The state of mind of a person who is convinced that he / she believes or says is true. It is a strong belief or opinion.

Do you think Jesus had his own convictions? .Yes, he did. Do you think Paul had his own convictions? He did. He was an outstanding disciple with lot of deep convictions. Why do you think Paul had his own convictions?

That's because he deeply understood Gods plan & expectation for his life.

Is it important to have your own convictions?

A person with his own convictions is like a wise man that built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the stream rose & the wind blew & beat against that house it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **(Matt 7: 24-26)**

Where do your think our conviction need to come from? From the word of God.

Today, as a disciple what are some of your deep convictions?

Lets look into the bible and add convictions to lead a great Christian life

Convictions about purity.

Thess 4: 3-89 God had called us to live a holy life

Convictions about keeping our ministries & homes clean:

Matt 8: 8 the disciples cleared the place before they left

Convictions about keeping up our word (in time for appointments) Matt 5: 37

Convictions about fasting (Matt 4:2 Jesus fasted)

Matt 6:17 - when we fast sincerely, blessings are for sure.

Convictions against criticism 2 Cor 8: 20-21 Luke 8: 49-53

Convictions to face persecutions

Matt 5: 10 blessed are your when your are persecuted

2 Tim 2:12 it is a promise.

Convictions about unity

Psa: 133:1 It is good & pleasant to be united **Col 3: 12-14** perfect unity binds everything together.

Convictions about job I Thes 4:11 Find a job if you don't have one

Convictions to preach boldly Acts 4:29 speak with boldness.

Convictions to say amen Duet 27: 10-26 it is godly to say amen

Pray & decide to make from your heart from now on these are going to be your own convictions.

FALSE PROPHETS

Jer 6:13-20

Lam 2:14

Prov 6:16-19

Ezek 13:1-19

Matt 7:15-23

Matt 24:4-35

Gal 1:6-9

2 Thess 2:1-12

2 Tim 4:1-5

2 Tim 6:3-5

LEARN TO TEACH OTHERS

Every disciple is commanded to teach others.

Matthew 28:19 Colossians 3:16

But to teach others, we need to learn what and how to teach.

For that we need to have a teachable and a humble heart. How can we learn?

If we ourselves don't learn and change, how can we teach others?

1. Learn from God and his Word

Psalm 25:12

Psalm 71:17

Isaiah 28:26

What do you learn from these scriptures?

God himself will teach us and instruct us if we have a heart that fears him.

How do you know if you fear him or not?

If you fear him you'll do everything for him.

His word will not allow you to fall into the same sin again and again.

You'll respond to his words. We should pray for wisdom **James 1:5**.

It was God who gave wisdom to Solomon **1 Kings 4:29**. Who is wise?

He who wins souls **Proverbs 11:30**. But it is not an easy job.

How can you become wise? **Psalm 111:10** When you fear God, not men.

How is your personal Bible Study?

What are some personal convictions you've gained from your Bible study?

Ezekiel 22:28

If you are not teaching from his word, then you can mislead them.

Be in his word deeply. Write down what you've learned from your Bible Study everyday.

2. Learn from your teachers.

We should take every opportunity to learn from our teachers.

Take a lot of advice. Ask a lot of questions. Have a teachable heart like

(a) Disciples - **Luke 11:1**

(b) The Ethiopian Eunuch - **Acts 8:31**

Your discipler may be very busy. Initiate to be with them.

Watch how they teach others.

Be open about your weaknesses so that you'll learn to overcome them and change.

Don't be afraid of challenges.

This year I learned the most because I made a lot of mistakes and got challenged a lot. Initially I took it as a personal attack and didn't know how to change.

But being open about those feelings helped me to take the challenges in the right way. Now I look at them as stepping stones to grow.

Learn from others: How do you feel when someone you disciple challenges you?

Actually, we can learn even from non-disciples. This takes humility.

This week ask your disciples what you need to change in.

Conclusion: Lets have hearts that are humble and eager to learn so we can better teach others.

COMMITMENT IS COMPULSORY

What do you understand by the word commitment?

It means being devoted or giving 100% of yourself to a cause. E.g. Gandhiji was committed to get India freedom; Mother Theresa was committed to help lepers; Jesus was committed to save the world.

As disciple of Jesus you need to be committed.

1 Kings 8:61 Does God want 50% commitment or commitment according to our feelings. No. He wants us to fully be committed to the Bible 100%

How do you feel you are doing in this area?

How does God feel when we are not committed?

Psalms 37:5-6 Do you feel encouraged by this scripture when you are committed it says that God will make you shine like the noonday sun.

When is the sun bright? – at noon. At that time is shining the most.

God blesses us so much if we decide to be committed that it will be hard not to get noticed.

Imagine if you are committed to being fruitful every month; you will evangelise daily, you will do your follow-up sincerely- so you will get fruitful.

Not just once you can get fruitful 10 or 12 times if you continue to remain committed till the end of the year.

Lets look into some of the areas that we need to commit ourselves as Christians

The Christians were committed

Acts 2:42-47

The Apostles' Teaching (The Bible): Have you been reading your Bible daily. What are you reading now? What are you learning from what you read?

Are you putting it into practice in your life?

Fellowship: How has your fellowship been?

How many close friends do you have in your Bible talk, sector, the church.

Do you make time to spend with Christians? Do you come early to the meetings and to church to fellowship with others?

Do you know to be friendly to others and always be willing to help like in childcare, ushering etc.

If you are doing it good- grow more in this area, if not you must decide today to change. You can do better.

There is a sister named Shanti in the Munirka Sector in Delhi who has a health problem she has a hole in the heart which causes her to get breathless and tired easily. She has two kids and an un-believing husband who persecutes her every day. He has beaten her every time she came back from the meetings. Neighbours too take advantage of their conflict and nag her all the time but Shanti loves God. She bears everything quietly and yet does not compromise in her commitment of being a good Christian. She evangelizes, pays her contribution, is joyful in fellowship and willing to help out other Christians by praying with them and she brings visitors to church.

EVANGELISM

Lk 19:1-10

Matt 28:18-20

Lk 5:1-11

Rom 12:11

Jn 15:1-17

Act 16:13-15

Rom 15:20

I Cor 9:16-27

Lk 10:1-24

Acts 5:20-21

Gal 6:9

D.Time Lessons

Breaking of bread: How are you doing in the area of coming to Sunday service? Are you regular?

Has it become a habit to miss meetings or to come late to church?

What about mid-week meetings are you in a hurry to leave?

Do you take communion in a reverent manner?

Do you call disciples over to your house for a meal just to make them feel special? We got to invite disciples over and also go to others houses in order to make friends.

Let's decide to commit ourselves in this area.

Prayer: How has your prayer been? Are you taking help?

Are you helping others to pray? Prayer builds our faith and when we are faithful we will be fired up always.

We see in this scripture that since the disciple were committed to each other and to God. God blessed them tremendously.

They had large number of baptisms. Just decide to be committed.

It is not difficult we must not let our selfishness and sinful nature stop God from blessing the church and us.

If you decide to change I am sure God will use you and make you shine like the noonday sun.

I love you and I want you to know I am always there to help you to grow in your commitment. Amen.

Practical Challenge:

Pray every Day to be committed to Jesus 100% not 50% or 90%.

HOSPITALITY IN THE MINISTRY

When Jesus finally bent down to wash the feet of his disciples, he was definitely extreme in expressing his love, his hospitality to his guests-his disciples.

Lets look in our own hearts if we are imitating our saviour in the area of being hospitable in our ministries, our homes today.

Rom 12:13 Share with God's people who are in need. PRACTICE Hospitality.

Acts 20:35 It is more blessed to give than to receive

Acts 2:46 They broke bread in their homes and ate with glad and sincere hearts
What does hospitality mean?

Simply sharing your hearts and your home to others – to be willing and eager to spend time, energy and money to meet the needs of the needy.

Think about all the times people have been hospitable to you:

What impact did it have on you?

Are you having an impact on people's lives today because of your hospitality?

GOD BLESSES HOSPITALITY

The home, our ministries is a means through which God could bless his people.

After Abraham's hospitality towards his three visitors he was promised a son.

He became FRUITFUL! (Gen 18:3-8) Rebekah invited Abraham's servant into her home and got a HUSBAND! (Gen 24:46) The widow of Zarephath provided housing for Elijah and survived a famine. No financial struggle! (1Kg 17:7-24)

Today are we imitating the lives of these MEN and WOMEN of God?

Are you inviting blessings in disguise – let's decided to invite people over?

ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOSPITALITY

UNCONDITIONAL : **Luke 14:13** Do you open your homes only to your types?
Do you give warm hugs and stand up to greet only those like you or above you or you feel naturally comfortable with? Jesus condemns this action.

UNSELFISH: **Luke 14:14** Jesus idea of hospitality is not simply entertain, or impress but to give. Do you **give** in the area they are weak in? If the need is encouragement **give** it all, if its family spirit **show** them your family your kids.
If it's teaching, **give** them the Word of God. Be compassionate.

JOYFUL : **1 Peter 4:9** Will our guest (visitors) sense our joy and thankfulness that they have come to visit us or do they sense tension anxiety and muttering in the back?

PREPARED : **John 14: 2** Jesus say here he would go and prepare a place for us in his Father's house.

What are the plans and efforts involved in being hospitable?

Do you wait till the last moment to prepare for your guests? We need to be caring.

God's kingdom must advance and we as 20th century disciples will have a great hand in that advancement as we obey the command to be hospitable.

Let's decide to be hospitable and make our ministries like a big happy family.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Heb 3:13

Heb 10:24

Rev 22:12-14

1 Thess 4:13-18

Titus 2:15

Eph 4:29

Acts 14:21-22

1 Thess 5:11-14

BECOMING FRUITFUL

Hosea 14:8

"I am like a green pine tree; your fruitfulness comes from me."

Today we're going to talk about becoming fruitful. When was the last time you were fruitful? How many times have you been fruitful this year?

{Encourage them to be fruitful and if they have been fruitful, encourage them to be even more fruitful.}

When we see a fruit tree we never see it with just one fruit. The whole tree is covered with fruit clusters. We too need to bear fruit in clusters. Bear fruit abundantly.

1. Remain in the Vine

John 15:1-8

There is no secret to bearing fruit. Jesus clearly tells us how to bear fruit.

We don't need to have any qualifications; we don't need to be rich; we don't need to be sophisticated; we don't need to be beautiful.

We just need to remain in Jesus.

How are your prayers? Do you feel sleepy and bored? Are you passionate? Do you express yourself? Are you open with God? Do you confess your sins? Do you cast your anxieties on him? Your prayers need to be powerful. You need to connect with God and pour your heart out to him. Our prayers need to be full of praise and thanksgiving.

How is your Bible study? Are you growing in your knowledge of God? Do you memorize scriptures? Do you use the word to resist Satan? Our Bible study needs to be deep and refreshing.

How is your purity? The Bible says sin separates us from God. We need to be righteous. God calls us to seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness and ALL these things will be given to us (Matthew 6:33). Let us seek to be pure so we can see the face of God (Matthew 5:8).

We need to remain in God. He promises that if we remain in him, we will bear much fruit. On the other hand if we do not bear fruit, he will cut us off. We need to bear fruit so that we can remain in the vine.

2. Life that will Shine

Philippians 2:12-16

Our lives should be good examples. Jesus is our example; thus we should be like him. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

We too should be consumed in our purpose of seeking and saving the lost.

How is your evangelism? We aren't being like Jesus if we are not evangelising. Our lives are not good examples if we are not being like Jesus. You should never have a day when you haven't spent time with the lost.

D. Time Lessons

How is your follow up? If you aren't following up, your chances of becoming fruitful are very low. Jesus followed up (John 5:14).
When we follow up, people feel obligated to come.

Are you holding out the word of life? Do you study the Bible with people?
If you don't know how to teach others, take advice and learn.
You can also sit in on a study with someone who can do it well and learn.
The word of God is the most powerful tool. It can change anyone.
Teach your friends; they will change.
All this is hard work but there are no shortcuts to achieving a life that will shine.

3. Surrender, you'll be fine **John 12:24-26**

We need to surrender our whole hearts and our whole lives to God.
Then we'll see God using us in a tremendous way. Unless a kernel falls and dies, it doesn't produce a seed. We too need to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily in order to bear much fruit.

Do you have faith that you can be fruitful?
Maybe you haven't had fruit that lasted or remained faithful.
The Bible teaches in **Hebrews 11:6** that it is impossible to please God without faith. All things are possible with God. You must believe.
God will bless you. Surrender to God; beg him for fruit the way Hannah begged for a child. Have faith.

Do you believe that your city or neighbourhood is open? Persevere.
God has put you there because there is someone searching for him.
God wants to work through you.

What radical things have you done to bear fruit? Have you fasted, prayed with your arms raised up, prayed on your knees, invited 1000 people in one week?
We all need to do radical things to keep the Spirit on fire.
I appreciate my husband Moses, who fasted more days than ever before.
A young intern, Himanshu, fasted for 7 days. Oommen also fasted for 7 days.
You too can do radical things like this.

The most radical thing I ever did was to come to India in April 1995.
I left my family, home, career, car, money, boyfriend, everything.
I decided to surrender 100% to God. I didn't know Hindi; didn't have friends or family here. I just had God. Since then God has blessed me with 32 personal fruits in Delhi, Lucknow, GC1 and GC2.

Our God is an awesome God.
You can bear fruit by remaining in the vine, letting your light shine as you surrender and you'll be just fine.

CHOSEN

SET APART

Judges 6:11-16

Jn 15:19

Jn 15:14-17

1 Pet 2:9-10

Jer 1:4-8

Matt 13:11-17

Eph 1:11-14

Eph 2:10

Col 3:12

Acts 9:15-16.

RADICAL EDGE

How are you? How was your day? Today we are going to see what it means to be "Radical". Many times as a disciple we have heard this "do radical things". But what do you mean by "Radical". According to the dictionary, Radical means - advocating thorough reform; holding extreme political views, revolutionary. Our leader and Saviour Jesus was a revolutionary - a radical man. So we can learn from him what it means to be radical or to do radical things. To do radical things, we need to be a

1. Prayer Warrior: Mark 1:35

We have heard this scripture many times or even read it many times as a disciple. We will be hearing it for the rest of our lives also.

Here Jesus got up very early in the morning before it was dawn, to pray.

Anyone who loves sleep can't change the world.

Got to be willing to get up early and pray. How is your prayer life today?

Is it life changing and moving God's heart?

When was the last time you did something radical in your prayer?

Like getting up 4. 00am and praying or praying 2/3 times a day.

The Bible is full of examples of radical prayers.

Joshua 10:12-14 - God listened to his prayer.

Joshua was not doubting in his heart when he prayed for the sun to stand still and that is a radical prayer.

Are you asking God for impossible things, in order to see God's power?

Many times we are scared to pray such prayers because of our lack of faith.

God is the same, he has not become powerless now, and he still can do those things today.

In **1 Kings 18:36-38** Elijah prayed for fire to come down. He was confident that God would answer him and he could show the people who the real God is.

Today are you fighting for God or against God? Are you relying on God on a daily basis? We need to have specific prayers. Today you can decide to do something radical in your prayer.

I prayed to become fruitful. I have been asked to take bed rest because of my pregnancy. So I don't go out much and I have not invited many people. One day I had gone out to get some things and on the road I prayed "God I have come out and I can't go back without inviting at least one person, so please show me an open person". I invited one girl who was with her sister and this was Saturday evening. I called her up on the same night and the whole family (Father, mother, two sisters) came to church the next morning (Sunday). They have been coming to Church since and the daughter got baptised and the other daughter is also studying the Bible.

2. Risk Taker: Mark 1:21-28

Jesus was a risk taker and he did many radical things.

People were amazed at his teaching and his authority and his life.

D. Time Lessons

Because of this news about Jesus spread all over Galilee.

We got to decide to be a risk taker otherwise we will not do anything radical.

All through the Bible we see so many radical things been done by the prophets and the apostles.

Whenever you decide something you got to do it immediately. When you think and analyse the situation you get paralyzed.

I remember during the "Invite a million" month, I decided to preach in the bus and I got into the bus. Then I looked at the people and started thinking "There are few men also, so should I preach, moreover all the women are old and middle aged, is it worth saying anything to them". So that day I didn't preach at all in any bus. If we start analyzing the situation we get paralyzed, so just take the risk and do it. The next time I decided to go to the college and preached to the group of students. When I went to the college and so the big groups, I was scared but then I decided "no, I'm going to just do it, if they throw me out that's fine". So I preached to many groups that day.

When was the last time, you did something radical?

How do you feel when you decide to be radical?

Be open about your feelings and get help (When open about fears, encourage them). So make a decision today to do something radical for God.

Jesus was known to be a radical man.

We got to keep doing radical things so that our spiritual fire keeps burning.

Then we will always be fired up and be on the radical edge.

CONVICTION

Dan 1:8-20

Acts 5:27-32

Heb 11:24-27

Matt 10:28

Mark 11:15-17

Lk 13:31-33

Acts 4:18-20

Dan 6:1-23

Mk 3:31-35

Neh 6:1-16

STANDING THROUGH PERSECUTION

1. Persecution: Will It Come To Me?

2 Tim.3: 12 Persecution is the natural result of following Jesus.

Jn.15: 20 In fact Jesus promised that if you follow him you will be persecuted the way he was persecuted.

1Pt 4:12 The bible teaches that you should not feel surprised when you face persecution.

How do you feel about persecution?

Let's discuss why we often don't like to face persecution.

What are some things you are afraid of?

What is the worst form of persecution you are willing to face for Jesus?

What do you think is the worst type of persecution any Christian might have to face for their faith?

Let's have a look at the kind of persecution disciples in the first century faced.

Read: **Acts 9:1-2, 1Cor 11:23-29, Heb 11:35-38**. How do our persecution compare to what the early Christians went through?

Have you ever been flogged or been imprisoned for your faith like Paul was?

Have you ever been stoned or wandered in caves?

2. Sources Of Persecution

Mk 3:20-21, 31-35 – Family. Jesus had to face his family, we will too!

Family members may not always agree with your commitment to God. Why not? Why should we not compromise?

Mk 6:1-6, Lk 4:23-30 – Relatives and old friends or peers in our work place. Especially when you go to visit your "home town".

Let's discuss the reaction of your old friends after you became a Christian.

Why did they react this way?

Mk 14:53-65 – Religious leaders, your old church etc. ... Why are religious leaders threatened by the commitment and conviction of true disciples?

Mk 13:9-11 – Governing authorities

Mk 14:43 – Fallen away Christians

3. Dealing With Persecution

1 Pt 4:7; 5:8-11, Phil 4:6 – Pray for strength.

Decide to be firm in your faith. The suffering is going to be only for a little while.

D. Time Lessons

Acts 4:29 – You can not take away the persecution but you can ask God to make you bold enough to face it. Don't try to change the situation, rather change yourself to meet any challenge!

1 Pt 4:12-19, Mat 5:10-12 – Trust in God and keep doing good.
Focus on making disciples. Don't get inward focused.
Remember that you are blessed. Rejoice and leap for joy!
Focus on the positive things in life.

Mk 10:30 – Hang on to the promise of God.
You will be blessed 100 times what you give up or go through for God.

Acts 14:21-22, Heb 10:35-39 – **PREACH THE WORD!** Don't hold back.

Remember: if persecution stops, it will only be because we have stopped preaching the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN

Pro 22:6

Eph 6: 1-4

Deut 6:4-7

Pro 23:13-14

Pro 9: 17

Pro 13:24

Pro 13:22

Psalms 78:1-8

Col 3:20-21

ABIDING WITH GOVERNMENT LAWS

Introduction: Today we are going to look into the Bible and see what the bible says about following the laws of our land. Our country is full of laws. Some are very good for us yet some are burdensome.

CONVICTIONS ABOUT THE LAW

Rom 13:1-7 The Bible expects us to submit to the ruling government authorities. No government can come to power unless God allows them to (Jn19: 11). So if we rebel against the government then we are rebelling against God (vs. 2).

1 Pt.2: 13-14 Respect the government and the ministers who rule.

Tit 3:1 Obey the laws.

1Tim 2:1-2 Pray for the rulers and authorities.

Mat 17:24-27 Jesus too paid his tax even though he was the Son of God!

What are some the laws we encounter on a daily basis? – Traffic rules like wearing helmet, not crossing the red light, having all your vehicle papers up to date, having a proper driving license etc. ... Registering your marriage, paying your taxes on time etc.

What laws do you find difficult? Right now where are you defaulting?

GOD IS THE PRIORITY

We have to submit to the authorities but if the government causes us to denounce our faith then what do we do? What is our priority?

Where do we draw the line? The book of Acts deals repeatedly with the issue of the church's relationship with the government.

Acts 4:18-20 Peter & John disobey government requests not to preach about Jesus.

5:17-26 An angel intervenes and helps the apostles to escape from the prison.

5:27-32 Peter and the apostles refuse to obey the Sanhedrin and insist on preaching

17:1-9 Jason, Paul and Silas preach and were arrested.

Bad characters are hired to make them look bad (vs 5).

The situation is intense. Upon receiving bail they were released (vs. 9).

They then skipped town!

In conclusion: Only when your faith is attacked by the government should you not compromise. In such a situation God is the priority.

We should always make every effort to be above any fault and fully abide by the law.

GETTING UP WHEN YOU STUMBLE

James 3:2 We all stumble in many ways.

Prov 4:19 Sometimes we don't even know what makes us stumble.
Let's look at a few ways we stumble and how we can overcome.

1Cor 10:13 First of all we must understand that God will never put us in a situation beyond what we can endure. God will also provide a way out.

1Pt 2:7-8 We stumble when we disobey God's word.
What are some areas you have not really followed the Bible?
How does that make you feel? What can you do practically to change this?

Ezek 7:19 Wealth and the love of money could cause us to stumble and fall into many kinds of sins. What do you think, do you love money a lot?
What are some sins people struggle with because of money?
Is it wrong to make money? – No. Then what is wrong?
Let's look at **1Tim 6:6-10, 17-19**. What does this passage teach?
Let's make a decision to never chase after making more money than is needed, rather to be content with whatever God has given us. AMEN?

Hos 14:9 When we are not righteous we stumble. What does it mean to be righteous? The word 'righteous' comes from the Hebrew language.
In the Bible to be righteous meant, "to be right in every relationship".
Every relationship demands you to behave in a certain way.
What are some relationships you have in your life? – You and your father/mother, or wife/husband, or teacher, or room mate, or classmate, or discipler, or boss, or friend etc. ... The most important relationship is our relationship with God.
Even though you are the same person you have to do different things in different relationships.
With your discipler you have to be open and obedient.
With your teacher you have to be committed to your studies.
With your spouse you have to be loving and helpful.
With your boss you have to be humble and follow his instructions.
With God you have to be devoted and prayerful all the time.

When we fall into immorality we are violating our relationship with that person.
When you lust you are being unrighteous, because that is the wrong thing to do in that relationship.
Smoking, lying, stealing ... every sin violates a relationship.
This makes God unhappy. How are you doing? Have you been righteous?
Do you have anything to confess at this time?

1Jn 2:9-11 What is the meaning of hate? – Intense dislike.
Who do you dislike the most? Hurt feelings and bad attitudes cause us to stumble. Is there anyone in the church you feel hurt towards? Have you forgiven them?
What is the right thing to do when we feel hurt? – Open up.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS AUTHORITY

1 Tim 2:1-2

Rom 13:1-7

Titus 3:1-2

1 Pet 2:13-20

Heb 13:7

Phil 2:14-16

Matt 22:15-22

Titus 2:15

Eph 6:5-7

Col 3:22-24.

D.Time Lessons

Talk about the feeling to that person.
And decide to forgive no matter what, because God forgave you.
If you don't resolve your feelings then it will grow inside you and make you bitter and negative. That is when we start walking around in darkness.
We loose the focus of our Christian life.

In conclusion: All of us stumble from time to time.
But what is more important? – Getting up after you stumble.
Do you repent quickly? Are you quick to confess and get right with God?
Are you quick to open up and resolve feelings and hurts?
Are you urgent in making radical decisions to change your life?

Prov 24:16 A righteous man may fall many times but will rise again.

Famous Quote: *"Whenever you fall, pick something up"*. - Oswald Avery