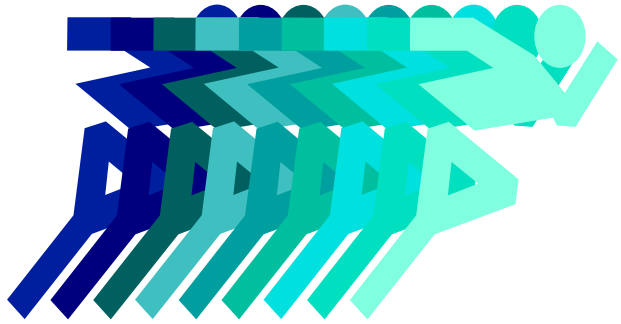


*Pressing
Toward
the Mark*



A Proven Strategy for Making Disciples

Volume 1

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Introduction

Welcome to *Pressing Toward the Mark*! This series is designed to help you gain a better understanding of the scriptures and develop essential Christian disciplines in your daily life. The foundation you build over the coming months will help prepare and equip you to fulfill your place in the Body of Christ!

When Jesus called us to go into all the world and make disciples, He understood that although Christians are born, disciples are made. The calling of the church is to help every believer grow to the full stature of Christ. In spite of this, many Christians live and die in the infancy of their faith.

Pressing Toward the Mark will stretch and challenge you in the areas of daily Bible reading, daily prayer, and scripture memorization. Weekly worksheets will guide you through topical studies of the scriptures, allowing the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. In each class, you will have an opportunity to share what you have learned from the Word during the previous week. Meetings will include accountability, facilitated discussion, and fellowship on an intimate basis among class members.

But this one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the mark to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 - The Apostle Paul

We look forward to *Pressing Toward the Mark* with you.

Note to Leaders

Pressing Toward the Mark is designed for use in discussion-styled small groups. The students should work through the lessons on their own during the week. The lessons are divided into short sections that can be worked daily in conjunction with the students' quiet time with the Lord. Students should also memorize the scriptures associated with each lesson.

The leader's guide contains suggested discussion questions. The goal of the discussion is not to re-teach the material, but to allow the students to share what they have learned from their scripture study. It is important to make sure that the discussion covers all the major points of the lesson. Also, be sure to address any questions the students may have on the topic. Avoid the temptation to teach; it is more important that each student has a chance to share than for them to fully grasp every doctrinal point.

Remember, the goal is not knowledge transfer, but life change. Challenge the students to put the truths of the scriptures into practice in their lives. Be sure to focus on personal application questions. Following the discussion of the lesson, split the group into small prayer groups of three to five students each. Encourage each student to share one prayer request, and ask each student to commit to pray daily for the other requests in his or her group. As God answers their prayer requests, the students will be encouraged and bonded together in the Spirit.

There is no greater joy than to see God's children walk in the truth. May you experience that joy in full measure as you invest in the spiritual growth of others through *Pressing Toward the Mark!*

Volume 1

Table of Contents

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Memory Verses</u>	<u>Page</u>
New Life in Christ	2 Cor 5:17, Eph 2:8-9	1
The Word	Josh 1:8, Isa 55:11	5
The Father Heart of God	Mt 7:11, Gal 4:6	10
Prayer	Mark 11:24, John 15:7	14
Growing Up Spiritually	Col 1:28, Phil 3:13-14	20
Walking in Love	John 13:35, 1 John 3:18	25
Joy	Ps 5:11, John 15:11	29
Water Baptism	Rom 6:4, Gal 2:20	34
Confession (Power of Words)	Prov 18:21, Isa 55:11	38
Virtue	Ps 51:10, Acts 24:16	42

New Life in Christ

SECTION 1

1. Read Gen 1:26-27. What distinguished man from all other things God created?

God walked and communed with Adam daily. Read Ps17:8 and John 3:16. Summarize them in your own words. _____

2. Use John 10:10 to contrast God's intent and purpose for man with that of Satan's.

3. Adam sinned and broke fellowship with God. How did this affect us, and what are the results? (Rom 5:12, 3:23, and 6:23) _____

4. God's plan for man's good and for fellowship with him seemed to be ruined by Adam's sin. How did God bring man back to Himself? (Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:22) _____

5. Jesus taught that we must be born again to enter into His kingdom (John 3:1-8). What must someone do to be saved? (Acts 16:30-31; Rom 10:9-10) _____

SECTION 2

6. Read Rom 10:1-13 and Gal 3:10-14. What is the main difference between living by the Old Testament law and living by what God has given us through Christ? _____

7. Many people believe you have to “clean up your act” before you can come to God. This is not true according to Rom 5:8. Complete the following verse from Eph 2:8-9. “For by _____ you have been saved through _____, and this is not your own doing; it is the _____, not a result of _____ so that no one may boast.”
8. Read the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). Have you ever felt “unworthy” to be God’s child? Relate an instance of this and how you dealt with it. _____

SECTION 3

9. Read 2 Cor 5:17 and Gal 2:20. Now that I am a Christian... (check all that apply)
- ___ a) I am saved from hell.
 - ___ b) I can live however I want to.
 - ___ c) I no longer live.
 - ___ d) I am a new creature and God lives in me.
10. Fill in the blanks from the following scriptures.
- I was _____ with Christ (Gal 2:20, Rom 6:6)
- I _____ with Christ (Rom 6:8, Col 2:20)
- I was _____ with Christ (Rom 6:4, Col 2:12)
- I was _____ with Christ (Eph 2:5, Col 2:13)
- I was _____ with Christ (Col 3:1, Eph 1:19-21)
- I am _____ with Christ (Eph 2:6)

Spiritually, at the moment of new birth, there is a transfer of kingdoms. We have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son (Col 1:13). From that point forward, legally, we are heirs together with Jesus. Everything Jesus did has been credited to our account by God. We are hid with Jesus in God (Col 3:3).

SECTION 4

11. As believers, we are new creations in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). God has also given us great and precious promises. (2 Peter 1:2-4). Why does God give these promises to His children?

12. Look up the following verses and list God’s promises to you.

- a. _____ Rom 10:9
- b. _____ Rom 8:1, 1 John 1:9
- c. _____ 2 Cor 5:21
- d. _____ Rom 6:11-14
- e. _____ 1 Cor 10:13
- f. _____ 1 Cor 2:9-10,16
- g. _____ John 14:12
- h. _____ Mark 16:17-18
- i. _____ Luke 10:19

13. Along with the blessings of sonship come the responsibilities of sonship. Read Matt 10:32-39 and Luke 14:25-33. Write out your commitment to sonship below.

Memory Verses

2 Cor 5:17

Eph 2:8-9

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. God's plan of salvation
2. Salvation by grace
3. A new creation
4. Promises and cost of sonship

Points to Bring Out

- Q 6. Have someone explain the difference.
- Q 8. Give opportunities for people to relate personal experiences.
- Q 10. Go around the room and take turns giving answers.
- Q 11. Discuss why we were given God's promises.
- Q 13. Ask a few volunteers to share their commitments.

Memory Verses

2 Cor 5:17

Eph 2:8-9

The Word

SECTION 1

1. Read John 1:1-3. In the beginning was _____
Read Heb 11:3. The universe was created by _____
Read Heb 1:3. Jesus upholds all things by _____

2. In view of #1 and Matt 24:35, which is more lasting and reliable?
___ a. heaven
___ b. earth
___ c. the Word

3. Read Ps119:105,133. What is God's number one way to give direction to His kids?

4. From the scriptures below, list eight things the Word does for believers:
 - a. Ps119:9, 11 _____
 - b. Ps119:50 _____
 - c. Prov 4:20-22 _____
 - d. Jer 15:16 _____
 - e. John 8:51 _____
 - f. John 15:2-3 _____
 - g. Eph 5:26 _____
 - h. James 1:21 _____

SECTION 2

5. Read Ps119:89. God's Word is _____. If men, who are fallible, wrote the Bible, how can we know it is true? (see 2 Tim 3:16) _____

- 6. According to 2 Tim 2:15, in order to be a worker who is unashamed, we need to rightly handle (or interpret) the _____. One way to insure your understanding is correct is to find two or three passages that deal with a specific subject, to get the overall scriptural meaning. This technique comes from the principle found in Deut 19:15 and 2 Cor 13:1, “by the evidence of two or three witnesses shall _____.”
- 7. Read Matt 4:1-11. How did Jesus respond to Satan? _____

Why did He respond this way? (see 2 Sam 22:31) _____

God’s Word is forever settled in heaven and earth and is a proven weapon to effectively combat the devil’s works. If Jesus used it, we should all the more.

SECTION 3

- 8. Read Ps 1:1-3. When should we meditate God’s Word? _____
With what results? _____
- 9. Read Joshua 1:8. Why is it important to meditate God’s Word daily? _____

With what results? _____
- 10. Read Luke 11:3, Matt 4:4 and 1 Peter 2:2. How often should we read the Bible? _____

- 11. Rom 12:2 says, “...be transformed by the _____.” As we feed on the Word, we systematically replace our thoughts with His thoughts (Isa 55:8), which results in our having the mind of the Lord (1 Cor 2:16).
- 12. According to Col 3:16, the Word should _____
Read John 15:7. We should abide in Him and His Word should _____

It is impossible to do anything lasting for God (fruit that remains) without a daily relationship with Him in the Word and prayer.

SECTION 4

Although God desires for all His kids to walk in His divine nature here and now (2 Peter 1:2-4), very few Christians actually fulfill this. It takes faith (Heb 11:6) and aggressiveness (Matt 11:12), and God’s Word is the key.

13. Read Heb 4:12 and Eph 6:17. The Word is our _____

Step 1 - Hear the Word

14. Read Luke 8:11. The Word is the _____

15. Read Rom 10:17. Hearing the Word brings _____

Step 2 - Add Faith

16. Read Heb 4:2. Why does the Word not benefit some? _____

17. Read Heb 11:6. Without faith, what is impossible? _____

Step 3 - Speak the Word

18. Read Prov 18:21. Our tongue has the tremendous power of _____ and _____.

19. Jesus’ words are _____ (John 6:63), when we speak them.

20. Read Matt 4:1-11. How did Jesus defeat Satan’s attacks?
- ___ a. Praying “The Lord rebuke you”
 - ___ b. Living a godly life
 - ___ c. Speaking the Word
 - ___ d. Saying “Hail Mary”

SECTION 5

Step 4 - Pray the Word

- 21. Read Isa 55:10-11. God’s Word does not return to Him _____.
- 22. According to 1 John 5:14-15, what happens when we pray God’s Word (His will)?

- 23. Read Isa 43:26. In this verse, God tells us that we should “contend” or wrestle (or “argue”) with Him in prayer by reminding Him of what He has said to us or what He has promised. Read Ex 32:9-14 and explain what happened when Moses reminded God of His Word in prayer. _____

- 24. God’s _____ obey the voice of the Word (Ps103:20).

Step 5 - Do the Word

- 25. Read Matt 7:24-27. What distinguished the one who was destroyed by the storms of life from the one who withstood them? _____
- 26. Read James 1:21-25. Hearing without doing causes us to _____
But if we do the Word, we are _____

Step 6 - Abide in the Word

- 27. Read Eph 5:26. Abiding in God’s Word _____ us.
- 28. Read John 15:7-11. List four results of abiding in God’s Word.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

Memory Verses

Josh 1:8

Isa 55:11

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. Characteristics of God's Word
2. The Authority of the Word
3. Meditating the Word
4. How to make the Word work for you
5. How to make the Word work for you (continued)

Points to Bring Out

- Q 3. God speaks to us through His Word; it is His Number One way to guide us.
- Q 4. Have each student list something the Word does for believers.
- Q 6. Discuss the authority of the Word.
- Q 10. Discuss importance of daily time in the Word.
- Q 20. The Word defeats Satan.
- Q 23. Discuss Moses reminding God of His Word.

Memory Verses

Josh 1:8

Isa 55:11

Father Heart of God

SECTION 1

1. Everything God created was _____ or _____ (Gen 1:1-31).
2. Why was it all good?
 - a. Read 1 John 1:5. God is _____; if it has to do with darkness, it is not God.
 - b. Read James 1:16-17. God brings forth _____ gifts; He does not _____ from good to bad depending on us.
3. Who tempts or tries us with evil desires (James 1:13-14)?
 - ___ a. God
 - ___ b. Satan
 - ___ c. our own desires
4. Read Matt 7:7-11. What does God know how to do? _____
Which of His attributes enables Him to do this? _____

God is a good God... *All the time!*

SECTION 2

5. God has always been longing for a family, beginning with Adam. God uniquely created Adam in His _____ (as the same kind of being as God – Gen 1:26-27). God, being a spirit, created us to be in His spiritual family. Heb 12:9 identifies God as a _____

6. Adam's fall destroyed man's ability to relate to God in the intimate Father-son relationship God had designed. Find an Old Testament scripture that reveals God continuing as a father, in spite of this. _____
7. Jesus revealed a unique attribute of God as a Father. Match the following quotes to the proper scripture.

___ a. John 14:9	1. My Father and your Father
___ b. Luke 10:22	2. "If you have seen Me, you've seen the Father."
___ c. John 20:17	3. The Son reveals the Father

- 8. Because Jesus was spiritually alive, unlike the Old Testament men of God, He related to God as His Father. Only when Jesus became sin, did He refer to God, not as His Father, but as ELOI or ELOHIM, the Old Testament reference to God. Find this passage. Ref: _____

- 9. Jesus was the _____ of many brothers (Rom 8:29). As we are made spiritually alive through faith in Jesus, we become _____ (Gal 3:26), and then we get to call God Father too!

- 10. According to Gal 4:6-7, what should our outcry be to God? _____
Do you see why Jesus said in Luke 18:16-17, “You must _____ to enter the kingdom”? It is because God’s kingdom is first and foremost a _____ (Eph 3:14-15).

Salvation is truly more about adoption into God’s family than about living forever.

SECTION 3

In Hosea 11:1-4, we see that God’s love for His kids is synonymous with the attributes of a good parent’s relationship with his child. It involves parental authority, faithfulness, generosity, affection, attentiveness, and acceptance. In the next two sections, we will explore these qualities as they reveal the Father-heart of God.

PARENTAL AUTHORITY

- 11. Read Heb 12:5-10. When God chastens us, He deals with us _____
Why does God chasten us? _____

- 12. As a loving Father, God has clearly laid out the rules. Deut 30:19-20 says He has set before us _____ and _____. He is always willing to forgive, but according to Gal 6:7-8, He will not be _____. When we defy His authority and _____, there will be consequences.

- 13. When a child feels the security of loving parental authority, one of the most comforting behaviors is found in Psa 46:10. Be _____

Sometimes we also need to sit back and let God be God and remember
“Everything is going to be all right.”

PARENTAL FAITHFULNESS

- 14. Although God does not always play by our rules or on our timetable, He is never late. No matter what we've done, Heb 13:5 reminds us that He will _____

- 15. Consistency is a vital component in producing an environment in which child can grow and spread his wings. God is as regular as clockwork. Lam 3:22-23 says His _____
are fresh every _____.
- 16. Sometimes an earthly parent can lose patience with his child because of the child's actions, but not so with God. II Tim 2:11-13 explains that even if we are faithless, He _____
_____, He cannot _____

We must realize that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Nothing we do can change who He is.

PARENTAL GENEROSITY

- 17. God knows how to take care of His kids; all He asks is that we trust Him. Anxiety is one of the biggest sins of our generation. Matt 6:25-33 encourages us to realize our heavenly Father knows _____. As we seek to know Him and His righteousness, His provision will be there.
- 18. As a loving Father, God wants to provide not just for our needs, but to also grant us our secret longings and desires. Psa 37:3-5 says if we will _____
He will give us the very desires of our heart.
- 19. We never have to fear when inquiring of our Father God. Matt 7:7-11 assures us, He knows how to _____

SECTION 4

PARENTAL AFFECTION

- 20. Affection is critical to a child's self-esteem and development. We are so precious to our Father that He gave _____ that we might join

His family (John 3:16). Psa 17:8 says we are the very _____ of His _____
As a proud mother of an eight-year-old cheers when he scores his first goal, God delights over our every success, no matter how small.

21. In large families, parental affection is often unevenly bestowed upon siblings, but not in God’s family! In John 17:23, Jesus prays that the world would know that as the Father loved His Firstborn _____

PARENTAL ATTENTIVENESS

22. John 14:23 explains how God loves to make His _____ with us. He is never too busy to stop what He is doing and get on His knees and listen as we explain the picture we colored for Him, or how the bully is picking on us, or how we won the spelling contest at school.
23. God is intimately interested in every detail of our lives. Jesus explains in Matt 10:29-31 that even _____ are all _____
We must not believe the lie that He only cares about *spiritual* needs. He cares if we are the last one picked in the kickball game. And as He cares, I Peter 5:7 says we should _____
_____ on Him.

PARENTAL ACCEPTANCE

24. God’s acceptance is unconditional. John 14:2 reminds us that in His _____ there are _____. There is no place for competition in God.
25. What a beautiful picture we have in Zeph 3:17. The Lord _____ with gladness and singing. Whether we get the lead in the play or end up the last chair in the tuba section, God is excited at our every attempt to serve Him. He delights not in our success or failure, but that we are His. He loves when we acknowledge Him.
26. As in the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32, our heavenly Father will never _____ (John 6:37), no matter what we’ve done, and no matter how we’ve hurt Him or embarrassed His name. What a wonderful God we serve!

Memory Verses

Matt 7:11

Gal 4:6

Teacher's Guide

Session Topics

1. God is a good God
2. The Father revealed through the Son
3. Three attributes of a Father
4. Three more attributes of a Father

Points to Bring Out

Q 4. Discuss God's nature (good) as our Father.

Q 6. Ps 68:5-6, Hosea 11:1-4 [answers to the question]

Q 8. Discuss Mark 15:34 and the significance of Jesus' separation from the Father. [Mark 15:34 is the answer to the question]

Q 11-26. Have each class member share an aspect of God's Father heart that particularly ministered to him or her.

Memory Verses

Matt 7:11

Gal 4:6

Prayer

SECTION 1

1. As Christians, what is God’s expectation of us concerning prayer? (See Luke 18:1 and 1 Thess 5:17) _____

2. Why should believers pray?
 - a. John 14:13-14 _____
 - b. Luke 22:40 _____
 - c. Phil 4:6-7 _____
 - d. James 4:8 _____
 - e. Heb 4:16 _____

SECTION 2

Jesus lived a life of intimate fellowship with His Father in prayer. If we want to be His disciple, we must follow His example.

3. Read Mark 1:35. When did Jesus pray? _____
What does the psalmist say about giving God the first fruit of our day in prayer?
 - a. Psa 5:1-3 _____
 - b. Psa 55:17 _____
 - c. Psa 59:16 _____

Pick two days this week to “sing aloud... in the morning” for at least five minutes.

4. Read Luke 6:12-13. What important event preceded Jesus choosing His ministry staff?

Explain Prov 3:6 in light of this. _____

5. Read Matt 14:22-23. Explain how Jesus used prayer to “refuel” (Jude 20). _____

- 6. Jesus won our redemption in prayer in Gethsemane (See Matt 26:36-45). Explain how Jesus' whole being responded to this crucial moment.
 - a. body _____
 - b. soul (mind, will, emotions) _____
 - c. spirit _____

SECTION 3

After seeing the life of prayer their Master led, and the power that resulted, the disciples said to Jesus "Lord, teach us to pray."

- 7. Break up Luke 11:2-4 into the following sections:

<u>Prayer Activity</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>
1. Honor God for who He is	_____

2. Intercede for God's will (His Word)	_____

3. Supplication for own needs/desires	_____

4. Self-examination, repentance and forgiveness	_____

5. Prayer for God's covering (from temptation/evil)	_____

6. Return to praise, thank Him for the answer	<u>[EXAMPLE] For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever Amen.</u>

- 8. Read Luke 11:5-13 where Jesus continues His teaching on prayer. List two key points on prayer from this passage. _____

- 9. Read James 5:16-18. Like Elijah's prayers, our prayers can be powerful. What are two things that are important for our prayers to be effective? _____

Jesus never taught us to pray, "if it be Thy will..." prayers. On the contrary, He taught us to pray (and say) the answer, according to the Word, and to believe in faith that we have it.

10. Read James 1:6-8. What is the result of double-minded (“if it be Thy will”) prayers?

11. Read Mark 11:22-24. From these verses, write a statement concerning your prayer life. (e.g. When I pray...) _____

SECTION 4

God’s covenant with His children includes His answering our prayers, but we must keep His covenant and play by His rules.

12. Match the following verses to the correct promise concerning answered prayer.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| ___ a. John 15:7 | 1. Faith-filled prayers save the sick |
| ___ b. James 5:15 | 2. Ask in Jesus’ Name and you will receive |
| ___ c. 1 John 5:14-15 | 3. Believe you receive when you pray and you will |
| ___ d. Mark 11:24 | 4. When we abide in God, our prayers are answered |
| ___ e. John 16:24 | 5. Ask according to His will and you will receive |

13. Match the following verses to the correct hindrance to answered prayers.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ___ a. Matt 5:23-24 | 1. Unforgiveness |
| ___ b. James 4:3 | 2. Doubt |
| ___ c. 1 Peter 3:7 | 3. Not keeping God’s commands |
| ___ d. Gal 6:9 | 4. Wrong motives |
| ___ e. Mark 11:25-26 | 5. Marriage problems |
| ___ f. James 1:6-8 | 6. Fainting/no endurance |
| ___ g. 1 John 3:22 | |

According to I Thess 5:16-18, God desires us to have a continual, non-stop dialogue with Him through prayer. He wants to empower us to be champions in all that we do. And as it was for Jesus in the garden, so it will be for us; the battle will be won in prayer.

Memory Verses

Mark 11:24

John 15:7

Prayer Guide¹

(Could You Not Tarry One Hour?)

- I. Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed by thy name
 - A. Picture Calvary and thank God you can call Him “Father” by virtue of the blood of Jesus
 - B. Hallow the names of God corresponding with the five benefits in the new covenant, and make your faith declarations

Benefit	Name	Meaning
SIN	JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU JEHOVAH-M’KADDESH	“Jehovah our righteousness” “Jehovah who sanctifies”
SPIRIT	JEHOVAH-SHALOM JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH	“Jehovah is peace” “Jehovah is there”
SOUNDNESS	JEHOVAH-ROPHE	“Jehovah heals”
SUCCESS	JEHOVAH-JIREH	“Jehovah’s provisions shall be seen”
SECURITY	JEHOVAH-NISSI JEHOVAH-ROHI	“Jehovah my banner” “Jehovah my shepherd”

- II. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done.
 - A. Yourself
 - B. Your family (mate, children, other family members)
 - C. Your church (pastor, leadership, faithfulness of the people, harvest)
 - D. Nation (city, state, and national political and spiritual leaders, harvest)

- III. Give us this day our daily bread.
 - A. Be in the will of God (prayer life, church, work habits, obedience in giving)
 - B. Believe in God’s will to prosper you
 - C. Be specific
 - D. Be tenacious

- IV. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
 - A. Ask God to forgive you
 - B. Forgive and release others
 - C. Set your will to forgive those who sin against you

- V. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 - A. Put on the whole armor of God (Put on the Lord Jesus Christ)
 - 1. Loins girt about with TRUTH
 - 2. Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - 3. Feet shod with the PREPARATION (READINESS) of the gospel of PEACE
 - 4. Shield of FAITH
 - 5. Helmet of SALVATION
 - 6. Sword of the Spirit which is the WORD OF GOD
 - B. Pray a hedge of protection (you are my refuge, my fortress, my God)
 - 1. Because thou hast made the Lord thy habitation
 - 2. Because he hath set his love upon me
 - 3. Because he hath known My name

- VI. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever
 - A. Make your faith declarations
 - B. Return to praise.

¹From Larry Lea Ministries

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. The foundation of prayer
2. The example of Jesus
3. "Lord, teach us to pray"
4. The promise of answered prayer

Points to Bring Out

- Q 2. Discuss the reasons we must pray.
- Q 3. Ask how "singing aloud..." went. Emphasize importance of honoring God with the first fruit of your day in prayer/praise.
- Q 9. Discuss how we can pray powerful prayers.
Righteous = praying from a position of right standing with God (2 Cor 5:21, 1 John 1:9)
Effective = praying God's will (His Word)
Fervent = praying with intensity (Jesus sweated blood in prayer - Luke 22:44)
- Q10,11. What's wrong with "if it be Thy will" prayers?

Briefly walk through **PRAYER GUIDE**.

Memory Verses

Mark 11:24

John 15:7

Growing Up Spiritually

SECTION 1

1. One of the fundamental principles of the Christian life is found in Eph 2:8-9. “For it is by _____ that you have been saved through _____ ... (v 9) not _____ so that no one may boast.” Contrast this with Phil 2:12, “... work out your _____ with fear and trembling.” Aren’t these verses contradictory? _____
2. To understand this, see 1 Thess 5:23. We are a three-part being. We are a _____ we have a _____ and we live in a _____.
3. Read John 3:1-8. What is “born again”?
 - a. Our spirit
 - b. Our soul
 - c. Our body
4. True faith begins with the salvation of our spirit. According to 1 Peter 1:9, what is the end or goal of our faith walk? _____

The process of being changed from our image into God’s image is called sanctification. It means to be set apart in purity, and it results in holy living.

5. Why should Christians seek sanctification?
 - a. I Thess 4:3 _____
 - b. Heb 12:14 _____
6. Sanctification is more than hair buns and ankle length dresses; Eph 4:11-16 explains that the reason God gives us the 5-fold ministry gifts is for our maturity and growth. List five specific reasons from these verses.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

7. Read Col 1:27-29. Why are we to admonish everyone and teach wisdom? _____

8. According to II Peter 1:3-4 we are given great and precious _____
so that _____
the divine nature. But Paul explains in Gal 4:1-2 that we are spiritual children; we are no
different than a _____. The heir must grow up to walk in his inheritance.

SECTION 2

9. Read 1 Cor 9:24-27. What does Paul liken the Christian life to? _____
How should we run? _____ What motivated Paul to discipline
himself? _____

10. Again, 2 Cor 7:1 says “let us _____ ourselves... _____
_____.” God created us to grow up in _____
and _____ of Him (2 Peter 3:18).
11. You see, God has no favorites. Rom 12:3 says that when we were “born again,” God
assigned each of us _____ faith. It is our job to _____
_____ in our most holy faith (Jude 20).
12. But these things don’t just happen. Answer the following and look for the common thread.
How are we to grow in the Lord? (1 Peter 2:2) _____

How are we cleansed? (Eph 5:26, John 15:3) _____

How are we sanctified? (John 17:17) _____

13. And don’t forget the ignitor! Heb 4:2 shows us that for the message to profit us, we must
mix it with _____ like those who walked in the promise before us.
14. Isa 28:9-10 explains that this process is not based on our instant, “microwave” society. We
grow in God, little by _____, one scriptural _____ at a time. It is
a gradual process of hearing the Word and acting on it, hearing the Word and acting on it.

15. In conjunction with spiritual growth must come the renewing of the mind. Paul shows the interrelation in Eph 4:22-24 "... be renewed in _____ your mind." What results from this transformation (Rom 12:2)? _____

SECTION 3

16. There are seasons of spiritual growth.

- a. _____ (1 Peter 2:2)
- b. _____ (1 Cor 13:11)
- c. _____ (1 John 2:13-14)
- d. _____ (1 John 2:13-14)

17. We should stay infants in _____ (1 Cor 14:20), but we must become mature in _____. As a matter of fact, Col 4:12 goes on to say we must be mature and fully assured in _____

18. Although milk is good for babies, we are supposed to move beyond it. Heb 5:12-13 shows that an all milk diet leaves us _____ God desires us to grow up and train others, but if we do not, we will need to be re-taught the _____

19. This is a very dangerous situation. Read Heb 6:7-9, John 15:1-8 and James 1:21-25 to explain the hazard of hearing the Word without allowing it to produce fruit in your life.

SECTION 4

20. God speaks His wisdom among _____ (1 Cor 2:6). He cannot speak it to _____ people (1 Cor 3:1-4). Note: Remember, this wisdom is our entrance to partaking of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:3-4).

21. If we continue _____ we can be made perfect (mature). (Gal 3:3, 5:25) This provides God, who _____ in us, an avenue to bring it to _____ (Phil 1:6).

22. His desire, from Psa 92:12-14, is that we _____ like the palm and _____ like a cedar. If we do, we can still _____ in old age, but in order to do this, we must do our part.
23. Paul sums it up in Phil 3. Verses 7-11 summarize our *purpose* “That I _____,” (v 10) and verses 12-15 explain our *plan*, “forgetting _____ and reaching forward _____
I *Press Toward the Mark* for the _____ of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
24. Christian growth is a process and it takes committed spiritual discipline injected with the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. But maturity is not an option (see Matt 5:48). God expects His kids to grow up to be like Him and **it is worth what it costs**. Write out your confession and prayer to God that one day you will echo Jesus’ words (John 4:34) “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.” _____

Write this confession on an index card and pray it daily to God for the remainder of this session.

Memory Verses

Col 1:28

Phil 3:13-14

Teacher's Outline

Section Topics

1. Sanctification defined and contrasted with justification
2. Call to maturity/growth
3. How to grow up
4. Benefits of maturity

Points to Bring Out

- Q 6 Have each member give one reason. [Answers: **1.** equip us for service; **2.** perfect and mature us; **3.** that we not be children; **4.** grow up in all things; **5.** attain unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God]
- Q12 Discuss the agent for growth and sanctification in the Lord.
- Q14 Discuss the gradual process. (patient endurance)
- Q19 Discuss the dangers.
- Q24 Have volunteers share their confession.

Memory Verses

Col 1:28

Phil 3:13-14

Walking in Love

SECTION 1

1. Read John 13:34-35. How are we commanded to love one another? _____

2. Men will know that we are Jesus' disciples if:
 - a. We go to church.
 - b. We can quote scripture.
 - c. We have love, one to another.
 - d. We pay tithes and give offerings.
3. According to Eph 5:1-2, Christ loved us and _____
for us _____ and a _____ to God.
4. Read John 15:1-9. In verse 9, Jesus said to “_____ in my love.”
5. Read John 15:10-17. How do we remain in His love? _____
What does greater love (God's love) do? _____
What happens when remain in Him? _____
What happens when we don't (v6)? _____

SECTION 2

6. Read 1 John 3:14-24. Loving other Christians is an evidence of what spiritual event?

We should not love in word only, but in _____ and in _____
Explain an example in your life of having to love in this way. _____

How do we know God abides (lives) in us? _____

7. Read 1 John 4:7-11. Why must we love in order to know God? _____

8. Read 1 John 4:12-16. List two results of loving one another.
 1) _____ 2) _____
 We know that we dwell in God and He dwells in us because:
 1) _____
 2) _____
9. Read 1 John 4:17-21. List three truths about love from this section:
 1) _____
 2) _____
 3) _____
10. Gal 5:22 says love is a _____ of the _____, and in John 15:7-8, Jesus said we will glorify the Father and show ourselves to be His disciples if we bear _____.

SECTION 3

11. In reading 1 Cor 13:1-13, the word charity is translated the same as love (agape). List the characteristics of charity given in this chapter. Then for each characteristic, rate yourself (great, good, fair, poor, terrible). In the last column, list ways to improve.

CHARACTERISTIC	RATING	STEPS FOR IMPROVEMENT
1) _____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____
6) _____	_____	_____
7) _____	_____	_____
8) _____	_____	_____
9) _____	_____	_____
10) _____	_____	_____
11) _____	_____	_____
12) _____	_____	_____
13) _____	_____	_____
14) _____	_____	_____

- 15) _____
- 16) _____

Let the Holy Spirit perfect you in these.

- 13. According to 1 Cor 13:13, which is greatest: faith, hope, or love? _____
Why would you say so? _____

SECTION 4

- 14. Read Eph 3:14-19. What will happen if we are rooted and grounded in love? _____
- 15. In Col 3:12-14, why does Paul says we should “put on love”? _____
- 16. In 1 Peter 4:7-8, Peter echoes the same thought. Why does he say we should love each other earnestly? _____
What will this fervent love do? _____
- 17. In relation to James 5:20, how will love cover the multitude of sins? _____
- 18. Jesus tells his disciples in Matt 24:1-14 about the signs of the end of the age. According to verse 12, what will happen to many believers? (Rev 2:4) _____
Why do you believe this will happen? _____
In verse 13, “... the one who _____ will be saved.”
- 19. In John 3:16, God gives us the example: God so loved... that He _____. Jesus commissioned us in Mark 16:15 to preach the gospel to every creature. Our motivation and ability to accomplish this must be the same as God’s, and that is _____!

Memory Verses

- John 13:35
- 1 John 3:18

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. We have been commanded to love, even as Christ loved us.
2. God enables us to love.
3. Characteristics of love
4. Love's purpose and responsibility

Points to Bring Out

- Q 2. Love is the principle witness of a disciple.
- Q 3. God's love (Agape) is giving; man's love (phileo and eros) is selfish.
- Q 8. Refer also to Rom 5:5 (the love of God is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit) and 1 John 4:19 (we can love because He first loved us!)
- Q 11. Take time to hear from everyone on their comments.
- Q 18. He is talking about believers - love is translated AGAPE - sinners do not have AGAPE. He who stands firm in love will be saved!
- Q 19. God gave us love to motivate us to win the lost. Refer to Rev. 12:10-11, 2 Cor 5:14-20.

Memory Verses

John 13:35

1 John 3:18

Joy

SECTION 1

1. In John 15, Jesus teaches His disciples the importance of living in Him and having Him live in them. Read John 15:9-11. How do we live in His love? _____
What was Jesus' goal in this? He wanted His joy to be _____
and He wanted our joy to be _____
2. This was so important to Jesus. He knew God's joy and wanted us to experience it in all its fullness. What was His prayer to the Father regarding this (John 17:13)? _____

What tool did He give us in John 16:24, that would, in addition to allowing our prayers to be answered, also allow our joy to be made full? _____
3. Read Heb 12:1-2. Why was joy so important to Jesus? What did His focus on joy allow Him to do? _____
4. We can see that for Jesus, joy was a powerful, driving force. It enabled Him to accomplish God's purpose for His life. What does Neh 8:10 say about the importance of God's joy in our lives? _____
5. Throughout the scriptures joy is shown to be a central part of the kingdom of God. What three things does Rom 14:17 say the kingdom of God is about? _____

What did Jesus say about the kingdom of God (see Luke 17:20-21)? _____

What does that say about the joy of the Lord? _____

SECTION 2

6. So if God wants us to have His joy in us, what is His joy? According to Jesus, what brings the most joy in heaven (see Luke 15:3-7)? _____

7. Jesus echoed this thought when His disciples returned from preaching the kingdom in Luke 10:17-20. What were the disciples so excited about? _____
What did Jesus say should be the focus of our rejoicing? _____

8. Joy is different from happiness. Happiness focuses on what is seen. It is based on our current situation and condition. When things are good, then we are happy. When times are tough, our happiness gives way to sorrow. But Paul explains in Rom 12:12 that joy is different. If our joy is not in our circumstances, what are we to be joyful in? _____
9. In 1 Peter 1:6-9, Peter says that, even though we have not seen Him, even though we may have to endure trials, we are filled with _____ joy.
What gives us this joy (v9)? _____
10. We must understand that true joy is not dependent on our circumstance. When Paul shares about his experience as a believer in 2 Cor 6:9-10, he contrasts the natural seen things against the spiritual forces. We are dying, yet _____; punished, yet _____; sorrowful, yet _____; poor, yet _____; having nothing, yet _____
11. If it is not those with good circumstances who should rejoice, then who should rejoice and sing for joy (Ps 5:11)? _____
Do you have something to sing about? Why not take a moment right now and rejoice in the Lord and tell Him how glad you are that you belong to Him!

SECTION 3

12. Joy is so powerful. Phil 4:4 says we should rejoice in the Lord _____
13. Isa 55:12 says we _____ with joy. Why is this? We can see an example in 2 Chronicles 20:14-22. God's people were being threatened. Who did God tell them to lead the battle? _____ What happened to God's enemies when His people allowed joy to lead them? _____
14. Acts 16:16-34 gives another example of the power of joy. What happened to Paul and Silas that they would be singing to God at midnight? _____

What resulted when they chose joy in spite of their circumstances? _____

15. Sometimes we find this hard to believe. How could they be rejoicing after they were beaten for doing good? What does Jesus say about this in Matt 5:11-12? _____

16. One reason the believers in Acts experienced God’s power was because they walked in this truth. What happened to the disciples in Acts 5:40-41? _____
Why did they rejoice? _____

17. We see the same thing in Acts 13:50-52. How could they be filled with joy like this (see 1 Pet 4:12-13)? _____

18. Joy makes the impossible possible and we can walk in joy in every situation. Read 2 Cor 8:1-5. What did the great joy of the Macedonian church cause them to do in verses 3 and 4?

Were they a rich people? _____
What did they give in addition to their money? _____

SECTION 4

19. Joy is a spiritual byproduct of the new birth (see Acts 8:35-39), but it can be short-lived. What comes to steal our joy according to Matt 13:20-21? _____
To have enduring joy, we must be rooted in Him. Col 2:6-7 says as we have received Jesus, we must continue to _____ in him, rooted and built up in Him, _____ in the faith. One way we can keep our joy is by being rooted in the Word of God.

20. David gives us another way to stay in His joy in Ps 16:11. Where can we find fullness of joy? _____ Since God dwells in the praises of His people (Ps 22:3), another way to stay in joy is to get into His presence through worship.

21. Sometimes we just have to make a decision to choose joy, in spite of our circumstances. What does James 1:2-4 tell us to do when we face all kinds of trials? _____
_____ It is just a decision we make.

22. It is very natural to become discouraged. What does Heb 12:3-4 say we can do to help us to choose joy and give us perspective? _____
Ps 103:1-3 reminds us to not forget _____ These two things will help us to maintain our joy in the midst of difficult times and tough circumstances.
23. Jesus wants us to walk in His joy. Who does Matt 25:14-23 say will share the joy of the Master? _____
24. Not only will this allow us to experience His joy, but it will also bless the heart of God (3 John 4). “I have no greater joy than _____
_____.”

Joy is a spiritual force. It is not based in our circumstances here, but is grounded in our hope and the inexpressible glory of our spending eternity with Him!

Memory Verses

Ps 5:11

John 15:11

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. The Joy of the Lord – God wants us to have it
2. What is joy?
3. Rejoice in persecutions
4. How to walk in the joy of the Lord

Points to Bring Out

- Q 3. Ask for input on how joy allowed Jesus to endure the cross.
- Q 8. Discuss how joy differs from happiness
- Q 13-14. Discuss how joy allowed these people to overcome adversity. Ask people to share a time they faced a tough situation. Did they choose joy? What was the result?
- Q 19-23. List the different ways to walk in joy (rooted in God's Word, get into God's presence, count it joy [make a decision], keep perspective by considering what Jesus endured for us, don't forget His benefits, be a faithful servant)

Memory Verses

Ps 5:11

John 15:11

Water Baptism

SECTION 1

1. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. Read Mark 1:4-5. What was the message that John preached that caused people to want to be baptized? _____
What did the people do when they were baptized? _____
2. Pick up the story in Matt 3:5-11. Many people were drawn to John's message and were baptized. What was the purpose of John's baptism (v11)? _____
John had some harsh words for one group that came to him. Who were they and why did he hesitate to baptize them? _____

3. Although baptism is not mentioned in the Old Testament, the concept of repentance is. God's heart toward repentance as shown by water baptism is expressed in Ezek 18:30-32. Why does God want people to repent? _____
What can we receive through repentance? _____
4. Read Acts 2:37-41. When the people were convicted by Peter's preaching, they asked him what they should do. What was his answer? _____
Which of them were baptized? _____

Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward change.

SECTION 2

5. In Matt 28:18-20, Jesus commands His followers to go and make disciples of all nations. What two things does He command them to do to accomplish this? _____

6. Read the following examples of Jesus' followers obeying Jesus' command to make disciples. Briefly describe what happened in each case.
 - a) Acts 8:12-13 _____
 - b) Acts 8:35-38 _____

c) Acts 16:14-15 _____
How long did these people wait before they were baptized? _____

- 7. In Acts 16:25-33, Paul didn't even have to preach. When God's power convicted the jailer, what did Paul say was required to be saved? _____
What did they do *immediately* in response to their newfound faith? _____
- 8. Read Matt 3:13-17. Jesus had no sin and therefore John resisted his request to be baptized. Why did Jesus say he should be baptized? _____
In Phil 2:5-8, Paul explains that as our example, Jesus _____ Himself and became obedient. One way Jesus set the example of obedience was through baptism.

Water baptism is not only about repentance; it is also about submission and obedience. As our first act of obedience after salvation, baptism shows the world that we belong to God and are submitting ourselves to Him.

SECTION 3

- 9. Is water baptism required for salvation? Read Mark 16:16. Who will be saved? _____
Who will be condemned? _____
- 10. Remember the jailer's question (Acts 16:30-31)? What does Paul say is required to be saved? _____
Is baptism required (also see Eph 2:8-9)? _____
- 11. What are the two aspects of salvation according to Rom 10:9-10? _____
- 12. Water baptism is a way God commands believers to publicly confess Him. Read Matt 10:32-33 and explain why baptism should be a public, not a private, event. _____

SECTION 4

- 13. Read Col 2:12. We are _____ with Him through baptism and raised with Him through _____
- 14. Read Rom 6:3-9. Again, we were _____ with Him through baptism. This is referring to the death of our old nature. Why did God want our old self to be crucified with Him? _____
- 15. According to Rom 6:10-14, after our old man has been buried in baptism, we should consider ourselves _____. Sin shall not _____
- 16. In addition to identifying us with Christ, baptism also identifies us with other believers in His body. According to 1 Cor 12:12-13, who baptized us into His body? _____
- 17. What does Gal 3:26-29 say happens when we are baptized into Christ? _____

SECTION 5

- 18. Who can baptize new Christians? Did Paul, as the main leader, personally baptize everyone or did he have others do the baptizing themselves (see 1 Cor 1:12-17)? _____

What about Jesus? Did He baptize or have others do it (see John 4:1-2) _____

Who was Jesus speaking to in Matt 28:18-20 and whom did he command to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in His name?
___ Only full-time Christian leaders (e.g. elders and deacons)
___ All disciples
- 19. According to the scriptures (see Matt 3:5-8, Acts 2:38-41, 8:35-38, 16:30-33, 22:16), which of the following are true? (check all that apply)
___ All people should be baptized, even those who have not yet believed (e.g. infants).
___ People must repent and believe on Jesus before they are baptized.
___ People should wait to be baptized until they fully understand basic Christian doctrine.
___ People should be baptized as soon as possible after they receive Christ.
___ People can be baptized for a loved one who has not yet become a Christian.

Memory Verses

Acts 2:38

Rom 6:4

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. What is baptism?
2. Why should we be baptized?
3. Baptism and salvation
4. The power of baptism
5. Who can baptize and what is required

Points to Bring Out

- Q 2. Discuss the purpose and importance of repentance in baptism.
- Q 6-7. Have different people share what happened in each story and stress how each was baptized as soon as they believed. Note: in question 7, they got baptized in the middle of the night!
- Q 10. Clarify that baptism is **not** required for salvation. It is the first act of obedience following salvation (see question 8).
- Q 14. Discuss how the old man is buried (this implies submersion, not sprinkling) and the power of being free from the sin nature.

Memory Verses

Acts 2:38

Rom 6:4

Confession

(The Power of Words)

SECTION 1

Confession literally means to speak the same thing or to speak in agreement. Think about your everyday speech. What or who are you speaking in agreement with?

1. Read Rom 10:10. List two basic principles upon which God's Kingdom functions:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. Our words are powerful vehicles. What did God create through His words according to Heb 11:3? _____
How many times does Gen 1 refer to "God said?" _____
3. God declares the _____ from the _____ (Isa 46:10).
4. Read Matt 17:20. According to Jesus, how is your faith activated? _____

5. Rom 4:17 best explains God's habit concerning confession: God speaks into existence things that _____. In Abram's case it was being a father of nations when he had no child. In the case of Jesus and _____ (Mt 8:8), it was speaking healing when there was sickness. List two areas in your life in which you need to perform this principle. Check your accountability box each day this week that you practice this.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
6. 2 Cor 5:7 tells us to walk by:
 - ___ a. faith (in what God's Word says)
 - ___ b. sight (in what our circumstances say)

And our talk must line up with our walk!

SECTION 2

- 7. What three things do Prov 6:2 and Prov 12:18 tell us our spoken words can do? _____

- 8. In Matt 12:36-37, an idle or careless word refers to an unproductive one. Explain Ps 141:3 in light of this scripture. _____

- 9. Prov 18:21 says _____ and _____ are in the power of the tongue. What an awesome and deadly tool God has given us.
- 10. Read James 3:2-6. What can an unbridled tongue result in? _____

- 11. Read Matt 12:34. Jesus taught that our words are a reflection of our _____
As we fill it with good things from God’s Word, what will result? (Prov 12:14) _____

SECTION 3

- 12. Man was created in God’s image and likeness (Gen 1:26). Because we are the same type of being as God, Jesus said in Matt 17:20 that our words of faith can _____
- 13. Examine the following men of God in relation to their confession:
 - a. **MOSES** - God told Moses to _____ the rock (Num 20:8), but Moses disobeyed the words of God. What was the result? (Num 20:12) _____

 - b. **JOSHUA & CALEB** - Joshua and Caleb spoke in accordance with the words of God (Num 14:8-9). Did their words come to pass? (Josh 14:6-13) _____
 - c. **TEN SPIES** - The ten spies spoke in accordance with the circumstances and on the basis of what they saw with their eyes (Num 13:31-33). Did their words come to pass? (Num 14:35-37) _____
 - d. **ABRAHAM** - Abraham is the father of our faith. He believed and spoke the word of God in the face of natural circumstances (Gen 22:8). Abraham said _____

Read the result in Gen 22:13 and John 1:36.

e. **JOSHUA** - Joshua needed more hours in his day! What did he do to get it (Josh 10:12-13)? _____

Where did he do this?

___ 1) privately in his prayer closet

___ 2) publicly professing of his faith

What happened? _____

14. Match the following. Jesus spoke to:

___ a. weather

1. Mark 4:37-41

___ b. demon spirits

2. Luke 7:7-10

___ c. trees

3. Mark 11:12-14

___ d. sickness

4. John 11:43, Luke 7:14

___ e. the dead

5. Mark 5:8

SECTION 4

15. Read Matt 4:1-11. How did Jesus deal with Satan’s temptation? _____

How do we overcome him (Rev 12:11)? _____

16. Read Eph 6:17 and Heb 4:12. What is our only offensive weapon? _____

How is it used (Rev 1:16, Josh 1:8)? _____

17. Read Jer 1:12. What is God “watching over to perform?” _____

18. If we return God’s Word to Him by speaking and confessing it, what does Isa 55:11 promise? _____

19. Why does God’s Word do this when we speak and pray this way (Ps 103:20)? _____

God has given us life and death by our words (Prov 18:21). If we love *life* and we speak *life*, then we will live *life*.

Memory Verses

Prov 18:21

Isa 55:11

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. Scriptural foundation of confession
2. Power of confession
3. Scriptural examples of confession
4. Benefits of confession

Points to Bring Out

- Q 3. Discuss what this means in light of #5.
- Q 5. Have volunteers share one area of confession to others in their prayer group and have others lift it up in prayer.
- Q 11. How do we get our talk right?
- Q 13. Pick one of the stories and discuss.
- Q 18. Discuss the power of speaking/praying God's Word. James 5:16: The effective, fervent prayer... praying God's Word = effective.

Memory Verses

Prov 18:21

Isa 55:11

Virtue

SECTION 1

The word “virtue” (see Phil 4:8 and 2 Peter 1:5) has the primary meaning of moral goodness or *moral excellence* and is an essential quality in the exercise of faith.

1. Read Ps 15, which defines virtue. List ten characteristics of virtue (in your own words) and rate yourself on each.

	<i>never</i>			<i>always</i>	
1. _____	1	2	3	4	5
2. _____	1	2	3	4	5
3. _____	1	2	3	4	5
4. _____	1	2	3	4	5
5. _____	1	2	3	4	5
6. _____	1	2	3	4	5
7. _____	1	2	3	4	5
8. _____	1	2	3	4	5
9. _____	1	2	3	4	5
10. _____	1	2	3	4	5

Virtue is walking with a pure heart before God. Jesus describes walking in virtue as being “perfect” or mature.

2. Read Matt 5:21-48 and list the examples Jesus gives contrasting walking according to the old law and walking in virtue according to the new law.

<i>Letter of the Law</i>	<i>Spirit of the Law</i>
(v 21-26) 1. _____	1. _____
(v 27-30) 2. _____	2. _____
(v 33-37) 3. _____	3. _____
(v 38-42) 4. _____	4. _____
(v 43-48) 5. _____	5. _____

3. Read Matt 23:25-28. What does Jesus emphasize?
 - a. outward action
 - b. condition of the heart

SECTION 2

David is our example of a man who walked in moral excellence before God.

4. Match the following scriptures with David’s character traits of virtue.

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Character Trait of Virtue</u>
___ a. 2 Sam 6:12-15	1. Refuse to speak against God’s anointed
___ b. 1 Sam 17:26,45-47	2. Act upon righteous indignation
___ c. 1 Sam 24:1-7	3. Quick to repent
___ d. Ps 51	4. Unashamedly acknowledge God
___ e. 1 Sam 18:23	5. Humble

5. Job also walked in integrity or virtue before God (see Job 1:8 and 2:3). According to 2 Peter 1:5, what must we add to virtue to be productive in it? _____

SECTION 3

6. Read 2 Peter 1:5-10. Virtue or moral excellence is stated as the primary character trait required to make our faith functional. As we are diligent to walk in virtue, as well as in the other characteristics listed, we “will never _____.” (one word)

7. List three benefits of walking in virtue from Ps 15.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

8. Read 1 Sam 24:16-20. What were the results for David of walking in integrity and virtue?

9. According to 1 Peter 3:15-16, why is it important for Christians to walk in unwavering integrity? _____

10. Again, Titus 2:6-8 confirms that we must walk in moral excellence in order that those who oppose the gospel may be _____

SECTION 4

11. Read Col 3:22-24. Our society has a something-for-nothing welfare mentality. As Christians, what should our example be? _____

12. What happens to the name of Jesus when we do not honor our bosses (1 Tim 6:1)? _____

Read Eph 6:5-8 and Matt 5:41. Do you give only what is required, or do you “go the extra mile?” _____

13. List a personal example (from your workplace or home) of walking in moral excellence.

14. List areas of your life which could use growth in integrity or virtue.
a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____

Choose one of these areas and share it with your prayer partner (James 5:16) as a prayer project for this coming week. Check the accountability box the day you do this.

15. Write out Paul’s vow in Acts 24:16 as a personal prayer for yourself. (Pray it daily!).

Memory Verses

Acts 24:16

Ps 51:10

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. What is virtue?
2. The example of David
3. Why virtue?
4. Personal applications

Points to Bring Out

- Q 1. Ask members which characteristic is hardest for them.
- Q 7. What result was common to #6? (Never moved/never stumble)
- Q 9. What is so important about integrity?
- Q 13. Have a few folks share their example.

Memory Verses

Acts 24:16

Ps 51:10