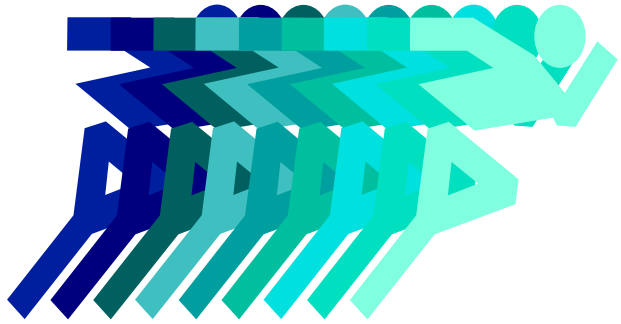


*Pressing
Toward
the Mark*



A Proven Strategy for Making Disciples

Volume 2

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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 2

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Giving and Receiving

SECTION 1

1. Read Gen 8:22. “As long as the earth remains, seedtime and _____ ...shall not cease.”

From the beginning of time, God set up the natural system of planting a seed and receiving a harvest. This natural law has its roots in a deeper spiritual law of God’s kingdom.

2. Gal 6:7 clearly explains this spiritual law. Summarize it in your own words. _____

According to this verse, what am I if I don’t believe this? _____

3. People often take Phil 4:19 out of context. What had the Philippian church shared with Paul before he wrote v 19 to them? _____

4. In order to participate in giving and receiving, we must understand these three basic precepts concerning it:

- A. We shall reap what we sow.
- B. The size of our harvest depends on the size of our seed.
- C. There is a season of harvest.

Look up the following scriptures and circle which of these truths they explain:

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| 1. 2 Cor 9:6 | A | B | C |
| 2. Gal 6:9 | A | B | C |
| 3. Luke 6:38 | A | B | C |
| 4. Eccl 11:1 | A | B | C |

SECTION 2

5. Read 1 Tim 6:9-10 and Mark 10:23-24. What is the cause of all kinds of evil? _____
_____ Why? _____

Which of these is the problem?

- a. Having money (i.e. being rich)
- b. Desiring money (i.e. wanting to be rich)
- c. Trusting money (i.e. feeling safe because you are rich)

6. Read Matt 6:25-33. Is it God’s will that we have lack? _____
7. On the contrary, Isa 1:19 says, “If we are willing and obedient (i.e. seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness), we will eat the _____ of the land.” Job 36:11 says that if we serve and obey God, we spend our days in _____
This represents:
a. ‘barely making it’
b. abundance
c. enough for ‘us four and no more’
8. Read Luke 12:15-21. What danger can accompany abundance? _____
What does 1 Tim 6:17 advise us about this? _____

Is it wrong to enjoy what we have been given? _____ Why or why not? _____

9. Read Deut 8:18. Who gives us the power to get wealth? _____ Why? _____

10. The covenant God is speaking of dates back to Abram (see Gen 12:1-3). What was God’s goal for blessing Abram (and us) (v 2) “I will bless you... so that you will _____
_____.”

SECTION 3

God’s fundamental method for participating in giving and receiving is the *tithe*.

11. Read Mal 3:10. Where do we bring our tithe? _____
Why? _____
What promise can we claim as tithers? _____

12. Read Mal 3:8-9. What happens when we don’t tithe? _____
How can we rob God with our money? (hint: see Lev 27:30) _____

13. What does Prov 3:9-10 promise as a result of honoring God with our first fruits (the tithe)?

14. Read Gen 14:18-23. When God blessed Abram in battle, what did he give back to God?

Who made Abram rich? _____

15. In Heb 7:1-10, Paul brings the concept of the tithe into the New Testament. Verse 8 explains that in the Old Testament, the tithe was collected by _____ but in the New Testament, by “him who is witnessed as living.” Who do you think this is referring to; that is, who now receives our tithes (hint: see Heb 6:20)? _____

SECTION 4

16. Offerings are the secondary means of participating in giving and receiving. Mal 3:8 requires _____ and _____

17. Read 2 Cor 9:6-11. How should we give?

- a. cheerfully
- b. because we have to
- c. as we purpose in our heart
- d. thinking of what else we could use the money for

Write out 2 Cor 9:8 as a faith confession for yourself. _____

18. Read Prov 19:17. What promise do we have when we give to the poor? _____

19. According to Mark 10:29-30, what will happen when we give for Jesus’ sake and the gospel’s? _____

SECTION 5

20. Read Eph 4:28. Why do we work? _____

21. Read 2 Cor 8:1-7. Paul exhorts us to excel in six areas (v 7). What are they?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

22. God commands us to give, and He promises that as we do, we will receive. But He did not simply tell us to do it; He also set the example.

What did He give (John 3:16)? _____

Isa 53:10-12 confirms this. What offering did God give? _____

Verse 11 says through this offering, many will be justified or accounted righteous. So what was it that God receives as a result of His offering (see Rom 8:29 also)? _____

Memory Verses

Gal 6:7

Prov 3:9-10

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. The Law of giving and receiving
2. God wants us to prosper.
3. What, when, where, and why to tithe
4. Offerings and attitudes
5. Giving as a lifestyle

Points to Bring Out

- Q 1. Sowing and reaping, is a spiritual law. It always works!
- Q 2. Have two people read their summaries.
- Q 5. Money is not intrinsically good or bad. What really matters is how we react to it and what we do with it.
- Q 10. God blesses us so we can bless others.
- Q 11. Tithing is not optional!
- Q 17. Has anyone ever given like "D"? Discuss the importance of attitude vs. amount.

Memory Verses

Gal 6:7

Prov 3:9-10

Faithfulness

SECTION 1

1. Read 1 Cor 1:9. Who called us into the fellowship of Jesus? _____
What word is used to describe Him? _____
2. Ps 40:10 lists five attributes of God that David shared with others. What are they?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
3. Where, in relation to God, does Ps 89:8 say His faithfulness is? _____
4. How far does God's faithfulness reach? (Ps 36:5) _____
5. Read Ps 119:89-90. How long will God's faithfulness last? _____
What else will also last that long? _____
6. When you think of faithfulness, what other words come to your mind? List at least 3 of them. _____
Do all of those words apply to God? _____ Do they apply to you? _____
Which do and which don't? _____

7. A Bible definition of faithfulness includes "stability, security, truth, steadfastness, and trustworthiness." That list can be hard to live up to! Read Lam 3:21-24. What adjective is used to describe God's faithfulness? _____

SECTION 2

8. Like many of the other virtues we have studied, faithfulness requires (or causes) certain actions. The Bible tells us a number of things God does as a result of the fact that He is faithful. For each scripture below about God's faithfulness, list His corresponding action.
 - a. Deut 7:9-10 _____
 - b. 1 John 1:8-10 _____

- c. 1 Thess 5:23-24 _____
- d. 1 Cor 10:13 _____
- e. 2 Thess 3:1-3 _____

9. From the five “actions” you listed in question #8, pick the one that impressed you the most and find one other scripture to back it up. Reference: _____
 Paraphrase: _____

10. Read Gen 1:26-27. What “pattern” did God use to make man? _____
 Read 1 John 4:15-17. Who are we to be like? _____ If God is faithful, what should we be? _____ If we are not, how does God respond? (see 2 Tim 2:11-13) _____

SECTION 3

11. According to 1 Cor 4:2, what group of people is required to be faithful? _____
 _____ Do you fall into this category? _____
 Why or why not? _____
12. Read Neh 13:13. What happened to Shelemiah, Zadok, Pedaiah, and Hanan because they were considered faithful? _____
13. In Acts 16:14-15, why did Lydia want Paul to consider her to be faithful? _____

14. Faithful men are responsible to _____
 according to 2 Tim 2:2.
15. In Matt 25:23, what is a prerequisite for being made ruler over many things? _____

 List a few things you have been faithful over.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
16. According to Prov 11:13, what does a person with a faithful spirit do? _____

17. Read Dan 6:3-4. How is Daniel (a faithful man) described in this passage? _____

SECTION 4

18. Heb 3:1-6 discusses the faithfulness of two people. List the two people who were described as faithful and how (or to whom) they were faithful.

Person: _____ How faithful: _____

Person: _____ How faithful: _____

19. According to Prov 28:20, what will happen to a faithful man? _____

20. Read Ps 89:30-34. What happens when we forsake God’s law and don’t keep His commands? _____
 Yet what does it say about God’s love and faithfulness? _____

21. We already found in Hebrews that Moses was faithful. Now read Num 12:6-8. Because he was faithful, what special privilege did he enjoy? _____

22. What does the Lord do to the faithful? (see Ps 31:23) _____

Do you think this is for

___ a. a little while?

___ b. ever?

___ c. when they are acting spiritual?

23. If you *really* want to get excited, read Rev 17:14. In the end, God will win and who will be with Him? Those who are _____ and _____ and _____

Memory Verses

Lam 3:23

2 Tim 2:13

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. God is faithful.
2. Actions of a faithful God
3. Characteristics of faithful people
4. Benefits of faithfulness

Points to Bring Out

- Q 6. Talk about various words that relate to faithfulness, and let people share which ones do or do not apply to them personally.
- Q 9. Discuss the “most impressive” action of God, and give an opportunity to read scriptures people came up with.
- Q 10. God remains faithful, regardless of what we do.
- Q 15. Let a few people share something they have been faithful over. Faithfulness involves responsibility.
- Q 23. We are called when we're saved, chosen when we make Jesus “Lord,” and faithful in the little things, every day.

Memory Verses

Lam 3:23

2 Tim 2:13

Spirit, Soul, and Body

SECTION 1

1. Read 1 Thess 5:23. Paul clearly distinguishes three parts of man: _____ and _____. From the beginning, God has made man a triune (three-part) being.
2. Read Gen 1:26-28. What was unique about man as compared to all the rest of God's creation? _____
What is God's "image?" (Hint: John 4:24) _____
3. In Gen 2:7 we can see how God did this. He formed man from the _____ (body) and breathed into him _____ (spirit) then man became _____ (soul). The soul is the part of man that connects the spirit (same word as breath) with the body. When we die, our bodies return to the dust, but our soul and spirit will live on for eternity (2 Cor 5:8).
4. We can (and should) desire God with our whole being. Read the following verses to confirm this:
 - a. Luke 1:46-47 _____ and _____
 - b. Isaiah 26:9 _____ and _____
 - c. Ps 63:1 _____ and _____

SECTION 2

5. Compare Prov 20:27 with 1 Cor 2:11. What does this say about our spirit being? _____

6. Because we are spirit beings who can only fellowship with God spirit to spirit (John 4:24), Jesus spoke of the need to be changed spiritually first. Read Matt 23:25-26. Complete the following: "first clean the _____ so the _____ may be clean also."
7. Read John 3:1-8 and Rom 8:16. What happens when someone is "born again?" _____

How do I know if I am? _____

8. Why do people who are not saved have trouble understanding the Bible? (1 Cor 2:14)

9. The last part of Rom 12:3 explains that every Christian is given a _____
 This measure is as a seed planted in a newly created spirit (John 3:6). Although the *quantity*
 of this new life may be just “a measure,” the *quality* of that new life is God’s. 2 Cor 5:21
 “... that we might become the _____ in Him.”

SECTION 3

10. The soul and the spirit are very much alike. In fact, the world (and many in the church) do not even realize that they differ. Read Heb 4:12 and explain why this is so. _____

11. The soul (sometimes translated “heart”) is the liaison between the spirit and the physical realm. It has three primary components: the mind, the will, and the emotions. Check which component of the soul each of the following refers to.

	Mind	Will	Emotions
a. Ps 42:1-5	_____	_____	_____
b. Matt 11:28-30	_____	_____	_____
c. Rom 8:5-7	_____	_____	_____
d. Eph 6:6	_____	_____	_____

12. Our soul is not instantly changed at the point of salvation, as our spirit is. The soul is to be renewed day by day. Write out your understanding of this truth from 1 Peter 1:9 _____

13. God has a plan in His Word for us to grow up or mature in our soul. Match the verses below with the appropriate growth method.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| ___ a. Gal 5:22-23 | 1. Emotions controlled |
| ___ b. Luke 22:42 | 2. Mind renewed |
| ___ c. Rom 12:2 | 3. Will submitted to His will |

14. List at least one area in your soul which needs some serious “maturing.” Write out your prayer/commitment to growth in this area and share it with your prayer partner. _____

SECTION 4

15. Read 1 Cor 9:24-27. What does Paul say about the body and its effect on spiritual growth?

16. Read Gal 5:17. What can uncontrolled flesh (the sin nature) cause you to do? _____

What is the solution? (Hint: v 16, 24) _____

17. Read Prov 6:9-11, 6:26-29, and 23:19-21. List 4 things these scriptures warn us to guard against.

a) _____ b) _____

c) _____ d) _____

18. Read Matt 26:36-46, the story of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Explain how each part of Jesus' being—spirit, soul, and body—reacted to the upcoming challenge of the cross. ____

SECTION 5

19. Our challenge and call as Christians is to grow up spiritually to be like Jesus. We must mature to the point where our spirit is predominant, our soul is submissive to our spirit, and our flesh is put under. Read Eph 4:11-16. God desires us to become a _____ man, growing up to the measure of the stature of the _____ of Christ.

20. This will take sacrifice on our part and grace on God's part. Read Phil 1:6 and 2:12-13. Explain how these two work together. _____

Memory Verses

Rom 12:2

Gal 5:16

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. Man is a three-part being.
2. The spirit should be in charge.
3. The soul is a “go-between.”
4. The body must be controlled.
5. Christian maturity requires diligent effort.

Points to Bring Out

- Q 3. Share at least two people's responses.
- Q 6. Only the spirit fellowships with God. Change proceeds from the inside out.
- Q 9. Our spirit is made new (like God) the moment we are born again.
- Q 12. Our soul must be renewed, as a daily process.
- Q 14. *For those who are comfortable about it*, share the area listed and practical steps for improvement. Don't allow the discussion to embarrass anyone!
- Q 17. Review the answers given.
- Q 20. If time permits, discuss how God's grace and our effort work together to bring us to spiritual maturity.

Memory Verses

Rom 12:2

Gal 5:16

Integrity

SECTION 1

What was once an expected, normal way of life has now become an afterthought. At one time, a man's word was his bond. Now, even Christians casually make promises and commitments they never intend to keep. But in God, integrity is never out of season, and for those who walk in it, there is great recompense of reward.

1. According to Ps 25:21, what does integrity do for those who wait on the Lord? _____
_____ Expound on what this means in light of the preceding verses. _____

2. David often prayed to God, making request of Him based on his upright walk of integrity. Read Ps 26. What requests does David make of God in verses 1 and 11? _____
_____ What confident faith confessions follow these requests? _____
_____ What gave David the confidence to proclaim this? _____
3. God requires integrity in His children. In 1 Kings 9:1-5, God appears to Solomon. What does God require of him? _____
_____ With what results? _____
4. List an area of your life in which you would like the Lord to establish you.

5. Heb 4:16 encourages us to _____
to find help in time of need. Ps 41:12 explains that integrity brings us confidence to do this. By integrity He _____

SECTION 2

Integrity is also translated as innocence and uprightness. It is often tied to righteousness, and those who walk in integrity are referred to as blameless.

6. While teaching concerning integrity in Matt 5:33-37, Jesus addresses the topic of oaths or vows. Summarize His teaching. _____

7. Apply Eccl 5:4-5 to your giving. Have you ever made a vow to please man and then failed to keep it? _____ Is it really that big a deal if you miss fulfilling your pledge one month? _____ Why or why not? _____

8. According to Ps 15:4, what should you do when you make a promise that you later regret? _____
Have you ever “sworn to your own hurt”? Explain: _____

Note: If you have failed in the past to fulfill a vow to God, remember that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:1). The key is to ask forgiveness and make a commitment to Him to be a person of integrity from this point forward. You’ll be glad you did!

9. Why is this whole integrity thing so important to God? Read Num 23:19. What is our example? _____
If we don’t believe our own word, it becomes hard to have faith in God’s Word in our mouth (Rom 10:8).

SECTION 3

10. Integrity also has to do with our response to others. When we have been hurt, we can choose one of two responses. See Matt 5:38-42 and Prov 17:9.
Old Testament response _____ Result: _____
New Testament response _____ Result: _____

11. Jesus goes further with this in Matt 5:43-44. “... I say to you, love _____ and pray for those who _____.” Why? (v45)
That you may be _____

12. Find an incident where Jesus lived this out. Ref: _____ Situation: _____

We cannot control our circumstances, but we can control our reaction to them.

- 13. Job illustrates this. In Job 2:3, God brags on Job. "... he holds fast to _____." People in our family can be our worst enemies in this. Read Job 2:9. What was the alternative? _____
- 14. What does Prov 28:10 say about Job's wife's fate? _____
These well-intentioned, poorly informed, "friends" who move others away from their integrity have what else to look forward to (see Mark 9:42)? _____

- 15. When we continue in integrity despite the circumstances, Prov 10:9 promises we will walk _____. Integrity is a spiritual four-wheel drive that gets you through anything!

SECTION 4

- 16. Ps 78:72 refers to David as one who _____

- 17. This resulted in David having confidence before God. Ps 7:8 says, "Judge me, O Lord according to _____."
- 18. Even when he sinned (2 Sam 24:10), David had confidence to fall into _____
_____ (v 14).
- 19. God even honors integrity in the unsaved. Read Gen 20:1-7. Why did God not judge Abimelech for taking another man's wife? _____

SECTION 5

- 20. Integrity is a must for leaders in the body of Christ. Titus 1:7 says a bishop (overseer) must be _____
- 21. Integrity goes beyond conduct. In Titus 2:6-8, God requires integrity in _____
This is explained in v 8 as sound _____
- 22. When teaching God's Word, we must rightly _____
(2 Tim 2:15) and not _____ the Word of God (2 Cor 4:2).

23. Often, in order to prove a point, a teacher may *extend* a scripture or take it out of context, but the biblical principle is to confirm doctrinal points with two or three supporting scriptures (Deut 19:15). What does Prov 30:5-6 say *extenders* have to look forward to?

24. Walking upright before God in the little things has great benefits. Prov 11:3 promises that the integrity of the upright _____
It brings confidence before God, but best of all, when a righteous man walks in his integrity, his _____ (Prov 20:7).

Integrity. Just Do It! You'll be glad you did.

Memory Verses

Prov 11:3

Prov 20:7

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. Requirements and results of integrity
2. Integrity defined
3. Integrity defined (continued)
4. Examples of integrity
5. Integrity in the Word

Points to Bring Out

- Q 2. Discuss confession, confidence, and integrity.
- Q 7. Talk about vows and their importance.
- Q 8. Talk about swearing to your own hurt. Ask for examples.
- Q 22,23. Talk about integrity in doctrine.

Memory Verses

Prov 11:3

Prov 20:7

How God Leads His People

SECTION 1

1. Read Ps 119:105. What is the “light” that shows us the way we are to go? _____

- How long has it been around? (See John 1:1) _____
2. In John 8:31, what does Jesus say his real disciples do? _____
Read Acts 17:10-11. What two important things did the Jews at Berea do?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
3. Read Ps 119:129-136. Verse 130 says God’s word gives two things. What are they?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____What else does God’s Word do for us? (see: v 133) _____

4. According to these scriptures, what is the primary way God leads us?
 - a) By His Spirit
 - b) By His Word
 - c) By neon lights and goose bumps
 - d) By an inward witness

SECTION 2

5. Read Rom 8:14. Who is eligible to be led by the Spirit of God? _____
_____ Does that include you? _____
6. Read the story of Naomi and Ruth in Ruth 1:1-18. How did Ruth respond when Naomi told her to leave and go back to her home?
Was Ruth: a) *Willing* to follow Naomi b) *Determined* to follow Naomi
Are you: a) *Willing* to follow God b) *Determined* to follow God
7. 1 Thess 5:23 refers to three “parts” of man. 1) _____
2) _____ 3) _____
Which of these is like God, and therefore able to hear God’s “voice” (see John 4:24)?

SECTION 3

8. Read 1 Kings 19:1-15. How was Elijah feeling in v 2-4? _____
 What came to him in v 9? _____
 Is it fair to say that Elijah was desperate to get some guidance from God? _____
 What four things happened while Elijah stood (in obedience) on the mountain before God?
 1) _____ 2) _____
 3) _____ 4) _____
 Which one was the Lord in? _____

9. In the Old Testament, God dealt with people from the outside in. In other words, they had the Spirit of God ON them, not IN them. Today, as Christians, we have the Holy Spirit living IN our spirits! The New Testament equivalent of Elijah’s “still small voice” experience is the “inward witness” of the Holy Spirit. It is a leading to go in a certain direction that may not make sense to our logical minds. It is not really a voice, but rather, a “feeling” or a “sense” that we ought to do a certain thing. Briefly describe a situation in which you believe you had an inward witness to do something. Tell whether or not you did it, and what the results were.

10. Read John 10:1-18. Who hears the shepherd’s voice? _____
 Why do they follow this shepherd? _____
 Do you think a lamb recognizes the shepherd’s voice when it is newly born? _____
 Why or why not? _____
 As Christians we can become more proficient at hearing God’s voice by doing two things:
 1) Mark 6:30-32; 1:35 _____
 2) Acts 5:32, Zech 6:15 _____

SECTION 4

11. We have looked briefly at the two main ways God leads his people. They are:
 1) _____ 2) _____
 Now, let’s look at one way God DOES NOT lead Christians, so we won’t be deceived!
 Matt 24:4 says: _____

12. Read Judges 6:11-14, 36-40. In v 14, what did God tell Gideon he would enable him to do?

Did Gideon (v 36) believe what God said? _____ Why did Gideon ask God to give him a sign with the fleece? _____

13. Read John 12:47-48. According to Jesus, it’s not enough to hear the Word. We must also _____ it. If we ask God to supernaturally change circumstances to prove that He means what He says, we are not using our faith. Rom 1:17 says: _____

As New Testament Christians, we are to BELIEVE the Word and ACT like it’s true. That is faith. Let’s look at a practical example. Let’s say you have been reading in Luke 6 and you liked verse 38 so much that you memorized it! (Look it up to make sure you know what it says.) The next day, you see a friend at work, and you think that maybe God wants you to give him \$10. All you have with you is two \$5 bills, and you were going to use them to go out for lunch. You are saved, and you’re trying to learn how to be led by the Spirit of God. Should you:

- ___ a) Tell God that if your friend happens to walk past your desk at 10:30 with his left shoe untied, then you’ll know for sure that you’re supposed to give him the \$10?
- ___ b) Go find your friend, and give him the \$10, and thank God for taking care of your lunch?
- ___ c) Give your friend \$5, because that way you’ll be obeying God, and you’ll still have enough left to eat lunch on, if you’re not extravagant?

That example may sound silly, but being obedient to the Word and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit is exactly how we “grow up” in being led by the Spirit of God. Is there any area in your life where you have “put out a fleece” recently (maybe without realizing it)? _____

If so, explain it briefly: _____

What action can you take to walk in faith, instead of in “fleece”? _____

SECTION 5

14. Many people like to quote 1 Cor 2:9. Summarize what it says in your own words.

Verse 10 is often overlooked. What does the first part of it say? _____

Read verses 11-16, too. From this passage, does it seem that we can or cannot know God's will for us? _____ Do we discern His will in our:

___ spirit (or heart)?

___ soul (mind, reason, logic, information)?

___ body (physical senses, circumstantial evidence)?

What kind of man receives the things of the Spirit of God? _____

15. HELPFUL TIPS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH ¹

1. Think as Jesus would think through you.
2. Talk as Jesus would talk through you.
3. Don't go where Jesus can't go with you.
4. Act as if Jesus were bodily watching you!
5. Walk in love.
6. Pray in the Spirit.
7. Read the Word.
8. Meditate on (think and talk about) the Word.
9. Act on the Word.
10. Give the Word first place in your daily activities.
11. Instantly obey the voice of the Spirit.

Read the list of helpful tips again! Pick one of these that needs to be improved in your life.

List two things you can do in the next seven days to make a change.

1) _____

2) _____

Call your prayer partner and tell him/her the two things you'll be working on. Also ask them how you can be praying for them.

Memory Verses

Rom 8:14

Ps 119:133

¹ Adapted from Jeanne Caldwell's lessons on "How to be Led by the Spirit"

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. Primary way God leads is by His Word.
2. Secondary way God leads is by His spirit (inward witness).
3. More on God's spirit in us.
4. Fleeces are a no-no!
5. We can know God's will and grow spiritually.

Points to Bring Out

- Q 4. God leads us mainly by His Word.
- Q 7. God communicates with our spirit. Have two people share their wordings of John 4:24.
- Q 8. God came to Elijah in a still, small voice.
- Q 9. Share experiences of inward witness.
- Q 13. People use fleeces because they don't take God at His Word. If we know the Word well, we'll have confidence in it.
- Q 15. We CAN know God's will for us. Our spirit discerns it. If time permits, share areas of improvement and constructive actions.

Memory Verses

Rom 8:14

Ps 119:133

Satan, Angels, and Demons

SECTION 1

1. Read Isa 14:12-15. What is the name originally assigned to the devil? _____
What caused him to be cast out of heaven? _____
2. According to Ezek 28:14-17, was the devil originally created evil? _____
What caused him to be cast out of the mountain of God? _____
3. Read Rev 12:9. When Satan fell, who was cast out with him? _____
How many of them did he draw out after him (see Rev 12:3-4)? _____
4. What caused the demons (fallen angels) to be cast down (2 Pet 2:4)? _____
What do they have to look forward to (Jude 6)? _____

SECTION 2

5. Including Lucifer, three (arch) angels are mentioned by name in the Bible. Each is believed to oversee a third of the angels. Read these verses and name the other two:
a) Dan 10:13, 21; Jude 9 _____
b) Dan 8:16-19; Luke 1:19, 26 _____
6. Heb 1:13-14 explains the mission of angels. They are _____
Whom are they assigned to serve? _____
7. Read Ps 103:20-21. Where do the angels get their instructions? _____
Why then is it important for us to speak/pray God's Word? _____

8. To perform their work, angels have to travel. Jacob's dream (Gen 28:12) shows them traveling between what two places? _____
9. After what event did the angels minister to Jesus (Mt 4:11)? _____

How did they minister to Peter (Acts 12:5-11)? _____

SECTION 3

10. List two titles for Satan from 2 Cor 4:4 and John 12:31. _____

11. According to Gen 1:26-28, who was originally given authority over the earth? _____

12. Before Jesus died, who had authority over the world (see Luke 4:5-6 and John 12:31)?
_____ He said it was “delivered to” him. How and when do you think this
transfer took place? _____
13. Demons operate under the authority of Satan. Read the following passages and list the
activities the Bible attributes to demonic influence.
- a) Mt 4:23-24 _____
 - b) Mt 9:32-33 _____
 - c) Mt 15:22-28 _____
 - d) Mt 17:14-18 _____
 - e) 1 Tim 4:1 _____

SECTION 4

14. Satan is tricky. We should understand his schemes. According to 2 Cor 2:10-11, what is
one of his biggest tricks? _____
How does he disguise himself to trick us (2 Cor 11:14) _____
15. Necromancers are people who pretend to communicate with the dead. They receive a
familiar (demon) spirit that speaks through them. What will God do to those who practice
this (See Lev 20:6 and Deut 18:10-12)? _____
16. It is not always easy to discern whether or not activity is motivated by demonic power.
When Paul cast out the demon spirit in Acts 16:16-18, what was it saying? _____

17. In the book of Acts, what was performed by the apostles (see Acts 2:43, 5:12)? _____

What is the danger of following men because of the signs they do (2 Thess 2:8-10)? _____

Note: This is why we should follow the Word and not signs and wonders.

SECTION 5

18. Satan had authority in the earth when he tempted Jesus (Luke 4:5-6). According to Rev 1:18 and Matthew 28:18-20, who has the authority now? _____

What are we commanded to do because of this? _____

19. Read 2 Cor 4:4. Satan, as the god of this world, has _____ of those who do not believe. How can we, as mere men, free them and accomplish the great commission (see Luke 10:1, 17-19)? _____

20. Many people fear the devil (and spiritual forces), because he threatens to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Who does Jesus say we should fear (Luke 12:4-5)? _____

How should we respond to the devil's threats (Eph 4:27, James 4:7)? _____

How did Jesus resist him? (Luke 4:1-13) _____

How did the end-time saints overcome him (Rev 12:11)? _____

21. Read Rev 20:1-15. Whom did it take to bind Satan for 1000 years? _____

What does Satan have to look forward to "day and night?" _____

Death and Hades will be thrown in the lake of fire. This is the _____

Who else will go with them? _____

22. Unlike the devil, 1 Thess 5:9-11 says we are not appointed to _____

What, then, do we have to look forward to? _____

Memory Verses

James 4:7

Eph 6:12

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. The origin of Satan and demons
3. Angels
4. The authority of Satan
5. The work of demons
6. Our authority over the devil and his future fate

Points to Bring Out

- Q 2. Discuss whether the devil was created evil (see also Gen 1:31 and James 1:16-17)
- Q 6-7. Discuss the purpose of angels and the fact that they act on the Word of God we speak.
- Q 12. Discuss how Satan received his authority when Adam and Eve disobeyed God (Gen 3).
- Q 17. Talk about the lying wonders performed by Satan and demons (see also Ex 7:11-12) and the importance of following the Word of God, not signs and wonders.
- Q 20. Ask people for practical ways to resist the devil.

Memory Verses

James 4:7

Eph 6:12

Fasting

SECTION 1

1. God wants His children to walk intimately with Him, hear His voice, and receive what He has for them. In order for those things to happen, He has set up certain principles for us to live by. List “our part” from the following scriptures.
 - a. James 4:8 _____
 - b. Ps 27:8 _____
 - c. Matt 5:6 _____

2. In Rom 8:1-17, Paul describes a war that is going on inside every believer. This is not a war between two natures but between the _____ and the _____ (hint: Rom 8:13). How do we win this battle? _____

3. Fasting is one mechanism God has given us to do this. Describe what Ps 69:10* tells us about fasting. _____

4. Read Matt 17:14-21.* Why could the disciples not cast out the demon?
 - a. because they didn't fast that day
 - b. because of their unbelief

* Some translations omit verse 21 which talks about fasting.

Fasting is a means by which a believer exalts the spirit-man and puts down the flesh by an act of his will. By getting the flesh out of the way, our spirits are energized to operate in faith that will move mountains.

SECTION 2

5. Read Luke 4:1-14. When the Spirit of God prompted Jesus to separate Himself unto God in the wilderness, how did Jesus accomplish this? _____
What two results did Jesus attain through fasting? (see v 13-14) _____

6. There are many scriptural precedents concerning why to fast. Match the following scriptures with these reasons to fast.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ a. Esther 4:15-16 | 1. As an act of repentance |
| ___ b. Dan 6:18 | 2. To gain God’s favor |
| ___ c. Acts 13:2-3 | 3. To gain God’s protection and safety |
| ___ d. Ezra 8:21-23 | 4. To gain God’s will (concerning church leadership) |
| ___ e. Joel 2:12-13, Dan 9:3-6 | 5. To focus on prayer |
| ___ f. Acts 14:23 | |
| ___ g. 2 Sam 12:16-23 | |

SECTION 3

7. What are believers encouraged to do in 1 Peter 5:6? _____
With what results? _____

8. Read Ps 35:13. What did David do when his enemy was sick? _____

9. John the Baptist had a great revelation of humbling himself (see John 3:30). “He must _____ and I must _____.”

10. Find two other scriptures which show the power of humbling ourselves before the Lord and explain how fasting is one method to do this.

Scriptures	Main Points
a. _____	a. _____ _____
b. _____	b. _____ _____

How fasting helps accomplish this: _____

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Reconciliation is great. Thank God for it, but by purifying our souls through fasting (preventative medicine), we are strengthened to say NO to temptation and thus stay free from sin and stay holy unto God.

SECTION 4

- 11. Read Isa 58:1-5. Does fasting always work? _____ List some things that render fasting ineffective _____
- 12. Any spiritual activity loses its power when it becomes merely a *form*; fasting is no different (see Zech 7:3-6). What was the Lord’s issue with these people’s fasting? _____
- 13. Read Matt 6:16-18. Jesus warned against this acceptable-looking form. He said, “*When you fast...*” (notice Jesus fully expected New Testament believers to fast), and who did he say should be aware of their fasting? _____
 And who shouldn’t? _____ How does He say to we should do this? _____
 _____ and _____
 and use breath mints (inserted by author).

The Fast that God has Chosen - Isaiah 58:6-9

- 14. Read Isa 58:6. What is the purpose of the fast God has chosen?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
- 15. Read Isa 58:7. List key things to include in fasting.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
- 16. Read Isa 58:8-9. What results from true fasts?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. “You shall _____ and the Lord will _____.”
- 17. Fast one or two meals in the coming week according to Isa 58:6-9. Check your accountability box for the day you do.

Fasting is a spiritual discipline that God designed for us as believers to bring us into a greater knowledge of Him. It releases the Holy Spirit to work more fully and powerfully in us, and it chastens our soul to allow God in His mighty power to raise us to higher places in Him.

Memory Verses

1 Cor 9:27

Isa 58:6

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. What is fasting?
2. Why should believers fast?
3. How do we fast?
4. Fasting as humbling myself

Points to Bring Out

- Q 4. Does fasting change God or change us? (It changes us, not God. It drives out unbelief and energizes the spirit.)
- Q 5. Ask if any stories stuck out to people. Have them explain.
- Q 10. Sample scriptures: 2 Chron 7:14, James 4:6-10, Phil 2:5-11. Discuss how through fasting we humble ourselves.
- Q 11. Discuss the difference between the Lord's fast and going hungry (not the Lord's fast).
- Q 14-16. Read Isa 58:6-9 and discuss. Encourage people to fulfill #17 in the coming week.

Memory Verses

1 Cor 9:27

Isa 58:6

Faith 1

SECTION 1

1. Faith is an essential element for those desiring to walk with the Lord; so much so that without it _____ (Heb 11:6).
2. Paul goes farther than this in Rom 14:22-23 as he explains faith. “Whatever is not of faith is _____.”
3. With these broad and far-reaching statements, we can see how important it is for Christians to learn to operate in faith. Rom 1:17 says, the just shall _____
4. Study Heb 11:1 in several translations (especially the Amplified Bible). Write a definition of faith from your understanding of this verse. _____

5. Faith does not come naturally to carnal man, because it goes beyond the five physical senses. Read Heb 11:3 and explain how and from what God created the physical earth.

6. What does Rom 4:17 say that God – who gives life to the dead – does with His words?

7. This concept of faith goes crossways to our “I’ll believe it when I see it” mindset. Read John 20:24-29. Which disciple made this phrase famous? _____
What was Jesus’ synopsis of the issue (v 29)? _____

SECTION 2

8. Read Rom 3:21-28. Explain from these verses the role of faith in salvation (becoming justified before God). _____

What results from being “justified by faith”? (Rom 5:1-2)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

9. Eph 2:8-9 explains it in a nutshell. “For by _____ you have been saved through _____.” Explain our part vs. God’s part.

10. We see then that faith is required in order to become a new creation, but how does Gal 2:20 explain that we are to live our new life in Christ? _____

11. Paul reiterates this point in Gal 3:1-3. Explain Paul’s point in verse 3. _____

12. Therefore, we see that faith is vital in *every* aspect of our Christian walk. That is why Heb 12:2 admonishes us to remain focused on Jesus, the _____ and _____ of _____.

SECTION 3

13. As we have seen, faith is essential to living a life that pleases the Father, and it is our part of the “born again” experience. But even before Jesus’ redemptive work on the cross, faith was in operation. Read the following stories and, as in the given example, identify the individual(s)’ faith level and the associated resource provided from heaven.

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Faith level</u>	<u>Resource provided</u>
Mark 2:1-12	friends	high (visible to Jesus)	Paralytic healed
Matt 9:27-29	_____	_____	_____
Matt 13:53-58	_____	_____	_____
Matt 14:25-33	_____	_____	_____
Mark 5:27-34	_____	_____	_____
Acts 14:8-10	_____	_____	_____

Whose faith (or lack of faith) drew forth these resources from God? Jesus’ or the people’s?
 _____ What effect does your faith level have on His provision in your life?

14. Read Mark 11:20-24. List three critical aspects of walking in faith from v 23.
- 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

How do we scripturally pray in faith (v 24)? _____
 _____ (Sounds like Rom 4:17, doesn't it?)

*Warning: Beware of sense-ruled prayers! (e.g. "Lord, if this is your will give me a sign/open door/etc.") Faith-filled prayers pray God's will (His Word) and believe God has answered "when we pray."

FAITH is the currency of the kingdom of God..

15. List two areas of your life which need increased faith.
- 1) _____
 - 2) _____

Accountability sheet: Have your prayer partner pray with you about these.

SECTION 4

16. Many people confuse faith with belief. Belief is a part of faith, but faith goes well beyond it. James addresses this in James 2:14-26. Faith must have _____ to be functional and alive. Even the _____ believe; (and tremble!)
17. Read the following stories and list the person, the promise, the action, and the resource provided.

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Promise</u>	<u>Faith Action</u>	<u>Resource Provided</u>
Ex 14:15-22	_____	_____	_____	_____
2 Kings 4:1-7	_____	_____	_____	_____
1 Kings 17:8-16	_____	_____	_____	_____
Heb 11:17-19 (Gen 22)	_____	_____	_____	_____

18. So we see that true Bible faith requires corresponding action. As 2 Cor 4:13 says, “I believed and therefore I _____,” or to extend this, faith says, “I believe and therefore I act (on what I believe).”

Active Bible faith is the currency of the kingdom of God, and it provokes a response of provision and pleasure from a loving Father God.

Memory Verses

Heb 11:1

Heb 11:6

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. Faith defined
2. Saving faith
3. Faith, the currency of God's kingdom
4. Faith, belief, and action

Points to Bring Out

- Q 4. Discuss definitions. Include “title deed of hope” and “faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.”
- Q 11. Discuss the ongoing role of faith in the believer's life.
- Q 13. How does our faith affect God's provision?
- Q 16. Discuss the role of works (of obedience) in our faith walk.
- Q 15,18. Give people opportunity to share growth areas and discuss possible faith-actions (e.g. giving a seed for a financial need).

Memory Verses

Heb 11:1

Heb 11:6

Faith 2

SECTION 1

As we saw in the last lesson, faith is the currency of the kingdom of God. It is defined as heart belief and is accompanied by corresponding action. We begin our Christian lives through faith (Eph 2:8-9), and without it we cannot please God (Heb 11:6).

1. Abraham (“Abram” before God changed his name in Gen 17:5) is considered the father of our faith. Read Gen 15:1-6. How was Abraham counted as righteous before God? _____

2. This is further explained in Rom 4. Read verses 1-8. When is a person’s faith credited for righteousness? _____
Abraham is the father of all those who believe. Explain from vs 9-12 more specifically what this means. _____

3. Continue reading Rom 4:13-21. List 3 things Abraham did to “against (or in) hope, believe in hope.”
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
4. Read Gen 22:1-5. What did God ask Abraham to do ? _____
How could Abraham say, “*we will come back*” in v 5? (Hint: see Heb 11:17-19) _____

5. God sets leaders, like Abraham, in our midst to be our example. Heb 13:7 says we must imitate _____ of these leaders.

SECTION 2

Men like Abraham show us that faith that rests on a promise from God grows and matures over time, eventually bringing the promise to pass.

6. In Luke 17:5-6, Jesus explains faith to his disciples as a seed. How does He explain we are to *plant* our seed of faith? _____

7. Jesus said “If you have faith as a seed...” According to Rom 12:3, to whom has God given the *seed of faith*? _____
8. Just as any natural seed needs to be planted to be productive, so it is with faith. 2 Cor 4:13 reiterates that we *plant* our seed of faith by _____
9. Once planted, our seed needs to grow. Read the following scriptures and describe how our faith grows.
 - a) Rom 10:17 _____
 - b) Jude 20 _____
 - c) Rom 4:20 _____
10. In our “microwave” society, we have come to expect immediate results. This is not how things work in the kingdom of God. Jesus explains in Mark 4:26-28 “first the _____ then _____, and after that _____.” As we plant our faith, we must hold fast _____ (Heb 10:23). We can actually uproot our seed by the words we speak about it.
11. Heb 6:11-12 confirms that a vital counterpart to faith is _____ Through faith and _____, they _____
12. Many people start in faith, but when things get tough, they draw back. According to Heb 10:35-38, what does God think of this? _____

SECTION 3

13. God’s desire, as we saw in Heb 10:36, is that we receive the promises in His Word. He has given us His faith (Gal 2:20) in order to perform this. But it doesn’t come without _____ (I Tim 6:12).
14. As we take wage spiritual warfare, taking back Satan’s territory, what does Eph 6:10-17 say God gives us to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one? _____

15. Match the following enemies of faith with the appropriate scriptures.
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| ___ a) 1 Thess 3:2-3 | 1. Doubt |
| ___ b) 1 Tim 1:18-19 | 2. Circumstances |
| ___ c) Matt 14:30 | 3. Trials, afflictions |
| ___ d) James 1:6 | 4. Weariness, fainting |
| ___ e) Matt 6:25-30 | 5. Guilty conscience |
| ___ f) Gal 6:9 | 6. Worry, anxiety |
16. We can choose to allow these attacks on our faith to either strengthen us or destroy us, by our reaction to them. James 1:2-4 says if we will respond with _____ when our faith is attacked, it will build _____
The end result is maturity and completeness, lacking _____ (i.e. obtaining the promise). And again, 1 Peter 1:6-7 says trials prove the _____ of our faith.
17. In John 17:15-16, Jesus prays not to take Christians out of the world, but that we would be preserved against the evil one. What tool do we have to give us victory over the world?
_____ (1 John 5:4)
18. Read 1 Cor 13:2. What must accompany faith? _____ Why is this?
(see Gal 5:6) _____
19. What else should we add to our faith to cause it to be fruitful? (2 Peter 1:5-8)

SECTION 4

20. God has given Christians faith to live an overcoming life for Him and glorify His name. What does Mark 11:22-24 promise us as we operate in faith? _____

21. Read Acts 3:11-16. What did faith produce for this man? _____
22. Explain from Heb 4:2 why the gospel prospers to some and not to others; that is, some receive the promises of the Word (health, soundness, peace, etc.) and others don't. _____

23. What does Jesus expect (John 14:12) from us as we believe (have faith) in Him?

24. And this we will do as we _____ and not _____
(2 Cor 5:7).

25. In addition to the joy of pleasing God and seeing His promises manifest in our lives here and now, Rev 14:12-13 gives us two final promises for those who keep the faith of Jesus:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Faith is the currency of God’s kingdom. It is the victory that overcomes the world, and it is our avenue for walking in the promises of God’s Word. Without faith, it is impossible to please God, but with and through faith all things are possible.

Memory Verses

Rom 4:20-21

Mark 11:23

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. Abraham, father of our faith
2. Faith as a seed
3. Enemies of faith
4. Faith that moves mountains

Points to Bring Out

- Q 3 Discuss Abraham “hoping against hope.”
- Q 9 Discuss faith as a seed and how it grows.
- Q 15 Ask class members to identify enemies to their faith in current-day faith “projects.”
- Q 16 Discuss how to overcome enemies and press on in faith.
- Q 22 Discuss receiving the promises of God’s Word by faith.

Memory Verses

Rom 4:20-21

Mark 11:23

The Church

SECTION 1

1. Read Matt 16:13-20. Christ means Messiah or Savior. Who was the first to identify Jesus as the Christ? _____ How did he figure this out? _____
_____ On what “rock” does Jesus build His church?

___ a. Simon Peter

___ b. The revelation that Jesus is the Messiah, God’s Son. (Hint: See Acts 2:36-41 for an example.)

2. Read Matt 7:24-27. What distinguished the house that fell from the house that stood?

A church (or person) who is not founded on Jesus Christ will fall.

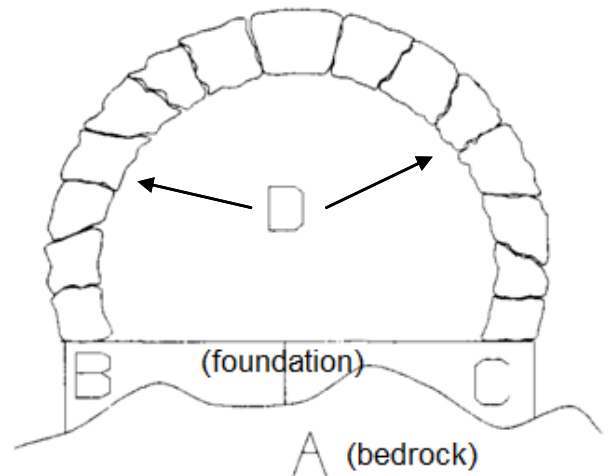
3. Read the following scriptures to fill in the following parts of Jesus’ church.

A. Mt 16:15-18 _____

B. Eph 2:19-22 _____

C. Eph 2:19-22 _____

D. 1 Peter 2:4-5 _____



The Church is built on the foundation of the apostles’ doctrine (found in the New Testament epistles) and the prophets’ writings (found in the Old Testament). This indicates that the Bible is the foundation upon which Jesus’ Church is built.

SECTION 2

4. Read Eph 4:7-13. Why did God give the ministry “gifts” to the church (vs 11-13)?
- ___ a. To perfect the saints
- ___ b. To do the work of the ministry
- ___ c. To build up the church
- ___ d. To equip the saints for the work of the ministry

5. Read Eph 4:14-16. What causes the growth and effective working of the body of Christ?

6. Read Eph 5:23. As the husband is head of the wife, _____

7. Read 1 Cor 12:12-27. Summarize this section as it applies to you. _____

8. Read 1 Cor 12:28-30. Which gifts are repeated from Eph 4?

_____, _____, _____.

Most Christians will not serve in many of these gifts. Note that there are two gifts listed in Eph 4 that are not listed in verses 29 and 30. "Are all ...?" What are they? _____

Note: The word translated *pastor* in some versions of Eph 4:11 is also used by Jesus (see John 10) as *shepherd*.

SECTION 3

9. Read Jer 23:1-4. How does God feed His flock? _____

What will happen to pastors who do not tend to the flock? _____

10. Read John 10:1-17. Why is it important to go to a church where the pastor is a true God-called shepherd and not just someone hired by the board? _____

11. Read Heb 13:17. What is our responsibility to our pastor (and church leaders)?

What is their responsibility toward us? _____

SECTION 4

12. Read Ex 18:13-27. What was Moses' problem? _____

What was the solution? _____

God has set pastors over local bodies to shepherd the flock of God. But they, as Moses, need others to help them do the work. To facilitate this, God has created two offices: deacons (servants) and elders (overseers).

13. Read Acts 6:1-7. List two of the first deacons: _____

What resulted when the deacons did their jobs? _____

14. Read 1 Tim 3:8-13, the qualifications of deacons. List 4 vital characteristics of a deacon.

a. _____ c. _____

b. _____ d. _____

15. Read Titus 1:5-9, the qualifications of elders (overseers). Is an elder appointed or "set" in the church by God as a pastor is? _____

List 10 requirements of an elder (See, 1 Tim 3:1-7 also).

a. _____ f. _____

b. _____ g. _____

c. _____ h. _____

d. _____ i. _____

e. _____ j. _____

16. Read 1 Peter 5:1-4. How do elders assist pastors? _____

Note: In question 8, we found that all Christians can serve in "helps" and "administration." God raises up deacons to head up the ministry of helps and elders to oversee church administration and government.

SECTION 5

17. Read Rom 12:3-8. God has given each believer the measure of _____. List the gifts He has given to us, and match them to their definitions.

- ___ 1. _____ A. systematically explaining God’s Word
- ___ 2. _____ B. meeting practical and physical needs
- ___ 3. _____ C. using their finances to minister
- ___ 4. _____ D. showing compassion to the hurting
- ___ 5. _____ E. encouraging and building up others
- ___ 6. _____ F. speaking forth the Word boldly and frankly
- ___ 7. _____ G. organizing and delegating responsibility

18. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. What are the gifts for? _____

What will happen if we use what God has given us? _____

What happens if we don’t? _____

[Hint: See Matt 25:14-30 and Prov 18:16].

19. Write 1 Cor 4:2 in the first person as it relates to your gift. _____

20. Read Col 1:24-29. Paul sums up the purpose God has for each of us as a living stone in His church. In birthing His church, what did God want to reveal to the world (Gentiles)?

How is the world to find out? _____

As members of the body of Christ, we join with Paul in our joint-commission, “that we may present _____ in Christ Jesus.”

Memory Verses

1 Peter 4:10

Eph 4:11-12

Teacher's Guide

Section Topics

1. Building blocks of the church
2. The ministry gifts and the body
3. The role of the pastor
4. Deacons and elders
5. The service/motivation gifts

Points to Bring Out

- Q 3. Discuss the pieces (building blocks) of God's church (d).
- Q 4. Read Eph 4:11-12 and discuss why (d) is true and (b) is not.
- Q 7. Have someone read his/her synopsis.
- Q 10. Distinguish a true pastor from a hireling.
- Q 15. Distinguish a pastor, one appointed by God (Eph 4:11), from an elder, one who desires a good work and is chosen by man.
- Q 17. Ask class members if they have found their primary service motivation/gift; if so, ask them to share what it is.

Memory Verses

1 Peter 4:10

Eph 4:11-12