

# Reflections BETJECTIONS

An interactive, topical Bible study  
in thirteen lessons for New Christians

This Bible study will help you reflect on what God has done and continues to do in your life and to know what He promises to do as you grow in His Word. Each lesson focuses on key biblical truth leading to a change in personal character. The goal is a realization that personal character determines your choices and choices determine your conduct. As you reflect on Scriptural principles, your life and character will become more and more like that of Jesus Christ.

For the Glory of God,

The Staff of the Foursquare National Department of Christian Education  
Rev. Rick Wulfestieg, National Minister  
Patti Wulfestieg, Office Projects Coordinator,  
Rev. Rod Light, Resource and Training Development  
Marcene Trujillo, Research Editor  
Becky Anderson, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Mary Lou Canata, Field Consultant

REFLECTIONS IS DEVELOPED AND PUBLISHED BY  
the Foursquare National Department of Christian Education  
P.O. Box 26902 • 1910 W. Sunset Boulevard • Suite 200 • Los Angeles, California 90026-0176  
Phone, 213.989.4270 • Fax 213.989.4590 • E-Mail, ce@foursquare.org

# REFLECTIONS

## Introduction

### Bible Study for New Christians

#### REFLECTIONS is designed to be ...

##### ... flexible

The series is appropriate for small group study or one-on-one personal discipleship.

##### ... adaptable

The content stands alone or can be a springboard to further in depth discussion.

##### ... expandable

Learning activities, when combined with the study lesson sheets, can provide enough material for a 60-90 minute Bible study/Sunday school class session.

#### REFLECTIONS Lesson Themes and Verses

Lesson 1	Knowing His Word (The Bible) - John 15:3
Lesson 2	Getting to Know Your Heavenly Father (Abba Father) - Galatians 4:6,7
Lesson 3	Assurance of My Salvation (Personal Growth) - Psalm 41:12
Lesson 4	Living Amidst Imperfection (Relationships with Christians) - 1 John 1:7
Lesson 5	Living in Love's Embrace (God's Holy Spirit) - 1 Corinthians 6:19
Lesson 6	Responding in Love (Personal Stewardship) - 1 Peter 4:10
Lesson 7	Helping With the Heart of God (Personal Ministry) - Hebrews 10:24,25
Lesson 8	Celebrate the Goodness of God (Praising God) - Hebrews 13:15
Lesson 9	Health Plan of the Lord (Divine Healing) - James 5:13,14
Lesson 10	Celebration of Life (The Lord's Supper/Communion) - Luke 22:19b
Lesson 11	Who Will Identify With Jesus? (Water Baptism) - Luke 9:23
Lesson 12	Filled With God's Power (The Promise of the Holy Spirit) - Acts 1:8
Lesson 13	Where Do I Go From Here? (Sharing Your Faith) - 1 Peter 3:15b

#### REFLECTIONS Learning Kit Includes ...

- 13 colorful, interactive study lessons for personal or group Bible study/discussion
- A New Perspective on the Bible (handout for lesson 1)
- Lesson themes and Scripture verses
- Organization for your REFLECTIONS study
- Lesson plans and learning activities for expanded group interaction

Please note: The lesson sheets are not designed for reproduction and it is a violation of copyright laws to photocopy any portion of REFLECTIONS without first obtaining written permission from the Foursquare National Department of Christian Education.

# REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

Organize

## Planning For Your Study:

- \* Determine if you will conduct a group study or individual discipleship.
- \* Purchase a REFLECTIONS Learning Kit for each participant, including the instructor.
- \* Review materials with the teacher or individual discipleship leaders.
- \* Establish a regular time and place to meet for the study.
- \* Plan a fellowship gathering of all new Christians before you begin the study.
- \* Use this time to get acquainted and begin building on-going relationships.

## Suggestions for Individual Discipleship:

- \* REFLECTIONS should always be used under the supervision of a mature Christian.
- \* Establish an agreeable, regular time and place to meet for your discipleship.
- \* At the conclusion of the first meeting, introduce REFLECTIONS.
- \* Decide if the lessons will be used as homework prior to the meetings or as the basis for each meeting.
- \* Begin and end each session with prayer.
- \* Allow time for discussion about further questions or personal conflicts.
- \* Provide support and encouragement for the new Christian to keep living for Christ.
- \* Let the new Christian know how/when to reach you throughout the week.
- \* Plan for some type of communication (E-mail, phone call, etc) between meetings.

## Ideas For Using REFLECTIONS as a group study:

The **Key Bible Verse** on page one of each lesson is appropriate for memorization.

**General information** opens each lesson and will give an introduction to the lesson theme.

**Take a Closer Look** focuses on a devotional application. This section will be most useful for the new Christian as part of their personal daily devotions either before or after the class session. You decide when it should be completed.

**Question and Answer** responses to Bible reading can be incorporated into the class session, if you choose. Some of these responses may require more time before or after class.

**Watch Your Step** gives specific suggestions for lifestyle changes in the Christian life. Encourage those in your group to prayerfully make adjustments in their personal lives to reflect Jesus as first priority. Use this section to launch discussions or challenge individuals to make significant life decisions to follow the ways of Jesus.

A **Lesson Plan** for each lesson can be found on the following pages. Each lesson plan includes a lesson aim to focus the class session. The lesson plan also includes suggested learning activities which are intended to enhance and expand a group Bible study or Sunday school session. Most are designed to introduce the subject to the group. Some activities are more suited to the the end of the lesson. Feel free to mix and match the ideas and personalize the learning experience to the needs of your group.

# REFLECTIONS

## Lesson Plans

### Bible Study for New Christians

Each Lesson Plan Includes:

Key Verse for emphasis and memorization.

Lesson Theme to properly prepare for the subject matter.

Lesson Aim to focus the class session.

Learning Activities to enhance and expand a group Bible study or Sunday school session.

#### **Lesson 1: Knowing His Word**

**Theme:** The Bible

**Key Scripture:** John 15:3

**Lesson Aim:**

To identify how the Christian should treat the Bible.

To begin a daily practice of Bible reading/study which will keep us strong in Christ.

**Learning Activity:**

Display a common road map. Ask the group to identify significant features of the map which help a novice use it more effectively. Responses may include, longitude, latitude lines; major highways/roadways; city and state designations and mileage between key locations. Distribute the handout entitled "A New Perspective on the Bible." Review a few of the key concepts from this handout and explain how the Bible is like a roadmap for our life showing us the way to get where we want to go.

#### **Lesson 2: Getting to Know Your Heavenly Father**

**Theme:** Abba Father

**Key Scripture:** Galatians 4:6,7

**Lesson Aim:**

To identify the benefits of a right relationship with God as our Heavenly Father.

To accept personal responsibility for our growth in what God wants us to do.

**Learning Activity:**

Supply a printed list of the Hebrew Names of God listed below. Discuss the significance of each name used to describe God and what that name can mean in the life of each believer. Encourage each person to look up the Scripture references during the week and meditate on those verses.

Jehovah - Jireh (God, my Provider) Genesis 22:14, Philippians 4:19

Jehovah - Nissi (God my Banner or Standard) Exodus 17:15, John 15:13

Jehovah - Shalom (God, my Peace) Judges 6:24, Ephesians 2:14

Jehovah - Raah (God, my Shepherd) Psalm 23:1, John 10:11

Jehovah - Tsidkenyu (God, my Righteousness) Jeremiah 23:6, 1 Corinthians 1:30

Jehovah - Shammah (God, my Helper) Ezekiel 48:35, Hebrews 13:5

Jehovah - Rapha (God, my Healer) Exodus 15:26, James 5:15

## **REFLECTIONS, Lesson Plans (continued)**

### **Lesson 3: Assurance of My Salvation**

**Theme:** Personal Growth

**Key Scripture:** Psalm 41:12

**Lesson Aim:**

To realize that personal growth in Christ means a change in thinking and living.  
To receive counsel and comfort from the Bible during this personal growth.

**Learning Activity:**

Divide into groups of two to four people. Discuss the following:  
What is God asking you to do which has stretched you the most?  
What specific steps have you taken to bring about this change?

### **Lesson 4: Living Amidst Imperfection**

**Theme:** Relationships With Christians

**Key Scripture:** 1 John 1:7

**Lesson Aim:**

To realize that life with other Christians can be both a blessing and a challenge.  
To learn to interact with other Christians with God's love.

**Learning Activity:**

Darken the room after your opening prayer. Begin to bring light into the room by lighting one candle at a time until several candles around the room are lit. As you do this, discuss as a group how the flame of each candle blends with the others to gradually illuminate the entire room. Relate this illustration to the aim of this lesson that Christians are to interact with each other in the love of God. Discuss the benefits of getting along with each other.

### **Lesson 5: Living in Love's Embrace**

**Theme:** God's Holy Spirit

**Key Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 6:19

**Lesson Aim:**

To appreciate the presence of God's Holy Spirit in the life of the new Christian.  
To begin to personally explore the fullness of God's Holy Spirit.

**Learning Activity:**

Open this class session with this activity. Give every person a 3 x 5 index card and ask them to write a job description for their best friend. Include qualities and personal characteristics which would qualify the person for the job. Direct the group to the Scriptural understanding of the Holy Spirit as the friend and comforter of every believer.

### **Lesson 6: Responding in Love**

**Theme:** Personal Stewardship

**Key Scripture:** 1 Peter 4:10

**Lesson Aim:**

To realize that our relationship with Jesus results in cooperation and obedience.  
To commit to a life of personal obedience to the will of God.

**Learning Activity:**

Ask each person to write out how they spend their time in a given day. Include such things as meals, driving, errands, meetings, specific tasks on the job etc. Encourage people to identify time which might be spent reading the Bible or talking with God. Challenge each person to make time in their schedule to serve others through their church.

## **Lesson 7: Helping With The Heart of God**

**Theme:** Personal Ministry

**Key Scripture:** Hebrews 10:24,25

**Lesson Aim:**

To accept personal responsibility for helping with the needs of the church.

To identify attitudes and principles for serving as a Christian.

**Learning Activity:**

Toward the *end* of the class session, distribute a half sheet of paper to each person. Ask them to write their name at the top of the paper, fold it in half and pass it to the person on their left. Now have each person think about a gift or ability for the person whose paper they now hold. Every person should write that gift or ability somewhere on the paper (not necessarily at the top, but anywhere on the page). Keep these lists a surprise for now and keep them moving around the room to the left until everyone receives their own paper back. Ask if anyone agrees with the gifts written under their name. Are there traits or abilities other people have seen that until now seemed hidden? Can the observations of other Christians help us identify how we might help out in the church?

## **Lesson 8: Celebrate the Goodness of God**

**Theme:** Praising God

**Key Scripture:** Hebrews 13:15

**Lesson Aim:**

To understand what it means to praise God.

To begin a daily process of praising God.

**Learning Activity:**

Use pairs or small teams for this opening activity. Tell each team to create a commercial or a catchy jingle that sells praise to a television audience. Allow time for the teams to share their commercials or jingles with the entire group.

## **Lesson 9: Health Plan of the Lord**

**Theme:** Divine Healing

**Key Scripture:** James 5:13, 14

**Lesson Aim:**

To accept the Scriptural fact that God is our healer.

To learn why and how to pray for other people to be healed from their sickness.

**Learning Activity:**

Toward the end of this lesson, encourage everyone to write down what they would say if they were praying for healing for another person. Have volunteers share their prayers and give specific instruction on how they might pray more directly or with more conviction. Be sure to include the following:

praying in the Name of Jesus

praying for complete healing

praying that God be glorified

praying with personal faith and conviction

Conclude this session by anointing with oil any from the group who are sick or would like to see a friend or loved one healed. Encourage people in the group to anoint and pray for each other rather than the leader being the only one praying.

## **REFLECTIONS, Lesson Plans (continued)**

### **Lesson 10: Celebration of Life**

**Theme:** The Lord's Supper/Communion

**Key Scripture:** Luke 22:19b

**Lesson Aim:**

To remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross through the Lord's Supper.

To appreciate the life which Jesus gives us as we have fellowship with Him.

**Learning Activity:**

Borrow from your church, the elements and equipment for communion. Include the trays, bread, cups, and juice. At the end of this class session, have the new Christians prepare their own communion service. Show them how to fill the cups, prepare the bread and fill the trays. Talk about, then demonstrate, how communion is usually served in your church service. Thank God for His demonstration of love and grace for us. Then eat the bread and drink the juice in appreciation of God's salvation in your life.

### **Lesson 11: Who Will Identify With Jesus?**

**Theme:** Water Baptism

**Key Scripture:** Luke 9:23

**Lesson Aim:**

To discover the importance of identifying with Jesus through water baptism.

To bring the new Christian to a decision about being baptized in water.

**Learning Activity:**

As a way of introducing the lesson, ask the group to discuss these questions:

"Do you find it difficult to obey God?"

"What are the benefits of obedience to God?"

"Is there freedom in obedience to God?"

Begin to transition the conversation toward the theme of the lesson: personal identification with Jesus as our Lord and Savior through water baptism.

### **Lesson 12: Filled With God's Power**

**Theme:** The Promise of the Holy Spirit

**Key Scripture:** Acts 1:8

**Lesson Aim:**

To encourage the new Christian to produce a life-style that is a witness to God's power.

To bring the new Christian to a decision about being filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Learning Activity:**

Open the lesson with a brief discussion of physical force and personal strength. Use current events and the latest headlines about some great demonstration of power. Then ask everyone to pair off and spend a few, fun minutes in an arm wrestling competition. It would also be appropriate to choose two of your more outgoing people to represent the group and arm wrestle while the others cheer them on. However you choose to use this activity, be sure to make the connection of God's power being greater than any force or strength known to man. Help the new Christian understand that when we receive the fullness of God's Holy Spirit, God has promised to empower us for service with a boldness and strength we could not produce on our own.

### **Lesson 13: Where Do I Go From Here?**

**Theme:** Sharing Your Faith

**Key Scripture:** 1 Peter 3:15b

**Lesson Aim:**

To accept the responsibility of telling others what God has done for me.

To recognize that this message will only be shared if I choose to share it.

**Learning Activity:**

To help introduce this lesson ask everyone to come up with the top five reasons they are glad to have Jesus in their lives. You might brainstorm a list on the chalkboard or overhead projector. It might be fun to break into groups and extend the list as far as each group can take it rewarding the group with the most reasons. Or, you might choose to give a piece of paper to each person and simply ask them to respond thoughtfully to the statement: "I am glad Jesus came into my life because ..."

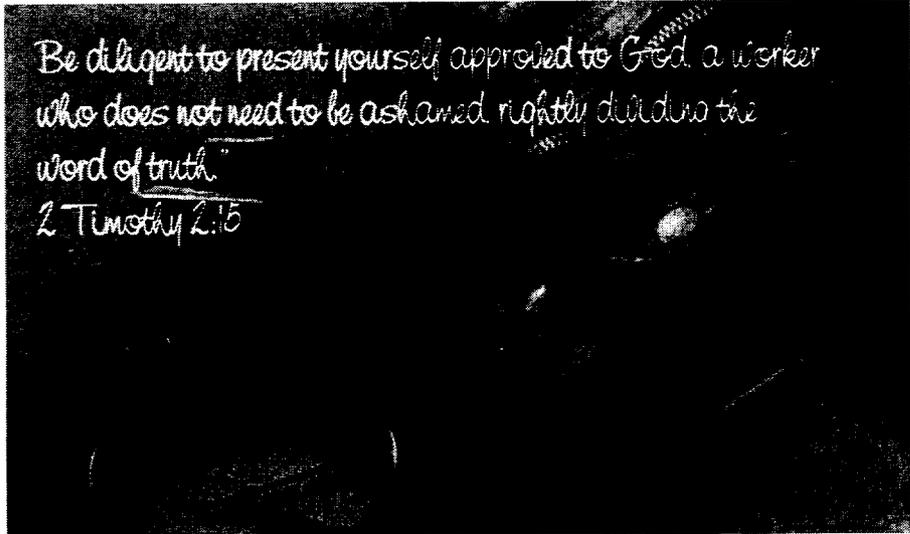
**Alternate Activity:**

Ask each new Christian to bring with them to class their personal testimony which they wrote as part of lesson five of this study. Ask them to re-read their testimony and make any adjustments or corrections since they first wrote it. Have their perspectives changed? Have they seen new areas of growth in their life? Encourage each person to share their testimony with at least one other person in the group, maybe even sharing it with the entire group. This will help the new Christian to share their faith, for the first time, in a safe and controlled environment.

# A New Perspective on the Bible

## A Starting Point

The Bible is God's written revelation of His will to humanity. Its central theme is salvation through Jesus Christ. God wants a vital relationship with the people He created. The Bible directs us to that relationship.



Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15

## A Relevant Guidebook

The Old Testament is the story of a PROMISE of a coming Savior. The New Testament reports how God's PROMISE CAME TRUE. The Bible is encouraging and full of hope for our lives today. Make time to read through the Bible during your first year as a Christian. Reading through the Bible can be accomplished in about 80 hours.<sup>1</sup> Determine how you can spare 80 hours in the year. Although most people are very busy, spending time in the Bible will solidify your understanding of God and what He has done in your life.

The Bible was written by 40 different authors over a period of 1600 years. The Old Testament is made up of thirty-nine smaller books and was originally written mostly in Hebrew. The New Testament is made up of twenty-seven books and was originally written in a common form of Greek used by most of the people of the day.

Each book of the Bible has chapters, and each chapter has many verses. When you want to find something in the Bible you can look up its "reference" just like an address. The reference, Genesis 1:1, for example, means the book of Genesis, chapter 1, verse 1. Bibles usually have a contents page for easy reference to page numbers of the books of the Bible. The Bible verses quoted in REFLECTIONS are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Mears, Henrietta C., What the Bible is All About, Regal Books, Ventura, California, Second revised edition copyright Gospel Light Publications, 1997.

# Knowing His Word

## Lesson 1

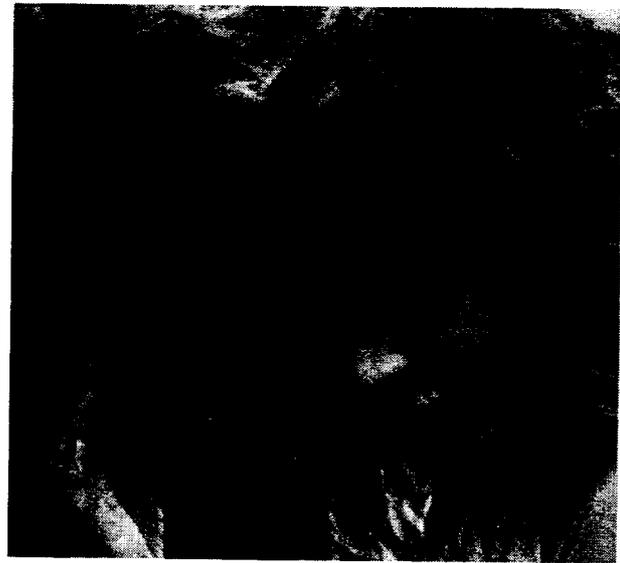
### The Bible

*"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." John 15:3*

## The Bible is Reliable

You can tell a great deal about a person's character by the strength and credibility of their word. The Bible is the most credible book ever produced because its author is God Himself. By knowing His Word, you get to know Him. By studying His Word, you begin to know His plan. By thinking about His Word, you start to act more like Jesus.

The fact that God chooses to communicate with you in words, much the same as you communicate with others, shows how intimately He desires to be with you. His Word is your continual "guidepost" for direction; your source of strength; your well of inspiration; and your hope for life.



## Take a Closer Look



Open your Bible to Psalm 119. Carefully read through this important chapter and notice how many times the writer mentions the Word of God. As you read, underline or highlight phrases which give specific insight about the Word of God in your life. A few of these phrases are listed below.

*"... keep your statutes"*

*"... taking heed according to your word."*

*"... Your Word have I hidden in my heart..."*

*"... I will meditate on your precepts."*

# Discovering

# the Bible



Read the questions below. Use your Bible to find the Scriptures with each question. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, write your answer to the question.

Of what value is the Bible in our daily lives?  
2 Timothy 3:16

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What does it mean to you that Jesus used God's Word on three consecutive occasions to resist the temptation of Satan? Matthew 4:1-11

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What is the primary reason the Bible was recorded? John 20:31

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Read Acts 17:10,11 and explain why the Berean believers are an example to Christians today.

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What does Jesus mean when He says "Man shall not live by bread

alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God?" Matthew 4:4

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How is God's Word a personal help to you? John 15:3

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## Watch Your Step



Christians need to be constantly reminded to place a high value on the Bible. It is more than a book of instruction, it is the literal Word of God. Here are a few ways you can prioritize the Bible in your life with Christ:

- ▼ read the Bible daily
- ▼ value what God has said through His Word
- ▼ memorize helpful verses from these lessons
- ▼ encourage others to appreciate the Bible

# Getting to Know

## Your Heavenly Father

Lesson 2

Abba Father

"... you are sons (and daughters), God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, Abba, Father!"

Galatians 4:6

### We Call Him, "Papa, God"

Galatians 4:7 tells us, "Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

We were slaves to sin and rebellion, now we are children of the Heavenly Father. Children are automatically heirs. We are heirs of God.

We are heirs because of what

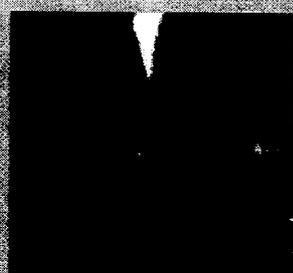
God has done not because of anything we have done. 'Abba, Father' simply means 'Papa.' It is used by the Apostle Paul only two times in his writing. In both instances the word 'Abba' refers to the intimate relationship between the believer and His Heavenly Father. The Scriptures contained in this lesson will instruct you, encourage you and build you up in this new relationship with Jesus Christ.



### How Can We Respond to Perfect Love?

Jesus lived His life on earth in complete obedience to God as His Father. Read about their Father-Son relationship in John 17:20-23. Jesus chose to obey His Father because of the great love they shared.

As you complete this lesson, ask your Heavenly Father to help you see attitudes or habits in your life which should be improved or changed.



### Take a Closer Look

1 John 3:1 explains that God's love was given to us so that we could be children of God. Think of a few ways God has shown His love to you since you first came to Jesus Christ. Write down some of your thoughts here.

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Read the questions below. Use your Bible to find the Scriptures with each question. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, write your answer to the question.

What has God the Father brought about in your life through Jesus Christ? 1 Peter 1:3

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Why could Jesus say His Heavenly Father was with Him, and would never leave Him? John 8:29

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At a point of great personal decision, what was the response of Jesus to His Father? Matthew 26:36-39

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What can you learn from this response?

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What great promise do you have from God in 2 Corinthians 6:17-18?

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What is required of us to enjoy this promise? (verse 17)

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List two of the characteristics of God the Father from James 1:17:

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Watch  
Your Step



What attitude or habit in your life do you think your Heavenly Father would like changed?

What is God asking you to do?

How will you respond to the instruction of your Heavenly Father in this habit/attitude?

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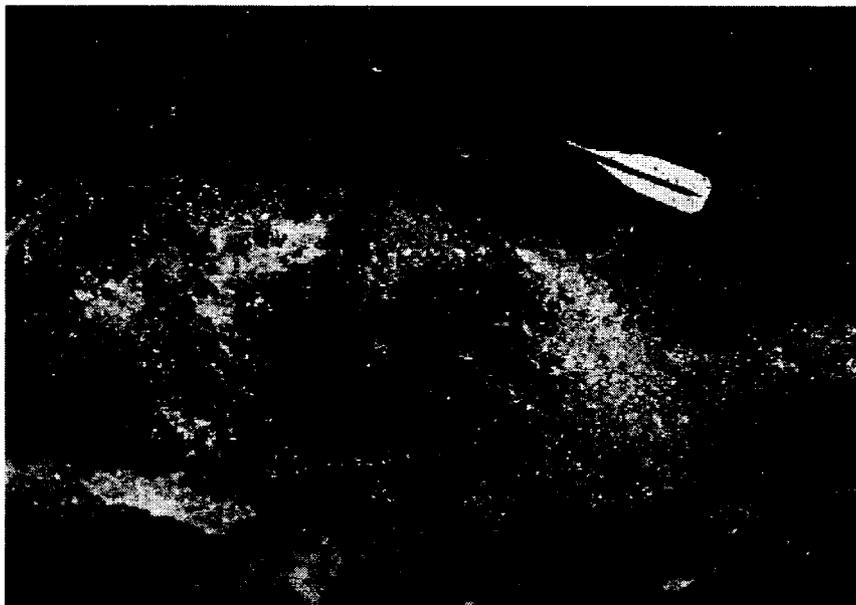
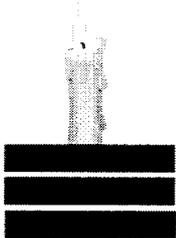
# Assurance of My Salvation

Lesson 3

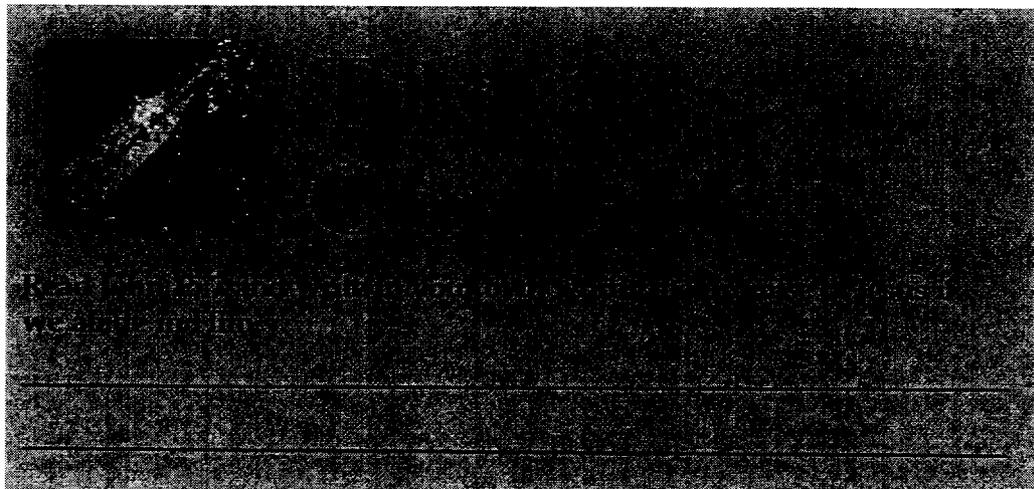
Personal Growth

One of the first qualities about Jesus you will learn is that He stays close to you all the time. His promise is that He will never leave you or turn away from you. Jesus is committed to you.

The Bible is full of reminders about God's love for His people. In this lesson, you will read specific Scriptures about your new relationship with God. It would be very helpful to memorize some of the verses from this lesson. Remembering these verses will help build your faith as you grow in Christ.

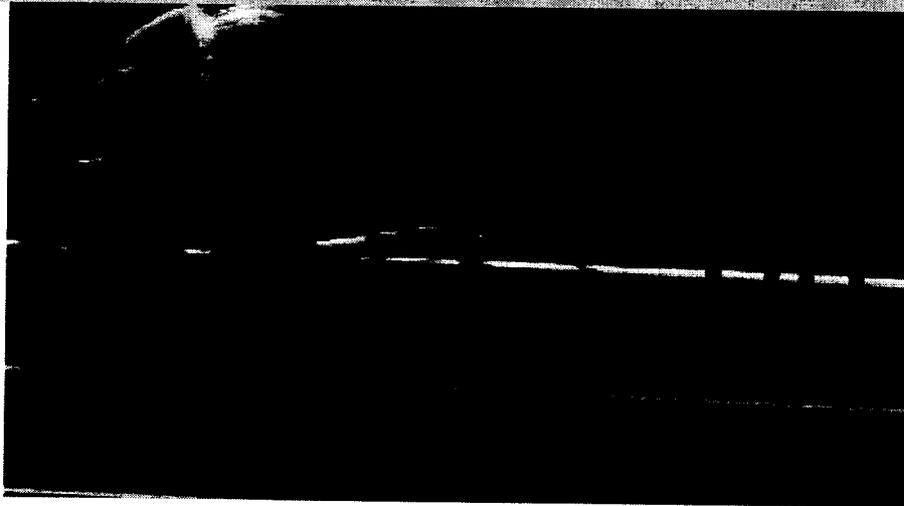



When Jesus came into your heart you experienced **NEW BIRTH**. Some people like to refer to this as your spiritual birthday. We welcome you to the family of God and celebrate with you on your first spiritual birthday.



"...Uphold me, Lord, in my integrity. And set me before Your face forever."

Psalm 41:12



Read the questions below. Use your Bible to find the Scriptures with each question. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, write your answer to the question.

What did Jesus say has happened to you after you heard His words? John 5:24

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Now that Jesus Christ is in your life, what benefit do you possess? John 3:16

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What guarantee does Jesus give you when you are part of God's family? Matthew 18:20

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How does God view your life now that you are a Christian? 2 Corinthians 5:17

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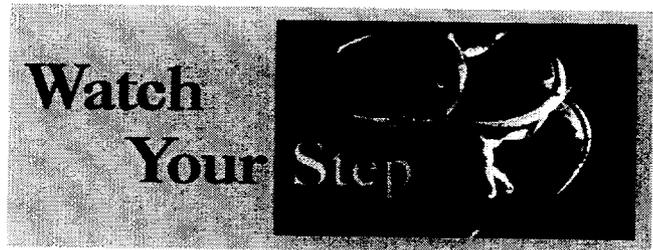
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How does Jesus promise to help us with difficulty in our lives? John 16:33

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Make time each day to read your Bible and allow God's Word to help and encourage you. Choose some of the verses from this lesson to memorize filling your mind with God's Word.

Make prayer a regular part of your life. Prayer is talking with God. He is interested in things we need or want, but prayer is more than just asking. We can sense God speaking to us as we pray. Often, He speaks through the Bible. The important thing in prayer is to listen as much as talk.

## Lesson 4

Relationships  
With Christians

## Imperfection

God's  
Family

Christians are one big family. God is our Heavenly Father. Growing together as Christians is one of the greatest things about the family of God. 1 Peter 3:8,9 instructs us: "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling (assailing with abusive language) for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."

Relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ builds our accountability. Trusting one another strengthens our hope for the future. Praying with each other builds our loyalty to other Christians. Resolving conflicts with another Christian demonstrates that a family can survive and be stronger because of letting Jesus show us how to live. As you get closer to other Christians you will find that they are human.



"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."  
1 John 1:7

## Take a Closer Look

During your Bible reading and prayer times this week, read 1 John 1:7-9. The author of these verses understands that the problem of humanity is sin. Sin is the source of selfish motives. Sin is the cause of bitterness and discord. The light of Jesus Christ exposes sin in our hearts and brings us to God's understanding of how to get along with other Christians. As you pray, ask God to help you build strong relationships with other Christians.



While this may not be an earthshaking discovery, it can often be the source of discouragement to a new believer. God is working on every believer at the same time. We are all growing in maturity in Christ. Be patient with other Christians especially as you notice their faults. Be patient, also, with yourself as you try to live for God.

Read the questions below. Use your Bible to find the Scriptures with each question. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, write your answer to the question.

What did Jesus say He has given you?  
John 14:27

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Because of this, what should you guard against?

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How can we become a disciple of the Lord?  
John 8:31

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What will be the result of abiding in Jesus' Word and becoming His disciple? John 8:32

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What is the confidence that you have in Jesus?  
1 John 5:14

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What response can we expect from God when we pray? 1 John 5:15

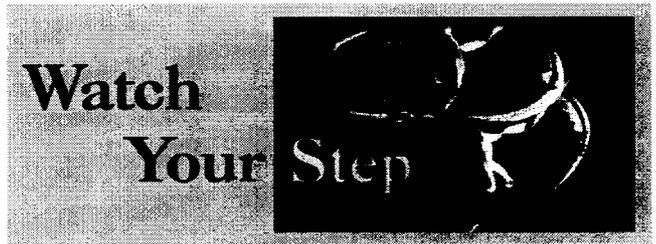
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"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Be careful to handle personal sin quickly by confessing it honestly to the Lord and seeking His forgiveness.

Don't allow guilt for forgiven sin to interrupt your relationship with Jesus. Stay focused on Him and His promise to cleanse you from all sin.

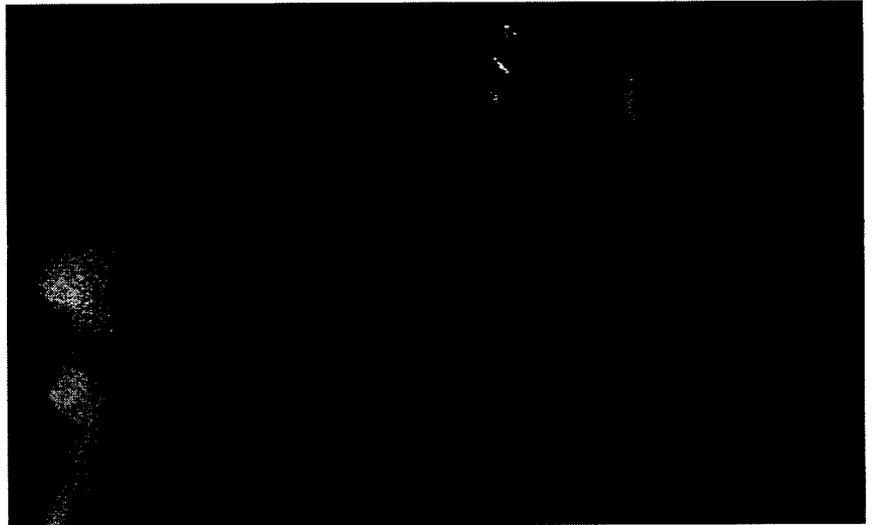
# Living IN Love's Embrace

## Lesson 5

### God's Holy Spirit

## God Is Now In Your Life

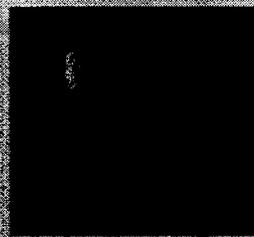
The life of Jesus Christ is being translated into your lifestyle by the person of the Holy Spirit. When you invited Jesus to come into your life, you invited His Holy Spirit to live in you. It is by the Holy Spirit that you know God's presence in your life.



It is important to understand that the Holy Spirit is a person not just an influence or an "it." Throughout the Bible, we find personal pronouns describing God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit demonstrates emotion. He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30). He communicates information to people (Acts 10:19-20). The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth of the Bible (John 14:26). A person has to live somewhere. The Holy Spirit's home is within every Christian (1 Corinthians 6:19).

## Take a Closer Look

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you explain why you decided to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. During the week, take some time to write down what happened on the inside to convince you that you needed Jesus. Use a separate sheet of paper to record your thoughts. Think in terms of explaining your experience to a person who does not know Jesus yet. What did you feel? What thoughts convinced you of the claims about Jesus? When were you absolutely sure you should live for God? God's Holy Spirit will give you words to share your new experience of faith. The Holy Spirit will give you boldness to use this "testimony" to help others come to Jesus as well. Save your testimony and we will refer to it again in lesson 13 of this study.



"... your  
body is the  
temple of  
the Holy  
Spirit ..."

1 Corinthians 6:19

Read the questions below. Use your Bible to find the Scriptures with each question. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, write your answer to the question.

Who did Jesus say has come to live inside of you? John 14:15-17

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In what way does the Holy Spirit help you know that God is in your life? Romans 8:14-16

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What is a key purpose of the Holy Spirit being in your life? John 14:25,26

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What will happen to you when the Holy Spirit fills your life? Acts 1:8

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*John 3:8*

Read John 16:7-14. Underline or highlight in your Bible the functions performed by the Holy Spirit. Then, in your own words, list those functions here.

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**Watch  
Your Step**



With the Holy Spirit in our lives we can expect to have ...  
confidence to tell others about Jesus Christ;  
assurance that God will never let us down;  
a constant friend and companion;  
a helper in times of need;  
a guide when life seems to get confusing.

Memorize this Bible verse:  
"You are of God, little children,  
and have overcome them,  
because He who is in you is greater  
than he who is in the world." 1 John 4:4

# Responding

## in Love

### Lesson 6

### Personal Stewardship

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10

### "The Rush"

Being a part of God's family means that you have become a steward. This stewardship involves our entire lifestyle. Our economic, social, political and spiritual interactions are all integrated with our ability as stewards.

Giving your life to Christ is two-fold. First, a person gives him/herself publicly to Jesus as Lord and Savior. Then, stewardship grows out of this commitment and is now a responsibility.



As a Christian, take action to show your love for Jesus Christ. Do this by serving others, or serving in the church. Giving your life to Christ involves taking responsibility for doing your part in the ministry of the church. This might include being available to pray with others, help with cleaning and maintenance of the church building, helping with food for the needy, etc. Wherever Christ went, His purpose was to help other people. Our stewardship means wherever we go we will follow His example.

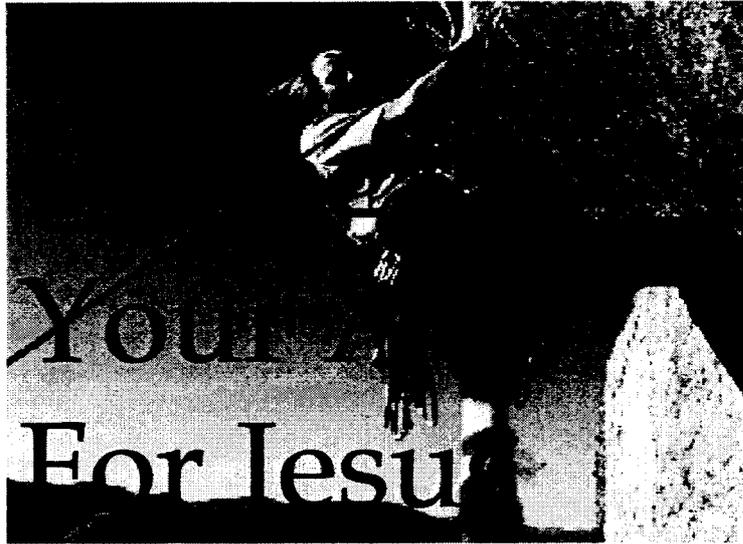
## Take a Closer Look

Personal stewardship in God's Family can be seen as a two-part expression:

1. An entrusted responsibility to represent God to our world.  
Read 1 Peter 4:9-11.
2. A position of personal discipline, involving all that we do.  
Read Colossians 3:23,24.



Read each Bible verse. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, answer the questions about stewardship in your life.



How is what we say a part of our personal stewardship?  
Colossians 4:6

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Read Ephesians 5:15-21. Make a list of the behavior we should eliminate from our lives and the things we should be doing as good stewards.

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In whatever we give, what should our attitude be? 2 Corinthians 9:7

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What instruction are we given about financial giving? Malachi 3:10

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The Christian should be ready for what type of opportunities according to Galatians 6:10.

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Watch  
Your Step



*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

*Colossians 3:23,24*

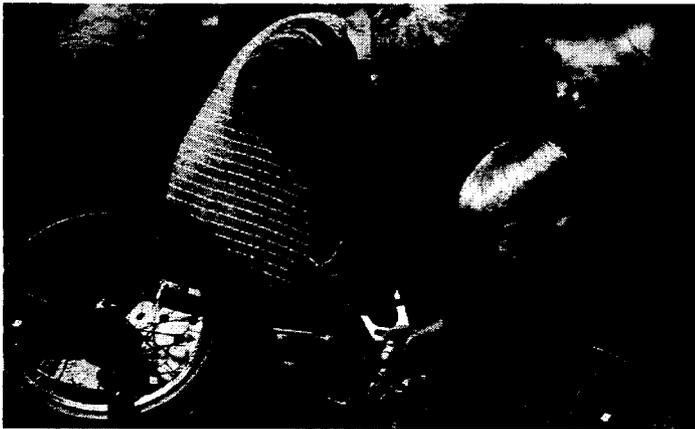
Speak this promise for your life, your family, your home, your church, your business, and your community. Do what the Word of God says and you can expect His blessing in life.

# Helping With the Heart of God

Lesson 7

Personal  
Ministry

## Every Christian is a Minister



People make the church what it is and what it will be. The Bible makes clear that every believer in Jesus Christ is to share in the work of the church.

This simply means when we see a need, it is our responsibility as a member of the Body of Christ to do what we can to meet the need. We may see a need of reaching others with the good news of salvation in Jesus. We might want to help clean the church or prepare and set up equipment for a worship service. Whatever the need, every Christian is a minister to see the need fulfilled and other people blessed by the working of God. Look around you. Identify the needs in your church. You are the church. What needs can you help with in your church this week? How about next month? Next Year?

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."



## Take a Closer Look

Read **Philippians 2:3,4**. Pray and consider the meaning of these verses for your life. What specific instruction do you receive from these words?

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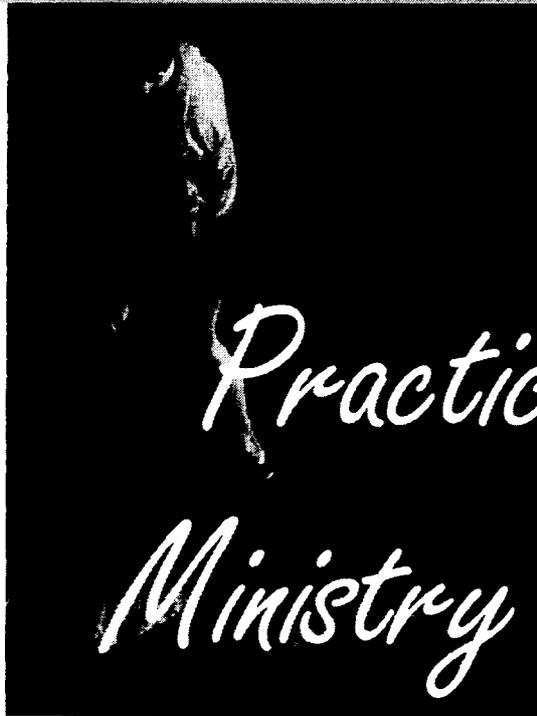
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Hebrews  
10:24,25



Read the questions below. Use your Bible to find the Scriptures with each question. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, write your answer to the question.

Choose two qualities from Colossians 1:9-12 which describe what our opinion should be about personal ministry. Describe those qualities in your own words.

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How will the Holy Spirit begin to change Christians to prepare us for a life of ministry? Philippians 2:14-16

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List some of the goals for Christian servants presented in Romans 12:10-13?

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How can we encourage other Christians to serve in practical ministry? Hebrews 10:24,25

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God created each person to be different and unique. As we walk in a Spirit-filled life, our personal characteristics become empowered by the Holy Spirit to help others in specific ways. Romans 12:4-8 lists seven categories of these "ministry gifts." List the seven specific gifts on the lines.

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Can you see personal traits in yourself which might be given to you by God to make you a better minister?

# Celebrate the Praise of God

## Lesson 8

### Praising God

"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His Name." Hebrews 13:15



## "Boasting in Jesus"

Praise is not an option for the person who believes in Jesus Christ. In fact, the Hebrew word for praise, 'Halal' (pronounced , haw-lal'), means "to boast about someone with words and singing." In the New Testament, we read the strong words in Hebrews 13:15 which command us to praise God.

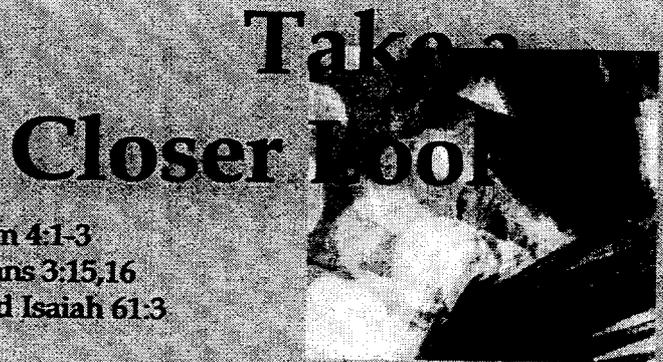
Praise is multi-faceted: boasting, thanking, cheering, shouting, dancing, clapping, playing instruments, and singing of God's delivering power and great goodness.

Heaven will be filled with unending praise to God. In some ways, our experience on earth could be viewed as rehearsal for an eternity of praising God. We must enter into the spirit of heaven if the spirit of heaven is to enter us.

There are several key truths about praise...

1. Praise is verbal. Read Hebrews 13:15
2. Praise is victorious. Read Psalm 47:1
3. Praise magnifies God. Read Judges 5:1-3
4. Praise is purposeful. Read Psalm 47:7
5. Praise connects people to God. Read Psalm 4:1-3
6. Praise changes our outlook. Read Colossians 3:15,16
7. Praise minimizes emotional distress. Read Isaiah 61:3

During the upcoming week, read and think about one of these verses each day. It would be a good idea to memorize a verse a day which will help you make praise a regular part of your life.



# Facets of Praise

Read each Bible verse below. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, write in your own words what the Bible says about praise.

Psalm 66:2-4

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Psalm 100:4,5

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Psalm 145:10

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Hebrews 2:12

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Acts 16:25-26

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Psalm 71:14

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Watch  
Your Step



In the context of John 4:23,24 the word "truth" can be translated "sincerity." Using this definition and considering this Scripture, state in your own words what Jesus is communicating about worship.

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# Health Plan of the Lord

## Lesson 9

### Divine Healing

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray... Is anyone among you sick, call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

James 5:13a, 14

In a culture where suffering of every description seems epidemic, it is a great comfort to know that God is our healer. God is in the business of healing His people from every kind of suffering, physical disease, emotional pain and broken relationships. The Bible does not teach a theory, philosophy, technique or system of healing nor does every kind of "spiritual healing" have its basis in the Bible or in Jesus as Healer. For the Christian, all healing comes from God. He may choose to heal immediately or gradually over time. We may be healed in direct answer to prayer or be directed by the Lord to medical professionals. Whatever the method, the actual healing for the Christian comes from God.

## Take a Closer Look

Exodus 15:26 contains the phrase, "...the Lord who heals you." The word "heal" is translated from the Hebrew word *rapha* (pronounced rah-phah), which means to restore health. *Rapha* is the base word for "doctor." God says of Himself that He is the Lord who heals us. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, and today, and forever. He is known as the Great Physician. God healed people in Old Testament times. Jesus, God's Son, healed people in New Testament times. It is in the Name of Jesus that we are still healed today.

Read the questions below. Use your Bible to find the Scriptures with each question. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, write your answer to the question.



How do we know that Jesus is willing to heal His people? Psalm 103:2,3

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What qualifies Him to be our healer?  
1 Peter 2:21-24

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Considering the verses you just read, how does Jesus' example help us lead healthy lives?

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Who should we be able to contact for agreement in prayer for healing? James 5:14

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As a born-again believer, can I pray for people to be healed? John 14:12-14

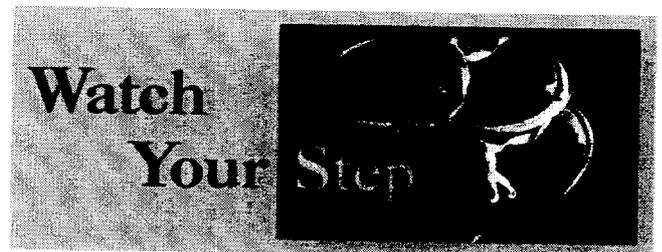
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Write in your words what you have learned about divine healing from this lesson.

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Some have asked, "why are some people not healed?" This is a good question with complex answers. Sin exists in the world and still has its effect on people. For some reason, sin and sickness have negative affects even on God's people. When Christians get sick, we need to believe God for healing. When believers in Christ suffer, our job is to pray for relief. It is up to God to bring about the healing. He made the provision for healing. He is capable of healing His people. Even when healing does not occur, we must continue to believe and pray for His healing touch.

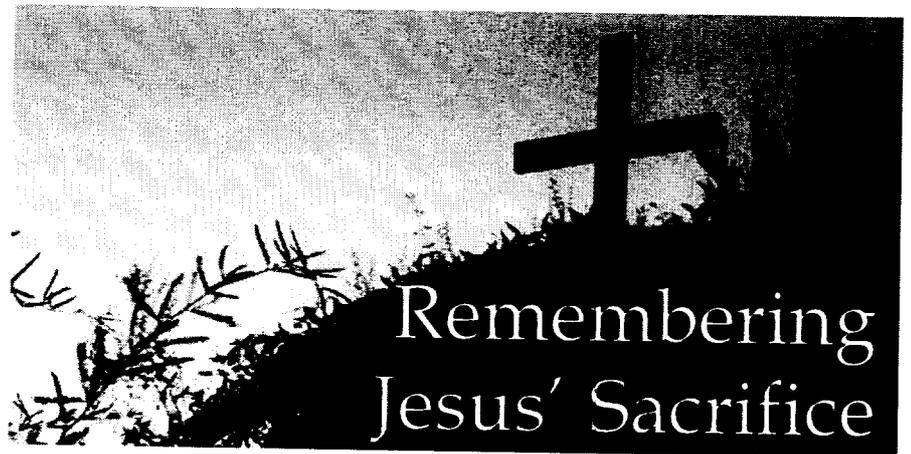
# Celebration of LIFE

## Lesson 10

### The Lord's Supper (Communion)

"This is My  
body which  
is given for  
you; do this in  
remembrance  
of Me."

Luke 22:19b



Jesus sacrificed His own life on the cross so we could have eternal fellowship with God. Without this sacrifice, we would have no hope of eternal life. Before His death at Calvary, Jesus told His disciples that believers should remember His sacrifice until He returns. Jesus made it very easy to remember. He did not ask us to visit a distant mountain-top shrine or to accomplish a difficult task. Jesus told us to remember Him as we eat and drink.

We remember Jesus by the use of broken bread which is a reminder of His physical body which was sacrificed for our salvation; and by the juice of the vine, which reminds us of the shed blood of Jesus who is called the true Vine.

## Take a Closer Look



In Matthew 22:14-20 Jesus celebrated the Passover supper with His disciples. The Passover was a Jewish festival which commemorated the deliverance of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12:26,27). This would be the last Passover Jesus would celebrate. From that day to this, believers commemorate God's deliverance of His people from the slavery of sin through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

The Lord's Supper celebrates our fellowship with God and with one another. There is fellowship through eating with one another that is not experienced by simple talking. Thus, as we eat and drink in His presence we find a closeness which is not possible in any other way.

The Lord's Supper is a celebration of Life. It is a reminder to us that God gave His Son so we could have eternal life.



Using the following Scripture, explain what it means to you to share Jesus' body and His blood. Luke 22:14-20

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If a friend asked you why he/she should take communion, what would you now tell him/her?

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The following Scriptures provide perspective about the Lord's Supper and what it means to Christians today. Read the verses. Write down your observations from these Scriptures.

Romans 5:10,11

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Matthew 26:29

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## Watch Your Step



1 Corinthians 11:17-34 gives a warning to believers about abuses of The Lord's Supper. Prayerfully read through this section of Scripture and identify attitudes and behaviors to avoid when you participate in The Lord's Supper. Keep in mind that the Apostle Paul is not telling us to "be worthy" in this Scripture. He is simply encouraging us to be honest with God about our personal condition and to not take the Lord's Supper with disregard.

# Whom Identity with Jesus?

## Lesson 11

### Water Baptism

Becoming a Christian doesn't necessarily make our physical appearance any different. We need a way to show the world that Jesus is important in our lives. Jesus instructed Chris-



"...If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23

tians to be baptized in water so the world would know how serious we are about our new relationship with God. He wanted us to be certain about Who we serve; He wanted the world to be certain about where we stand in faith.

Jesus told of two ordinances (outward actions) for believers. One ordinance is water baptism. The

other ordinance is The Lord's Supper. Unlike The Lord's Supper, baptism is a one time occurrence. Every time a new Christian is baptized, it is a reminder to the rest of us of our commitment to Christ and the importance of living the way He told us to. Water baptism is one way we say, "Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and we are not ashamed to declare it to the world."

## Take a Closer Look

The word "baptize" means to immerse or to cleanse. The Bible clearly teaches that water baptism is by immersion rather than by sprinkling or pouring. John the Baptist baptized in the river Jordan, rather than by a well or small pool of water so he could immerse people under the water. Jesus is our great example of water baptism. Read Matthew 3:13-17 for the complete story.



Read the questions below. Use your Bible to find the Scriptures with each question. After reading and thinking about the meaning of each Scripture, write your answer to the question.

With what significant event in the life of Jesus do we identify when we are baptized?

Romans 6:3

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Water baptism is an outward expression of what personal heartfelt decision?

Matthew 28:19

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What command and what promise did Jesus give His disciples which involved water baptism? Matthew 28:18-20

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After we are baptized what blessing will accompany our life in Christ? Romans 6:4

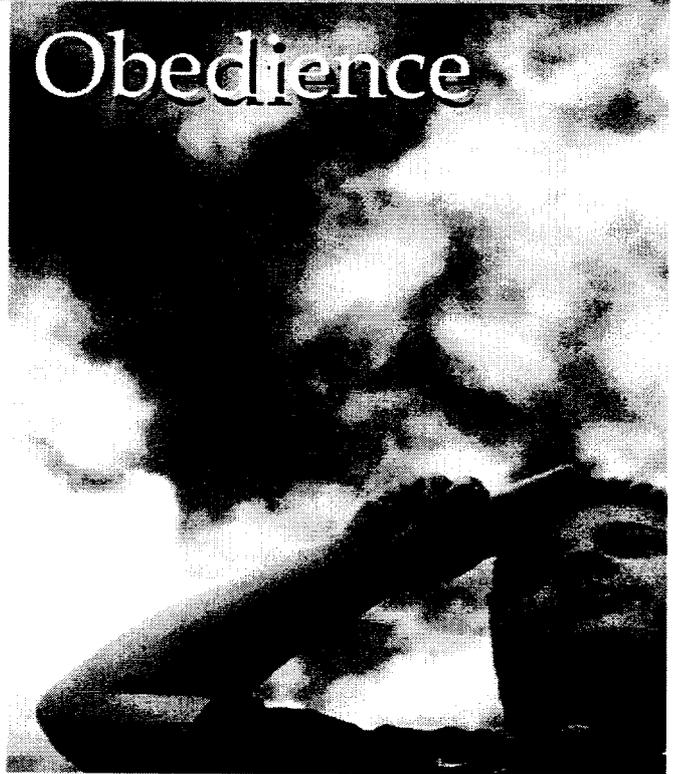
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# Obedience



## Watch Your Step



Think about the two questions below. If you are able, discuss the questions and answers with a trusted brother or sister in Christ. Then, take a step of faith and do what Jesus tells you.

If a friend asked you for a good reason to be baptized in water, what would you say?

If you have not been baptized in water since coming to Jesus Christ, what steps will you take to obey the instruction of Jesus and be baptized?

# Filled With God's Power

## Lesson 12

### The Promise of the Holy Spirit

As a Christian, God accompanies us everywhere we go. He wants to add fullness to our life. One of the ways He does this is by "filling us with His Holy Spirit." Jesus told His disciples, "It is to your advantage that I go away, the Helper (Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7).

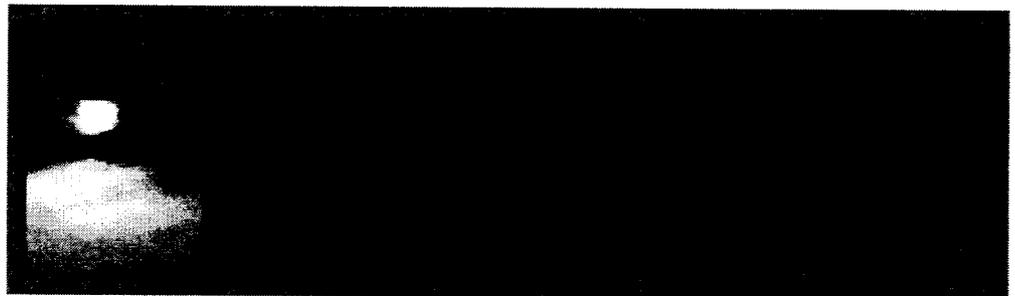


The promise made by Jesus was fulfilled on The Day of Pentecost as recorded in the Book of Acts. Jesus' disciples were waiting together, in unity and prayer. The Bible tells us that they were "filled" with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).

The lives of these disciples were forever changed because of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. They had been afraid to speak of Christ (see Matthew 26:69-75 for an example). After receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit, they were bold and confident (see Acts 4:8-12). Prior to the filling of the Holy Spirit, these disciples lacked the insight and wisdom to carry on the work started by Jesus. With the fullness of the Holy Spirit, not only did they display godly wisdom, they took the good news of Jesus Christ to the far reaches of the world. In fact, the Church of Jesus Christ as we know it today is a result of the early missionary efforts of many of these original disciples.

**"You will  
receive  
power  
when the  
Holy Spirit  
has come  
upon you;  
and you  
shall be  
witnesses  
to Me..."  
Acts 1:8**

It is God's desire that Christians today be filled with His Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). The primary function of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is to produce a life-style that is a witness of God's power.



# Filled With the Holy Spirit

Read the questions below. Use your Bible to find the Scriptures with each question. After reading and thinking about the meaning of the Scripture, write your answer to the question.

What instruction did Jesus leave with His disciples before He left the earth?  
Luke 24:49

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After being filled with the Holy Spirit, what change took place in the disciples lives?  
Acts 1:5, Acts 4:8-12

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How will our ability to praise God be affected when we are filled with the Holy Spirit? Acts 10:46 and 1 Corinthians 14:15

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After you have been born again, what does Jesus say should happen to you? Acts 1:4,5

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What will happen to you when you are filled with the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:8

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Watch  
Your Step



Two significant things will be evidence when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. These Scriptures will help you understand what to expect from His fullness in your life.

Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Galatians 5:22,23 "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

# Where Do I Go From Here?

## Lesson 13

### Sharing Your Faith

"... be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you ..."

1 Peter 3:15b

God has taught you things since you first prayed to receive Him. He has helped you. God has forgiven you. Areas of your life have changed since accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord. How did it all begin? What did someone say that convinced you to accept Jesus? Did you become a Christian because of watching the way another Christian lived his/her life? Think about it and take a look at your own life. How will you begin to share your faith with another person?



The best way to get started sharing Jesus with another person is to begin right where you are. Find someone you know (whether you think they will agree with you or not) and tell them what God has done for you. Use your own words. Then, pray each day that God will give you opportunities to share your faith with someone new.

Read Matthew 5:13-16. Each day of the week think about how a different verse speaks to your life. Keep in mind that the instruction of Jesus is specifically about how unbelievers view God. He indicates that the way we live our lives can direct people toward God or away from Him.

Think specifically about how God is transforming your life to be a "living witness" for Him. Recognize the areas in your life which would point people to God and develop those strengths. Ask God to show you areas of personal weakness which He wants to change. Finally, keep in mind that God wants consistency between what we say we believe and how we live our lives. This "witness" will ultimately bring people to the love and life changing power of God.



## Take a Closer Look

## Passing on Your Faith

Read John 4:1-30. This passage tells how Jesus ministered to a woman who needed the truth. He brought her and many in her town to a right relationship with God. Look at the key words below and the verses which describe what Jesus did. Then, pray for God's wisdom as you answer the questions.

**Reconciliation:** verses 9,10. The woman at the well was not a Jew. To traditional Jews of the day, she was considered a half-breed and an outcast. Jesus did not feel this way, but the racial tension and religious differences still had to be dealt with before the woman would hear what He had to say. How did Jesus deal with these differences?

How will you deal with prejudice or other hindrances as you share your faith with others?

**Relationship:** verses 13-15. Why did Jesus use water as an illustration of a healthy relationship with God?

**Revelation:** verses 16-19. The woman tried to hide the truth from Jesus. Then in verse 20 she tried to get Jesus to change the subject to the proper location to worship God. Sometimes people can get caught up in the surface problems/issues. Jesus goes directly for the need. How did Jesus get this woman back on the right subject?

Now look at your testimony written as you completed lesson 5. How can your testimony bring to another person the revelation of who God really is?

## Watch Your Step

The result of Jesus conversation with this woman at the well was that she brought many people from her town to Jesus (see verses 29,30). On a separate sheet of paper, answer these questions:

1. How can God use you to bring reconciliation to other people?
2. How can you build a trusting relationship with another person which will lead to sharing Jesus with them?
3. How does God want to reveal Himself through you to a person who needs Christ?