

# Disciples Manual - Study Guide

by Peter Lueling

To be used with Disciples Manual by William MacDonald

Translated into English by Rebecca Guethler

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Foreword .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Section I: Christian Discipleship .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1. To Be a Disciple .....	5
2. The Revolutionary Teachings of Jesus .....	6
3. It's Radical Training: Part 1 (Luke 6:12-26) .....	7
4. It's Radical Training: Part 2 (Luke 6:27-38) .....	8
5. It's Radical Training: Part 3 (Luke 6:39-49) .....	9
6. Have a Secure Future (Matthew 6:19-34).....	10
7. He Said, "Forsake All" (Luke 14:25-35) .....	11
8. Don't Bargain with God (Matthew 20:1-16) .....	12
9. Make Friends with Your Money (Luke 16:1-15) .....	13
10. The Sin No One Confesses (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19) .....	14
11. Only the Best for God .....	15
12. 20/20 Vision (2 Corinthians 5:9-21) .....	16
<b>Section II: Christian Character .....</b>	<b>17</b>
13. Aim to Be Like Jesus .....	18
14. Be Known for Your Love .....	19
15. Have Compassion for Others .....	20
16. Be Filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) .....	21
17. Take the Low Place.....	22
18. Break Me, Lord .....	23
19. Keep Yourself Pure .....	24
<b>Section III: Christian Life .....</b>	<b>25</b>
20. Total Commitment .....	26
21. You Can Know for Sure .....	28
22. Eternal Salvation .....	29
23. Be Baptized .....	30
24. The Lord's Supper .....	31
25. Now Concerning Guidance .....	32
26. Know Your Bible .....	33

27. Study to be Approved .....	36
28. Praying Always .....	38
29. Your Daily Time with Jesus .....	39
30. Be a Worshiper .....	40
31. Love Christ’s Assembly .....	41
32. Obey the Courtesy Code .....	43
33. Don’t be Gullible .....	44
34. Never Give Up .....	45
35. Have a Conscience Live and Keen .....	47
36. Live Peaceably with All—Whenever Possible .....	48
37. Live Sacrificially .....	49
38. Guard Your Tongue .....	50
39. Marriage .....	51
40. Parenting .....	52
41. God’s Ways, Not Our Ways .....	53
<b>Section IV: Christian Service .....</b>	<b>54</b>
42. Know Your Gift(s) .....	55
43. Be a Servant of All .....	56
44. The Challenge of Personal Evangelism .....	57
45. Preach the Word—the Glory of the Ministry .....	58
46. Entertain Angels Unawares .....	59
47. The Life of Faith .....	60
48. Be Zealous for Jesus .....	61
49. Avoid Publicity .....	62
50. Privileges and Responsibilities of the Local Assembly .....	63
51. Assembly Planting .....	64
52. Church Growth through Evangelism .....	65
53. One-On-One Discipleship .....	66
54. Leadership Training .....	67
55. Parachurch Organizations .....	68
56. Smaller May Be Better .....	69
<b>Section V: Conclusion .....</b>	<b>70</b>
57. Closing Tips .....	71
<b>Appendixes .....</b>	<b>72</b>
A. Show It, Don’t Blow It .....	73
B. Lifestyle Evangelism .....	74
C. Lifestyle Discipleship .....	76
D. I Like the Assemblies .....	77
E. Should We Hire a Pastor? .....	78
F. Thinking As God Does .....	79
G. Christian Literature: the Possibilities and Limitations .....	80
H. Fundamental, Important and Nonessential – A suggested Method for Resolving Differences in the Assembly .....	81
<b>HOW TO get the most out of this course .....</b>	<b>90</b>

## **Foreword**

The Lord had twelve disciples that he instructed to someday carry on the work He had started. The lessons He taught to them are revealed in the four gospels. Paul and Peter also trained disciples that would later serve in the churches, continue to spread the gospel, and to the best of their ability to be active in world missions. We are grateful for the Scripture that give us a view at how the Lord, through these saints, accomplished such great tasks.

William MacDonald pursued the same goal with his book „The Disciple's Manual“. His many years of experience in church life and evangelism are compiled in this book.

This workbook is a help in studying certain lessons in depth and finding concrete, practical helps in applying what you learned. It should challenge us more and more every day, through personal or group study, to become transformed into the image of the Lord Jesus. He is our great example.

William MacDonald's writings are challenging and also very balanced. He continually encouraged his readers to live above the average. I hope this book helps you to do that.

Somebody once said: „What does not lead to action is powerless.“ On this note we want to mutually encourage each other to be doers of His word.

**Section I:**  
**Christian Discipleship**

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# **1 Being a Disciple**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. How does the Bible describe a disciple?
2. Describe Jesus' "disciples"!
3. How does the New Testament describe the development of Christian character?
4. Explain why our character is obviously more important than our duty.

**Read the verses answer the questions and note down further conclusions.**

5. Mark 3:14 – Describe the disciples' lessons with the Lord.
6. 2 Timothy 2:1-6 - Describe the disciples' lessons with Paul.
7. Matthew 5:1-12 – Which characteristics of a disciple are taught here?

**Personal questions:**

8. In which parts of your life would you like to grow as a disciple?
9. How can you learn to let the fruits of the Holy Spirit be revealed in your life?
10. Who could you help to grow as a disciple? What support do you need in order to carry this out?

**Practical question:**

Explain to another person the development of the Christian character. Note down your goal in doing this.

## **2 The Revolutionary Teachings of Jesus**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. How are Jesus' teachings revolutionary?
2. Why do we try to find excuses for not following these teachings?
3. How are these teachings of Jesus made ineffective?
4. What are the eight points that summarize the teachings of Jesus?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Luke 14:33 – What does the Lord Jesus challenge us to do?
6. Luke 14:26 - Define how "to hate" is used and how the Lord exemplified this meaning.
7. Matthew 6:19 – How can we lay up treasures in heaven?

**Personal questions:**

8. What is your response to the author of this letter?
9. Has this lesson revealed to you a point where you could begin to change? How do you want to proceed?
10. What would motivate you to follow the Lord's radical, revolutionary teachings?

**Practical assignment:**

Refer to your answer in question four. Pray and ask the Lord to help you understand, accept, and apply these points in your life.

### **3 It's Radical Training (Luke 6:12-26)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. The Lord called only the twelve as His disciples. What message does this convey?
2. What is the blessing of being materially poor?
3. What would have happened if the disciples had always had enough money?
4. For what do we need to watch out regarding "the four woes?"

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Luke 6:20-23 – What is blessed? Explain.
6. Luke 18:24-25 – Why is it so hard for the rich to enter into the Kingdom of God?
7. Luke 6:23, 26 – How are the prophets (and the false prophets) an example for us?

**Personal questions:**

8. What do you have to do in order to live a simple life?
9. What prevents you from be content with food and cover (1 Timothy 6:8)?
10. What could you do in order to cry for the lost world again?

**Practical assignment:**

Decide how much money you need for yourself and how much money you could invest in the Kingdom of God. How could you change your current spending habits?

## **4 It's Radical Training II (Luke 6:27-38)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Describe the Lord's weapons for spiritual warfare.
2. According to the words of Jesus, how should we love?
3. How should we differ from non-believers?
4. What led to Mitsuo Fuchida becoming a Christian?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Corinthians 6:1-6; 11:31; 14:29 – When must we judge?
6. 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 4:5; James 2:1-4 – When are we not allowed to judge?
7. Luke 6:27, 32, 35 – Which kinds of love are described here? Explain.

**Personal questions:**

8. In Luke 6:27-30, which attitudes does the Lord expect from you?
9. What must you do in order to love those who hate you?
10. What prevents you from showing the love of God to others?

**Practical assignment:**

Write down five people you don't get along with and start praying for them daily.



## **5 It's Radical Training III (Luke 6:39-49)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. In the service of the Lord Jesus, why does so much depend on the character of His disciples?
2. How can our lives speak louder and clearer than our words?
3. Explain why conversation is a barometer of our character?
4. How can you become a truly authentic preacher?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Luke 6:41-42 - Describe the main problem of a person who wants to help others?
6. Luke 6:43-45 – What determines the quality of a person's ministry?
7. Luke 6:46-49 – What must you do to build your house on stone? (Pay attention to the context!)

**Personal questions:**

8. How can you work on your character / let your character be worked on?
9. What gives authority to a person's ministry?
10. Various stories are used here as illustrations - write down a story from your own life experience.

**Practical assignment:**

"You cannot teach what you do not know. You cannot lead to a place you will not go." Explain what this means for you.

## **6 Have a Secure Future (Matthew 6:19-34)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Describe Jesus' "security program."
2. What does living by faith mean in relation to our material needs?
3. Explain the contradiction of serving both God and mammon.
4. Name the six reasons why we should not worry.

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Matthew 6:25-27 – Explain what the birds illustrate for us.
6. Matthew 6:28-30 – What can you learn from the flowers of the field?
7. Matthew 6:31-34 - What is the big difference between the nations and us?

**Personal questions:**

8. Why is worrying useless, unnecessary and stupid?
9. How do you achieve a "single" eye?
10. Concerning providing for your daily needs, what would strengthen your faith?

**Practical assignment:**

"God pours his choicest blessings on those who are anxious that nothing shall stick to their hands."  
Write down what this means to you.

## **7 He Said: "Forsake All" (Luke 14:25-35)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What does the Lord mean when he says we should "hate" our relatives?
2. How can we become useful as a grain of wheat? How can we bring fruit?
3. Explain in your own words what it means to "bear one's cross."
4. What is the cost of discipleship? What does the Lord expect from us?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Luke 14:28-32 – What do these two illustrations mean?
6. Hebrews 11:24 – What did Moses give up and for which goal?
7. Luke 14:34-35 - What are we supposed to learn from salt?

**Personal questions:**

8. In which area of setting priorities are the Spurgeons a good example?
9. What award would be sufficient for you to explore the Antarctic (or to live your life as one of Jesus' disciples)?
10. How can you become a "rich Christian in an age of hunger?" What can you apply this week?

**Practical assignment:**

"...we can get out there, but we can never get back." "Boys, we don't have to come back." Where do you need to go in order to help spiritually dying people? What would you need to leave behind? Explain specifically what this means for you.

## **8 Don't Bargain With God (Matthew 20:1-16)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What is wrong with bargaining with God? Why?
2. According to which principle does the head of the house reward the individual workers?
3. Why is grace better than justice?
4. What heart attitude do you need so that you can be happy about the grace God gives to others?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Matthew 20:10,12 – Where do these workers err in their thinking?
6. Matthew 20:15 – What do you learn about God in this verse?
7. Matthew 20:16 – Explain the difference between called and chosen people?

**Personal questions:**

8. What do you learn about God in this section?
9. Which attitudes of the workers do you think are worth copying?
10. Why is thankfulness a better motivation than rewards?

**Practical assignment:**

Using this section, review your motivation for being under way for the Lord, and be honest!

## **9 Make Friends With Your Money (Luke 16:1-15)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. How can an unjust steward be considered wise?
2. In which aspect are the sons of this world wiser than we are?
3. How exactly can you make friends with unrighteous mammon?
4. Explain the contrasting terms: least/more; unrighteous/true; another's/yours?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Luke 16:1-8 - Even though he is sinful, what in this man is worthy of imitation?
6. Luke 16:9,13 – What does the Lord want to tell us in this context?
7. How do you make friends in eternity?

**Personal questions:**

8. How does the Lord Jesus expect us to handle our riches?
9. What importance does money have for you? How do you invest your money?
10. How do you understand the connection between money (another's) and spiritual riches (yours)?

**Practical assignment:**

Do something today in order to make friends with unrighteous mammon.

## **10 The Sin No One Confesses (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What can you learn by playing monopoly?
2. What must happen for us to recognize and believe that food and cover will be enough for us?
3. Why is the sin of greed so serious? Explain how it is idol worship?
4. List some consequences of loving money?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Timothy 6:6 – What is the profit? What do you have to invest in order to preserve the profit?
6. 1 Timothy 6:7 – What conclusion do you draw from this verse?
7. Where does the love of money finally lead?

**Personal questions:**

8. Describe why greed is so dangerous.
9. How do you measure the value of your life?
10. In what area do you want to learn to trust God today?

**Practical assignment:**

Practice giving back to God what belongs to Him. Live your own life as simply as possible but be generous in the lives of others.

## **11 Only The Best For God**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What did God want to teach the Israelites when he commanded they offer their "first and best"?
2. When a person sets God in first place and gives Him his best, what are the results?
3. What goal does God pursue in teaching us to give Him our best first?
4. What did God want to teach Abraham when He demanded his son, his best, from him?

Are we giving Him "our poorer, baser part; our fading fires; the ashes of our heart?  
God wants the first and God wants the best.  
He is worthy of both.  
The only question left is, 'Will He get it – from me?'"

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Kings 17:7-16 - What lesson do you learn from this woman?
6. Matthew 6:9-13 – What does this prayer teach you in view of the fact that God should stand in first place?
7. Malachi 1:6-10 – What lesson does this paragraph teach us about God, and our giving Him our best?

**Personal questions:**

8. When God wants something very valuable from you, how do you react?
9. What prevents you from giving the best to God?
10. In which part of your life do you need to repent?

**Practical assignment:**

"My son, if God should call you to the mission field, I should not like to see you drivel down into a king." What could this mean to you today?

## **12 20/20 Vision (2 Corinthians 5:9-21)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Why is the first lens (fact of hell) so important for us?
2. To what does the love of Christ constrain us?
3. How do I spend my life investing in the eternal welfare of people's souls?
4. Explain how we should be motivated by the judgement seat of Christ.

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 2 Samuel 23:15-17 - What do you learn from David's heroes?
6. 2 Kings 7:3-20 – In what aspect are the four lepers a good example?
7. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 – How do you live as a missionary in Jesus' place?

Only like souls I see the folks thereunder,  
Bound who should conquer, slaves who should be kings;  
Hearing their one hope with empty wonder,  
Sadly contented with a shadow of things.  
Then with a rush the intolerable craving,  
Shivers throughout me like trumpet call.  
O, to save these, to perish for their saving,  
Die for their life, be offered for them all.  
(unknown author)

**Personal questions:**

8. How does the love of Christ constrain you?
9. What are the evidences that you are a "new creation"?
10. Which of the seven lenses is most important for you? Why?

**Practical assignment:**

Pray through this week using a different lens each day and asking the Lord to repair any visual impairments you may have.



**Section II:  
Christian Character**

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## **13 Aim To Be Like Jesus**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What comes to mind when you consider the 48 characteristics of Jesus named in this chapter?
2. By which qualities is the Lord Jesus' speech characterized?
3. How did the Lord Jesus deal with His fellow men?
4. Which characteristics come to mind when you consider how Jesus talks to His Father?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. John 13:15; 1 Peter 2:21 - What practical lesson can you learn from these two verses?
6. Philippians 2:5-11 – Find characteristics of Jesus that you should imitate.
7. Matthew 11:25-30 - Based on this paragraph, what can you learn from your Teacher?

**Personal questions:**

8. Which of these many impressions regarding the Lord causes you to praise Him?
9. Which characteristics of the Lord Jesus do you find difficult to imitate?
10. In what area(s) do you want to become more like Jesus? Which steps do you want to take?

**Practical assignment:**

Note down the characteristics of Jesus you found in this chapter on a separate piece of paper and lay it in your Bible. Before you pray in the morning read through seven of these characteristics and talk to the Lord about what they mean to you.

“The image of God is not seen in the shape of our bodies, but in the beauty of the renewed mind and heart. Holiness, love, humility, meekness, kindness, and forgiveness—these make up the divine character” (Daily Notes of the Scripture Union).

## **14 Be Known For Your Love**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Write down a detailed definition of love.
2. Why are love and truth connected?
3. How can you see that God loves mankind?
4. What is the difference between godly love and human love?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Corinthians 13 – Describe each quality of love using a concrete example from Jesus' life.
6. John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16 – What can you learn and apply in your life about love?
7. John 13:35 - How does loving each other show that we are His disciples? What are some deeds of love that would be recognizable to the world?

**Personal questions:**

8. Sympathy or love – how do you act toward your fellow men? What do you need to change?
9. Considering Jesus' love, name specific deeds that you want to do.
10. How do you deal with people who have hurt you? What does Jesus say about that?

**Practical assignment:**

Read 1 Corinthians 13 again. Which of these qualities do you especially want to work on this week? Ask the Lord to help you to take specific steps in loving others.

## **15 Have Compassion For Others**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What is inseparable from compassion?
2. Name at least five situations in which Jesus shows compassion. What do you learn from your Master?
3. What is the greatest obstacle in being compassionate?

<p>Let me look on the crowd as my Savior did Till my eyes with tears grow dim, Let me view with pity the wandering sheep And love them for love of Him.</p>
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**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

4. James 5:11 – What do you learn about the compassion of our Lord Jesus?
5. Hebrews 4:14-16 – How was the Lord Jesus qualified to exhibit compassion to others?
6. Luke 10:25-37 – What do you learn about compassion from this story?

**Personal questions:**

7. Are there people/situations about which you do not have compassion? Why?
8. In which situation would you have liked to be shown compassion? What does that teach you regarding others?

**Practical assignment:**

Think about who needs compassion. Show that person compassion through a phone call, an e-mail, a visit or a friendly gesture.

## **16 Be Filled With The Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Which effects of the Holy Spirit occur upon salvation (automatically), and what impact does each have in the life of the saved?
2. The New Testament distinguishes between two kinds of fillings of the Spirit. What are they? What are the differences?
3. What are the similarities and dissimilarities between drunkenness and the filling of the Spirit?
4. What confirms that someone is filled with the Holy Spirit?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. John 17:17; Col. 3:16 – What role does the Word of God play in the filling of the Holy Spirit?
6. Romans 12:1-2 – What requirements must you meet so that you can be filled with the Holy Spirit?
7. Acts 4:8,31; 9:17,22; 13:9 – How is it evident that these people are filled with the Holy Spirit?

**Personal questions:**

8. What do you have to do in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
9. How can you encourage others to experience the filling of the Holy Spirit?
10. What is the essential difference between 1 John 1:9 and Proverbs 28:13? How do you apply Proverbs 28:13 to your life?

**Practical assignment:**

Write down what you must do today to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

"If it is a sin to be drunk with wine, it is a greater sin not to be filled with the Spirit."
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## **17 Take The Low Place**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Why is the sin of pride so dangerous and destructive?
2. Please define the sin of pride.
3. What is revealed in the person who can pray, "Even so... for so it seemed good in Your sight"?
4. Why are people that do not think about themselves the greatest?

"Look not at pride only as an unbecoming temper, nor at humility as a decent virtue. One is all hell and the other all heaven."

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. John 13:1-20 – Name the specifics of humility that you want to apply?
6. 1 Corinthians 3:7; 4:7 – Why are these verses so humiliating and yet so liberating?
7. John 3:27; 15:5c – What do these verses have to say about our topic?

**Personal questions:**

8. Which stories from Jesus' life do you think about when you consider "the low place"? What do you learn from Him?
9. What consequences will there be when you take the low place?

"The beginning of greatness is to be little; the increase of greatness is to be less; and the perfection of greatness is to be nothing."

10. In which parts of your life does pride bother you the most?

**Practical assignment:**

Explain to a Christian friend why it is important to take the low place. How can you encourage him to apply this?

"True humility does not consist so much in thinking badly of ourselves, as in not thinking of ourselves at all. I am too bad to be worth thinking about; what I want is to forget myself and look to God, who is indeed worthy of all my thoughts."

## 18 **Break me, Lord**

"God uses for His glory those people and things that are most perfectly broken."

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Confessing one's sins belongs to brokenness. Can you explain what this means?
2. What happens when we refuse to acknowledge and confess sin? Find a verse or a biblical illustration for each point.
3. What other characteristics can be seen in the life of a broken person?
4. What steps can we take in to be truly broken by the Lord and so become a useful tool for Him?

„We should be lions in God’s cause, lambs in our own.“

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Psalm 32 and 51 – Describe the person who sins, does not confess, but proceeds with his life. Describe the consequences.
6. Romans 8:28.29 – Explain brokenness according to these verses.
7. Genesis 50:20 – What is revealed here about Joseph’s brokenness?

**Personal questions:**

8. What hinders you from praying "Lord, break me"?

"Meekness is not weakness. It is strength under control."

9. "Please, forgive me, I have sinned against you." If a confession like this is difficult for you, try to explain why.
10. Explain why we would sooner privately confess our sins and blunderings to God rather than include confessing them also to people.

**Practical assignment:**

Have you wronged someone this week? Have you made things right? If not, get up now and confess your sin to God and man.

"When love ceases to bleed, it ceases to bless."

## **19 Keep Yourself Pure**

"May the temptation to sin and the opportunity to sin never coincide. Keep me from doing it even if I want to do it."

### **Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What would motivate you to live a truly pure life (including your thought life)?
2. Why is purity so important for followers of the Lord Jesus?
3. Name good arguments why masturbation is considered sin.
4. Which steps should we take in order to be freed of the sin living in us?

### **Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Corinthians 9:27 – How is Paul an example of pure living?
6. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 – Which arguments for living purely are named in this paragraph?
7. Deuteronomy 17:14-20 – How did Solomon fail in following the royal laws? What could have protected him that can also protect us? Why was his great wisdom not protection enough to keep him from failure?

### **Personal questions:**

8. What measures do you take in order to not fall into sexual immorality?
9. How can you train yourself to be disciplined?
10. How does the fact that God in the person of the Holy Spirit lives in your body affect you?

### **Practical assignment:**

If you were consciously aware of God looking over your shoulder while you surf the Internet (which He actually always does), what would you change?



**Section III:  
Christian Life**

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## **20 Total Commitment**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Using your own words, describe what commitment means.
2. Why is it “logical” to commit ourselves to Christ?
3. What hinders our commitment to Christ?
4. What right does the Lord have to ask anything from us?

“It seems an insult to that love which gave ALL for us, to say that we love, and yet to stop to calculate about giving all to Him when our all is but two mites. His all is heaven, earth, eternity, Himself. Better not love at all. Better to be cold than lukewarm.”

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Exodus 21:2-6 – Name the reasons why this servant is a good example of commitment. What motivated him?
6. Luke 9:57-62 – What did these three men do wrong?
7. Look for a biblical motto that expresses your commitment (like Mary in John 2:5).

**Personal questions:**

8. What are obstacles in your life that hinder totally committing yourself to God?
9. What price are you ready to pay to fully commit yourself to Him?

10. Which of the poems/songs will you use in your own prayer?

“Once any man has looked into Christ's eyes and felt the magnetism of His way of life, he is never going to be content with the secular ideals and standard that may have seemed adequate enough before Christ came. The old standards of values have become cinders, ashes, dust. Thank God for that.”

**Practical assignment:**

At a conference in Ben Lippen, South Carolina, a young woman was giving testimony to her call to service. In the course of her message, she held up a blank piece of paper, saying that it contained God's will for her life. The only writing on it was her signature at the bottom. Then she said: “I have accepted God's will without knowing what it is, and I am leaving it to Him to fill in the details.” What is written on your paper?

## **21 You Can Know For Sure**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. How can we know we are saved? What is of little value in our assurance of salvation?
2. How does a saved person express that he has a new life in God?
3. Explain why feelings and moods are not reliable in having assurance of salvation.
4. Is it boastful or presumptuous to proclaim that I know I will go to heaven?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 John 5:13 – Explain in your own words why this verse gives you assurance of salvation.
6. Luke 23:39-43 – What does this story teach you about assurance?
7. John 5:24 – What must a person “believe” to be sure he has eternal life? What does this belief encompass?

**Personal questions:**

8. What do you do when you have doubts about your assurance of salvation?
9. What are the results of assurance of salvation? Write them down.
10. Share an illustration about assurance in the Bible?

**Practical assignment:**

This week, explain to a young Christian how and through what you have assurance of salvation?

## **22 Eternal Salvation**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Why is salvation secure for a believer? Read John 3:16; 3:36; 4:13-14; 5:24; 6:47; 10:27-29; 17:3.
2. How does the Holy Spirit guarantee our eternal security?
3. When a Christian sins, how is his relationship with God affected?
4. Where the Bible addresses eternal salvation, why do we need to observe the context in which it speaks? Between what issues do we need to make a distinction?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Matthew 13:24-30 – What does this parable teach us about eternal security?
6. 1 John 1:5-2:2 – Why are these verses so important to our topic?
7. Using Hebrews 6:4-8, explain the difference between Peter and Judas.

**Personal questions:**

8. Please explain the difference between assurance of salvation and eternal security.
9. Having been assured of eternal security, how do you deal with sin in your life?
10. How can you help people who are not sure about their salvation?

**Practical assignment:**

Please write your explanation as to why salvation is secure.

“I don't know I'm saved because I feel happy, but I feel happy because I know I'm saved.”

## **23 Be Baptized**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What does baptism symbolize?
2. Please explain why baptism is not a contribution to salvation.
3. When somebody says he believes in God but insists on not being baptized, what does he express?
4. Can we recognize Jesus as Savior if we do not recognize Him as Lord? What does this have to do with baptism?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Romans 6:1-6 -- What do these verses teach about baptism?
6. 1 Peter 3:20-21 – What does Peter say about baptism?
7. 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 – Explain what you learn in these verses about baptism.

**Personal questions:**

8. To what extent do the things you expressed with your baptism still count in your life today?
9. What questions would you ask a person who wants to be baptized?

**Practical assignment:**

How does your life as a baptized person look compared to the life of an unbaptized person?

## **24 The Lord's Supper (Luke 22:7-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What do we remember by partaking in the Lord's supper?
2. How does our participation in the supper that was instituted by the Lord Jesus, please Him?
3. Why is the repeated remembrance of the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus so important for us?
4. What did the Lord Jesus mean with, „This cup is the new covenant in My blood?“ What is meant by the new covenant, and what was the old covenant?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 – Why does the Lord's supper have a sanctifying influence in your life?
6. Luke 22:7-12 – How does the Lord Jesus prepare for the institution of the feast? How do you prepare for it?
7. Acts 20:7 – What do you learn about the Lord's supper?

**Personal questions:**

8. What is your attitude when you go to the Lord's supper?
9. When you think about the Lord's supper, which song do you think of? Write it down and sing it!
10. If you happen to observe someone who normally participates in the Lord's supper, not partaking, how could you help him?

**Practical assignment:**

Please explain to another person why the Lord's supper is a highlight of the week for you.

## 25 **Now Concerning Guidance**

“Darkness about going is light about staying.”

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What is the most important factor in determining the guidance of God?
2. Which points are helpful in recognizing God's will?
3. How does God lead? How does He show us His will?
4. What role do external circumstances play in recognizing His guidance?

“So in seeking guidance we should arrange things so that the guidance could only be the Word of the Lord.”

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Exodus 40:36 – What do you learn from the cloud above the children of Israel?
6. Judges 6:37-40 – How did Gideon get assurance of God's guidance?
7. Psalm 37:5; Proverbs 16:3; Philippians 4:6-7 – How do these passages help you in recognizing God's will?

“It is folly to act when the dove of peace has flown from the heart.”

**Personal questions:**

8. Which obstacles can you remove so that God can show you His will?
9. If there are different possibilities, how do you react? How do you then recognize God's will?
10. God wants us to trust Him. What does that specifically mean in setting the course of your life?

**Practical assignment:**

“His will is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Write down an incident in which you specifically experienced God's guidance.



## **26 Know Your Bible**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What does it mean (for you) that the Bible is inspired?
2. How should we deal with the Bible?
3. Why is the “cultural argument” invalid?
4. Why should we spend a lot of time with the Word of God?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Psalm 119 – Name at least 20 good things you can say about the Word of God.
6. Acts 17:11 – What, in the example of the Bereans, is worthy of emulating? Why?
7. John 8:31-32 – How do you recognize a disciple of Jesus? How can you apply this to your own life?

**Personal questions:**

8. What is your plan for Bible study?
9. Why is it good to regularly memorize Bible verses?
10. Preach the Word – how do you do that?

**Practical assignment:**

Start today to regularly memorize Bible verses. Also, at least once a day, begin to thoroughly study a paragraph of the Bible. Use a notebook and colored pencils. The Bible should be our workbook.

**For Memorizing:**

**60 arrows for the quiver of an evangelist:**

John 3:16

1. God wants to save
  - a) Ezekiel 33:11
  - b) Isaiah 45:22
  - c) 1. Timothy 2:3-4
  
2. Why does man need salvation
  - a) because God is holy (pure, sinless) and just
    - 1 Timothy 6:15-16
    - Exodus 33:20
    - Isaiah 6:3
  - b) because man is a sinner and enemy of God, separated from God's holiness and judged by God's justice
    - Genesis 6:5
    - Jeremiah 17:9
    - Job 25:5-6
    - Romans 3:10-12
    - Ephesians 2:1
  - c) because God's scale for fellowship is moral perfection
    - Leviticus 11:44
    - Exodus 20:17
    - Matthew 5:28
    - Matthew 5:22
    - James 2:10
    - Matthew 5:48
  
3. How man is saved
  - a) through the work on the cross
    - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
    - Galatians 3:13
    - 2 Corinthians 5:21
    - 1 Peter 1:18-19
  - b) through the witnesses: Holy Spirit, Word of God, human proclamation
    - John 16:8
    - John 3:5
    - Acts 5:32
    - Romans 10:17
  - c) through repentance and faith
    - Mark 1:14-15
    - Acts 17:30
    - John 6:40
  - d) through grace, not through works
    - Romans 3:23-24
    - Ephesians 2:8-9
    - Titus 3:4-7

4. The goal of salvation
  - a) the eternal goal: fellowship and lordship
    - John 17:24
    - Revelation 5:9-10
    - Revelation 21:2-3
  - b) the temporal (earthly) goal: sanctification and service
    - 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
    - Titus 2:12
    - Ephesians 2:10
  
5. The eternal security of the believers
  - John 5:24
  - John 10:27-29
  - Romans 8:38-39
  
6. The end of the nonbelievers
  - a) Revelation 20:15
  - b) Matthew 22:11-13
  
7. Attitude and feelings of an evangelist
  - a) 2 Timothy 2:10
  - b) Luke 19:41-42
  - c) Luke 14:23
  - d) Luke 15:7

## **27 Study To Be Approved**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What is the greatest incentive for studying the Bible?
2. Why should we study the Bible?
3. Why should we not try to study too much at one time?
4. Which aids should we use?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Proverbs 2:1-6 – What do you learn about Bible study?
6. Psalm 119:15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148 – Which aspect of Bible study do these verses emphasize?
7. Nehemiah 8:1-8 – What characterizes a good Bible teacher?

### **Why even study the Bible?**

Develop convictions

2 Timothy 3:14

Works and guidance

Joshua 1:8

Be equipped to teach

Ezra 7:10; 2 Timothy 2:2

To discover God's will for my life

Psalm 119:105

To know and understand Jesus

John 5:39

To understand the counsel of God

Acts 20:27

To grow in trusting Jesus

John 20:31

To aquire treasure	Proverbs 2:3-5; Psalm 119:162	
Useful (for change)		2
Timothy 3:16-17 Comfort, encouragement	Psalm 138:3	
To know oneself	James 1:23-25	
To gain wisdom	Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:15	
It is a command	Psalm 1:2	

**Personal questions:**

8. Why is Bible study challenging for you?
  
9. Bible studies are 80% perspiration (sweating) and 20% inspiration (the Holy Spirit interprets). Is this true? Why (not)?
  
10. What keeps you from picking up the treasure of God's Word every day?

**Practical assignment:**

Read Hebrews 4:12-13.

Then follow this pattern while studying a paragraph of the Bible:

Observation: What does the text say?

Interpretation: What does the text mean?

Application: How does that apply in my life?

These six questions could help you: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

## 28 **Praying Always**

“When I pray, things happen. When I don't pray, they don't.”

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What status does the Bible give prayer?
2. “I get tired of these people who come asking for a gold coin. That saucy beggar treated me like a king; he asked big.” For what could you pray today?
3. What is important to God when we pray?
4. What do our prayers express?

“It is fervent prayers that wing their way to the throne of God.”

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. James 4:2; 5:16 - How do our prayers influence God's actions?
6. Revelation 8:1-4 – What do you learn about prayer from this passage?
7. Psalm 109:4; Luke 22:44 – How did the Lord Jesus pray? What can you learn from Him?

**Personal questions:**

8. Why do your prayers sometimes lack fervency?
9. What answers to prayer did you experience this week?
10. What must you do to establish regular daily prayer times?

“God seldom if ever does something except in answer to prayer.”

“Prayer is always the preface of blessing.”

**Practical assignment:**

Today, make a prayer list with the names of all the people you want to pray for. You should also write down the works that are on your heart to do and the names of the non-believers you wish to see saved. Then start praying!

You learn to pray through PRAYING!

“I measure my effectiveness by the number of people I pray for  
and the number of people who pray for me.”

## **29 Your Daily Time With Jesus**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Why is a daily quiet time so important?
2. What is the main focus of a daily quiet time as compared to Bible study?
3. What is a helpful method to encourage your having a consistent daily quiet time?
4. The quiet time with God is “absolutely vital for a life of sustained spirituality, effectiveness and love.” Why is this true?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Psalm 1:2-3; 119:11; Acts 17:11; Romans 10:17; Revelation 1:3. Which activities could you practice in your quiet time?
6. Mark 1:35 – Why did the Lord Jesus do this? Why at this time? If He is the Master, what should His students do?
7. Isaiah 50:4-7 – How is the Lord Jesus a good example for you?

**Personal questions:**

8. What must you do to have a daily quiet time?
9. How effective is your quiet time? What could you improve?
10. How would you instruct someone to spend time with Jesus every day?

**Practical assignment:**

Use a notebook during your daily quiet time and jot down what you discover. Pray afterward and act accordingly.

**PRAY** → Ask the Lord to help you understand the Bible text and apply it in your life.

**READ** → Read a limited portion of Scripture

**THINK**

- 1) What did you read about the Lord Jesus/God?  
What character trait or attribute do you see in Him? What is He like?
- 2) Is there an example I should imitate or avoid?
- 3) Is there a command, a warning or a promise in the text?
- 4) Which verse or thought from the text has become the most important to you? What speaks to your situation?
- 5) Write down everything in your notebook, including verses that you particularly want to remember.

**PRAY** → Respond to God with thanks, praise, and through prayers for yourself and for others.

**ACT** → Do what you have learned. Only obedience will help you grow.

→ Live in purity. Confess your sins and repent from them.



## **30 Be A Worshiper**

### **Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Explain why worship should be the heart of each believer's service to God.
2. What is worship? What does it include?
3. How can we stimulate our worship?
4. Name reasons why we actually have more reason to worship God than the believers of the Old Testament.

### **Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Psalm 150:6 – Who should worship God?
6. John 4:1-26 – What caused this sinner to become a worshiper?
7. Mark 14:3-9 - Why was the Lord Jesus impressed with this woman?

### **Personal questions:**

8. How do you prepare yourself for the Lord's supper so that you can bring Him all the worship due His Name?
9. The Lord's prayer begins with worship. How does your prayer life compare?
10. What new reasons to worship the Lord did you find this week?

“They would have shaken their heads to think that the brightness of God's glory, the express image of His person, the Maker and Upholder of the universe, would be there on a cross, purging man's sins.” (Hebrews 1:1-3)

### **Practical assignment:**

Starting today, begin each of your prayers with worship.

## **31 Love Christ's Assembly**

### **Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Which Bible passages describe the value that God places on the assembly? Why is it so important to Him?
2. What testifies to Christ's being the Head and Center of the church?
3. How do you explain the fact that all believers are priests (contrary to the idea of an officially appointed class)?
4. What dangers exist in a clerical system?

### **Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Ephesians 3:8-9 – Describe the double ministry of the apostles. In which ministry do you still need to grow?
6. 1 Peter 2:4-9 – Describe our two-fold priesthood. Why do the two aspects belong together?
7. Acts 2:42; Philippians 1:1 – What do you learn about our priesthood in these passages?

### **Personal questions:**

8. How do you show that you love the assembly?
9. How do you use your gifts in the assembly?
10. Describe your priestly ministry?

### **Practical assignment:**

Think about what you can do this week to edify brothers and sisters in your assembly. Then do it!

## **32 Obey The Courtesy Code**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Summarize an attitude of general courtesy.
2. What does our courtesy to others express?
3. How can our speech reflect that we are children of the King?
4. Of what do all rules of courtesy testify?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Acts 20:35 - Why is this principle so important to genuine fellowship?
6. Matthew 7:12 – How does this verse influence your behavior toward others?
7. Ephesians 4:29; Philippians 4:8 – Write down the good and the bad examples of speech or thoughts from these verses.

**Personal questions:**

8. Imagine the Lord Jesus would be your guest tonight. How would you treat Him?
9. What hinders you from obeying the courtesy code?
10. What do you still have to do in order to be a host whose guests really feel at home?

**Practical assignment:**

Practice talking about only those things that are useful and uplifting this week. Be as natural as possible.

### **33 Don't Be Gullible**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. In which areas do we need to exercise discernment?
2. Why is it so important, for example, to distinguish between the holy and the unholy?
3. What can aid you need in discerning between good and evil?
4. Proponents of the ecumenical movement say: "Doctrine divides, service unites." How would you answer them?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 John 4:1 – Why is it so important to use discernment?
6. 1 Corinthians 2:14 – What is being discerned? What standard is set?
7. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 – Which devices does the devil use to take advantage of our gullibility and deceive us?

**Personal questions:**

8. "Test everything," and "Do not judge." How do you reconcile these two statements?
9. What is your boundary between good and bad, right and wrong, holy and unholy? Why is it so hard for us to be definite?
10. What must you do to be able to correctly and critically test things?

**Practical assignment:**

"We need discernment in appraising the signs and wonders movement. Does it square with what the Bible teaches?"

This is asked in the book. Give a detailed answer.

## **34    *Never Give Up***

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Write down your definition of endurance and illustrate it.
2. List some reasons that people give up?
3. Describe three persons in the Bible who endured.
4. Try to define the difference between endurance and patience.

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Hebrews 12:1-6 – How are we encouraged not to give up?
6. 2 Thessalonians 3:5 – Explain Christ's endurance.
7. James 5:17-18 – How can this paragraph help you to endure?

**Personal questions:**

8. In which parts of your life do you tend to give up? What could help you to persevere?
9. What does our motivation need to be to not give up?
10. With which Bible passages can you encourage others to endure? Name at least five.

**Practical assignment:**

You have an acquaintance who wants to give up? Then go to him and pray with him!

My hand is on the plow, my falt'ring hand;  
But all in front of me is untilled land.  
The wilderness and solitary place,  
The lonely desert with its interspace.

The handles of my plow with tears are wet;  
The shares with rust are spoiled, and yet, and yet,  
Out in the field, neér let the reins be slack;  
My God! My God! Keep me from turning back.

## **35 Have A Conscience Live And Keen**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. How can we silence our conscience?
2. How can we sharpen our conscience?
3. How would you prioritize the following: Profit, Products, Humans, Principles? Why?
4. What is the price and pay for a clean conscience?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Timothy 1:19; 4:2 – What did these people do wrong?
6. Acts 24:16 – Describe this principle for having a clean conscience.
7. Hebrews 13:18 – Why is this verse a good summary of our topic?

**Personal questions:**

8. What do you do in order to have a clean conscience?
9. Where are you in danger of not listening to your conscience? What could you change?
10. What do you do when you have a bad conscience?

**Practical assignment:**

If you have a bad conscience concerning a person or a thing, then please bring it to order today.

## **36    *Live Peaceably With All – Whenever Possible***

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1.    In general, how should we deal with others?
2.    Why is it important to discern between approval of behavior and acceptance of the person?
3.    How do we treat others, when we treat them the way we would like to be treated ourselves?
4.    What can you do in order to not be overly sensitive?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5.    Matthew 5:43-48 – What does the Lord Jesus expect from you?
6.    Philemon 4-20 – What can you learn from Paul's attitude?
7.    Psalm 37:3-9 – What practical applications does this passage add to our topic?

**Personal questions:**

8.    Why is it unhealthy to give advice when someone is a know-it-all?
9.    How do you react when you are criticized?
10.    When you have a very unfriendly person at your side, how do you treat him?

**Practical assignment:**

This week look for positive characteristics in others. Train your eyes!

“God created us to love people and use things; our problem comes in loving things and using people.”
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## **37 Live Sacrificially**

### **Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Which characteristics should routinely belong to a good steward?
2. “Use it up, wear it out, make it do, do without.” Why is this a good motto?
3. How should we respond when we want something but lack funds?
- 4.
5. Why should we live as simply as possible?

### **Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

6. Proverbs 6:1-5; 11:15; 17:18; 20:16; 22:26; 27:13 – What do you learn from these passages?
7. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 – What is your response to these verses?
8. Proverbs 11:24-25 – What do these verses encourage you to do?

### **Personal questions:**

9. What can you do to live simply and thus, make others rich?
10. How hard is it for you to live by faith concerning material possessions? Why?
11. What must you do to not only give out of your abundance?

### **Practical assignment:**

Think about your household, what is unnecessary or not used anymore. What could you sell? Why not do it to invest the money in Bibles?

“I went to church. I sat on the velvet pew. I watched sun shining through the stained glass windows. And the minister, dressed in a velvet robe, opened the golden, gilded Bible, marked it with the silk marker, and said: ‘If any man would be My disciple, let him deny himself, sell whatsoever he hath, give to the poor, take upon the cross and follow Me.’ And I looked around and no one was laughing.”

## 38 **Guard Your Tongue**

“I am more deadly than the screaming shell of a howitzer. I win without killing. I tear down homes, break hearts, and wreck lives. I travel on the wings of the wind. No innocence is strong enough to intimidate me, no purity pure enough to daunt me. I have no regard for truth, no respect for justice, no mercy for the defenceless. My victims are as numerous as the sands of the sea, and often as innocent. I never forget and seldom forgive. My name is Gossip!”

(Choice Gleanings)

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Name some qualities that should characterize our speech.
2. Why should we not indulge in spreading rumors?
3. How should we handle gossip?
4. What are positive ways to use our tongue?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. James 3:1-12 – What does this passage teach us about the tongue?
6. Matthew 12:36 – What does this verse instruct you to do? What is there to consider?
7. Proverbs 18:21 – How do you react to this warning?

**Personal questions:**

8. “Gossip is sharing information with someone who is neither part of the problem or of its solution.” What is your opinion of this definition?
9. Psalm 141:3 – Why would this be a good prayer for you?
10. How would you pray to sanctify speech?

**Practical assignment:**

Leviticus 19:16a; Proverbs 11:13; 16:28; 18:8, 21; 20:19; 26:20; Romans 1:29-30. Learn to be faithful in your speech. Confess your sins and, using these passages, help others to consider their own speech.

“The tongue should follow thought, not lead it. More have repented speech than silence. He who speaks sows, but he who listens reaps.”

## **39 Marriage**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What was God's intention in instituting a marriage relationship?
2. How does the Bible define the roles of man and woman in marriage?
3. Name the five purposes for marriage. Why are these important to you?
4. What priorities are significant for a good marriage?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Peter 3:7 – How does a husband's attitude towards his wife influence his prayer life?
6. Ephesians 5:25-33 – Describe the responsibilities of husband and wife.
7. Genesis 2:18-25 – What basic principles of marriage are named in this paragraph?

**Personal questions:**

8. "Husbands, love your wives." Why is this difficult?
9. "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands." What makes this difficult?
10. Why is it good to be married?

**Practical assignment:**

This week search for an opportunity to especially serve your husband or wife.

Love is...
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## **40 Parenting**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Why must the Word of God be given an overshadowing place in the home?
2. What should have a dominant place in a child's education?
3. How does the parent's example play a role in parenting their children?
4. Why are good friends vital for our children?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; Hebrews 12:5-6 – What can you learn about correction or discipline?
6. Ephesians 6:4 – Why does this verse specifically address the man? How can fathers prevent anger?
7. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 - Describe parent's responsibility in training their children.

**Personal questions:**

8. What can you do to improve your relationship with your children?
9. How important is literature for you and your children? What do you offer them?
10. What do you do to encourage your children to love the Word of God?

**Practical assignment:**

Plan an evening together with your son or daughter.

## **41 God's Ways, Not Our Ways**

### **Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. In which areas do God's ways differ from ours? Name at least ten areas and explain your answer.
2. How can we adjust our thinking to be more like God's thinking?
3. Why does God especially use the foolish, weak and base nobodies to accomplish great things? What is His aim in doing this?
4. What does God think about our motivation to do good works?

### **Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Isaiah 55:8-9 – Explain what it means to us that God's thoughts and ways are so much higher than ours.
6. 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 - How does this paragraph describe the differences between God's ways and ours?
7. Psalm 77:13-20 – What did Asaph learn about the ways of God?

### **Personal questions:**

8. God's thoughts and ways are so different from ours. In which areas is this difficult for you?
9. How do you benefit by abandoning the world's way of thinking and learning to think as the Lord does?
10. What have you experienced when you obeyed His ways? ("If we are Christ-like, the world will think we are crazy.")

### **Practical assignment:**

Think over your judgement of people by their outer appearance. What do you need to correct in your thinking?

**Section IV:  
Christian Service**

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## **42 Know Your Gift(s)**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. For what purpose did God give the assembly gifts of grace?
2. How many different gifts are mentioned in the New Testament?
3. What rules did the Holy Spirit give concerning the gift of tongues?
4. How can you recognize your own gifts?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Corinthians 14 – Which key words stand out? What conclusion can you draw from this?
6. Ephesians 4:11-16 – What does the Holy Spirit want to achieve with gifts?
7. Romans 12:3-8 – What attitude should we have while we exercise our gifts?

**Personal questions:**

8. What possibilities do you have to serve in assembly life?
9. Which ministries could use your help?
10. How could you improve your ministry?

**Practical assignment:**

Help whenever there is work to do in the assembly. Don't be too proud to do any kind of work. Be modest.

## **43 Be A Servant Of All**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. How can you recognize a true bondsman?
2. Why does a servant not separate “spiritual” and “natural” areas?
3. How can we exhibit Christ-likeness in serving?
4. What can you learn from Steve Farrar?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Colossians 3:23-24 – What does this text teach you about the attitude of a servant?
6. 2 Samuel 23:13-17 – Why are these men heroes?
7. Ruth 2:7 – Why is Ruth an example worth imitating?

**Personal questions:**

8. Why do you like serving?
9. Who do you want to please with your service?
10. Why are you frustrated with people who seldom do something to help?

“Let me ask you a question. Do you want to change? Are you willing to change? Are you willing to become a servant? Unless I miss my guess, that serving stuff may not come naturally for you. It may not be your knee-jerk reaction to situations in your life. It's certainly not in mine. But do you know what? I really don't have an option. I'm called to do it...”

**Practical assignment:**

Please look for a job in your assembly that no one likes to do and that is maybe not even recognized. Do this job with diligence and endurance.



## **44    *The Challenge Of Personal Evangelism by David Dunlap***

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1.    What are the four main points of the Good News, the Gospel?
2.    How can you make it clear to a person that he is a sinner?
3.    Which methods should we use while introducing the Gospel?
4.    Why is prayer so important in evangelism?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5.    Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9 – Why are these verses so important for spreading the Gospel?
6.    Acts 1:6-8 – For what should we use our lives and why?
7.    Acts 3:12-36 – What are the main points of Peter's sermon?

**Personal questions:**

8.    Why is our choice of words important (technical terms)?
9.    How do you proceed in conversations in order to come to speak about the Gospel?
10.   Memorize the Bible verses marked in the sketch. You will constantly need them!

**Practical assignment:**

Write down your testimony telling how you were saved, so that you can tell it in five minutes. Think about the following points: how was I before, why did I get saved, what has changed since then.

## **45 Preach the Word**

### **Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Why is it a wonder to be commissioned to preach the eternal Word of God?
2. Why is a verse-by-verse exposition of the Scriptures the best method of preaching?
3. What biblically qualifies a preacher?
4. What results when we preach Christ, continually preach Christ?

### **Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 2 Timothy 4:1-4 - What requirements are set for the preacher and the sermon?
6. Acts 20:19-20, 24-25 – What marks Paul as a preacher?
7. Luke 4:22, 32 – Why did the Lord Jesus speak words of grace and preach with authority?

“I do not know how any Christian service is to be fruitful if the servant is not primarily baptized in the spirit of a suffering compassion. We can never heal need that we do not feel. Tearless hearts can never be the heralds of the Passion. We must bleed if we would be the ministers of the saving blood.”

### **Personal questions:**

8. How do you prepare for a sermon or devotion?
9. Which study aids are helpful in preparing a sermon?
10. How do you plan to proclaim the whole counsel of God?

### **Practical assignment:**

Consider why Psalm 1 should be the life program of every Christian.

“We are limited in what we preach and teach by the extent to which we ourselves have obeyed the Scriptures. We can't lead others beyond what we ourselves have attained. If we try, they are apt to say: ‘Physician, heal yourself.’”

## **46    *Entertain Angels Unawares***

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1.    What can we convey through hospitality?
2.    Why are we hesitant to entertain strangers? Are these reasons valid?
3.    What are some important factors of hospitality?
4.    What does it actually mean to entertain angels?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5.    Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9 – What does the Lord teach you through these verses?
6.    Luke 10:38-42; John 12:1-8 – Why did the Lord especially love these people?
7.    Luke 14:12-14 – According to this passage, what are some results of hospitality?

**Personal questions:**

8.    What experiences have you had with hospitality?
9.    How could the practice of hospitality be improved in your assembly?
10.    What do our children learn from our practice of hospitality?

**Practical assignment:**

This week, invite someone over. Show him Christ's love!

## **47 The Life Of Faith**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. How can you learn to live by faith?
2. Why is it better to talk to the Lord than with others about your needs?
3. What are good reasons for Christian workers not to solicit support?
4. What could be hindrances to living a life of faith?

“Because faith is the proper, morally indispensable quality in man to enable God to grant His approval, those methods that develop actual faith in us, and in the converts, are the only right and blessed methods. To hinder faith becomes, therefore, a most necessary aim of the devil, and among other of his snares, this is one of the most effective – that he induces us to adopt methods which falsely promise good results though they do not demand vital faith, such as counting on God only in all things at all times.”

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Psalm 62:1-6 – What should we learn from David?
6. 2 Corinthians 9:8 – What does God want to do?
7. Hebrews 11:24-28 – What sacrifices did Moses make and what did he get in return?

**Personal questions:**

8. What are some of your personal experiences regarding trusting God?
9. You trust God regarding your eternal salvation. Why do you have difficulties trusting Him for your daily needs?
10. “God's work done in God's way will never lack God's provision.” Why can we trust this?

**Practical assignment:**

Tell a friend how you have experienced that it is worth trusting God.

“I would much rather be the trusting child of a rich Father, than a beggar at the door of worldly men.”

## **48 Be Zealous For Jesus**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What is it that makes a Christian a person of zeal?
2. Why were the Lord Jesus and Paul declared “mentally unhinged?”
3. With what was the life of the Lord Jesus consumed?

“The mountain-peaks of time are all volcanoes. They were all raised by a hidden fire once burning within them.”

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

4. Nehemiah 13:23-27 – Why is Nehemiah so zealous?
5. Romans 10:2 – What must we watch out for?
6. 2 Corinthians 11:2 – How is Paul's zeal expressed?

**Personal questions:**

7. What could be the reason that our life with the Lord is often monotonous?
8. How do you imagine the life of an Olympic winner? What influences his life?
9. For what goal and which reward would you give everything?

“Young people, be as nutty as you like for Jesus Christ, because if you are not enthusiastic when you are in your teens and twenties – boy! will you be stuffy when you are forty! You will! Frankly, I would prefer the risk of over-enthusiasm that can possibly lead astray, to that steady caution that goes to the grave before you die.”

**Practical assignment:**

Please read the biography of Jim Elliot. Worth imitating or crazy? Both?

## **49    *Avoid Publicity***

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1.    Name some of the dangers of publicity for a servant of God.
2.    In what ways did Jesus avoid being the center of attention?
3.    How can we help brothers and sisters who serve in the spotlight?

“The true servant does his work and does not want it talked about; he wants to go on with it.”

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

4.    Jeremiah 45:5; Romans 12:16 – What should be our focus?
5.    1 Corinthians 1:26-31 – What does the Holy Spirit want to teach us regarding publicity?
6.    John 3:29-34 – How did John take himself out of the spotlight?

**Personal questions:**

7.    What can you do to put Christ in the spotlight and not yourself?
8.    “What do you have that you have not received?...” What attitude does the Holy Spirit want us to have regarding being in the spotlight?
9.    What kind of recognition and approval do you seek? What counts in the end?

“Publicity shines the light on the wrong person.”

**Practical assignment:**

Next time you have opportunity to become the center of attention, ask the Lord to help you shine the spotlight on Him instead.

## **50 Privileges And Responsibilities Of The Local Assembly**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Which privileges do we enjoy by belonging to a local assembly?
2. What responsibilities does each individual have in the local assembly?
3. How can we motivate people to not only recognize the privileges, but also be willing to take responsibilities in the assembly?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

4. Acts 2:42 – Why are these four things so important for a healthy life in the assembly?
5. Ephesians 4:1-3 - How can we preserve unity of the Spirit?
6. 1 Peter 4:7-11 – What is expected from us? What is the result of taking on these responsibilities?

**Personal questions:**

7. How seriously do you take the responsibility of personal holiness in your life? Why?
8. Why is the prayer meeting often the least attended meeting of the church?

**Practical assignment:**

This week, tackle your prayer list and pray carefully for your brothers and sisters.

## **51    *Assembly Planting***

### **Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. How can we escape the indictment, “faithfulness without fruitfulness” or “truth without growth”?
2. What basic issues should be considered when planting a new assembly?
3. Why did the apostle Paul always work in a team?
4. How is a new assembly born?

### **Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Nehemiah 1 and 2 – What moved Nehemiah to begin building the wall?
6. Acts 13:1-4 – What does this paragraph teach us about the work of planting assemblies?
7. 2 Timothy 2:1-6 - Why is the making of disciples so important and what steps are named for training them?

### **Personal questions:**

8. How do you and other brothers and sisters in the Lord handle secondary matters of faith?
9. How do you support the work of planting an assembly?
10. What is the vision that is forming your life?

### **Practical assignment:**

Do you pray that the Lord gives you a job in assembly planting? If not, you should start now.



## **52 Church Growth Through Evangelism**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What is most often involved in the conversion of individuals and why?
2. Which qualities mark an evangelistic assembly?
3. What are some methods we can use to help people find the Lord Jesus as Savior?
4. How important is spending time with non-believers? Why is this useful?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Acts 4:32 – What was the result of the believers' love and unity?
6. Acts 5:13-14 – What were the results of the holiness of the church?
7. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 – Why were the Thessalonians fruitful in evangelism?

“But we must have a holy horror of going year after year without seeing any conversions.”

**Personal questions:**

8. How are you working to see individuals come to Christ?
9. In what areas of evangelism are you lacking skills? Could someone in your church help you? Ask him.
10. How can you support people who are obviously gifted in preaching the Gospel?

**Practical assignment:**

Pray daily and persistently for a person you want to lead to the Lord! Look for opportunities to contact him. Do something together. Pray that you can witness to him.

Read the book by Jim Petersen, *Evangelism: A Lifestyle* (2006)

“We get what we go after in life. Let us go after souls.”

## **53 One-on-One Discipleship**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What are the subjects that we should cover so that a new convert will be a well-grounded and well-rounded believer?
2. Describe a discipleship relationship.
3. How can we help someone to move from theory to practice?
4. What example of discipleship did the Lord Jesus leave for us to follow?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Mark 3:13-15 - Describe the beginning of Jesus' own discipleship training.
6. Matthew 9:36; 10:5 - What need motivated the Lord? How should a disciple react to this need?
7. What do saints need in order to serve? How are they obtained? How does it become evident in the life of a believer?

**Personal questions:**

8. Formulate a plan to lead a one-on-one with a new believer.
9. Why do you want to participate in disciple-making? List as many reasons as possible.
10. Who might you help to grow in the faith? What support or help do you need to make this happen?

**Practical Assignment:**

Find a young Christian that is interested in being taught to follow the Lord and disciple him. We recommend the following book: LeRoy Eims, *The Lost Art of Disciplemaking*.

## **54 Leadership Training by Rick Belles**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What is the importance of raising up spiritual leaders in the local assembly?
2. Describe the process of raising up spiritual leadership.
3. How did Paul work with Timothy to help him reach his potential as a leader?
4. Why is character building the key to leadership training?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. John 21:15-17 – How did the Lord Jesus convey to his disciple, Peter, that he was being given a special commission?
6. Romans 12:3-8 – What can you learn about: calling, gifts, strength, teaching, and equipping? Be practical and concrete in your explanation. What do we need to take to heart?
7. Acts 20:27 – What are the main points of the whole counsel of God? What do you still need to work on? If you invested in this one hour each week, how long would it take you to fulfill it?
8. Mark 6:31 – Why is this verse important to your life as a disciple, a worker, or a leader? What would be the result for you?

**Personal questions:**

9. What motivates you to become a leader or to train up others as leaders?
10. If you do not become a leader, how do you want to support the leaders in your church? How can you help them?

**Practical assignment:**

Speak with one of the leaders of your church and ask him for three important prayer requests concerning his ministry. Write these on a card, and pray for them at least once a month.

## **55 Parachurch Organizations**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What are some arguments in favor of such organizations?
2. What are arguments opposed to these companies?
3. Which general attitude should we have?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

4. Luke 9:49-50 – How do these verses help us draw a conclusion of the matter?
5. Ecc. 7:16-17 – Of what must you always be wary?

**Personal questions:**

6. What experiences have you had with parachurch organizations?
7. How can you see to it that everyone in your assembly has the chance to serve?

**Practical assignment:**

Think about this: there is not always an “either or” but sometimes a “both.”

## 56 ***Smaller May Be Better***

“I loathe this scramble for numbers, leading to collective egotism.”  
“Masses in classes produce flashes and ashes.”

### **Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What are the challenges of a large congregation?
2. Which principles concerning size are emphasized in the Bible?
3. How did God build His kingdom on this earth? Does He use the masses or the few? Quality or quantity?
4. Why can the sentence, “We are living in the last days” or “We are living in the time of little strength” also be an excuse for a small assembly?

“What that strategy means is this, that Christ would rather any day have a poor five percent minority of resolute souls to work with, than a great 95 percent majority unconvinced and pliable in their allegiance.”

### **Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Revelation 3:7-13 – What does God especially appreciate about this church?
6. Matthew 25:21, 23 – What will the Lord reward in the end? What should our goal be?
7. 1 Corinthians 3:5-8; 4:1-5 – Of what do we need to be careful? What should be the main emphasis of our service to Christ?

### **Personal questions:**

8. What is your impression of large congregations?
9. What is your goal concerning the size of the church?
10. How do you contribute to the qualitative and quantitative growth of your assembly?

### **Practical assignment:**

Today, be faithful in what the Lord has entrusted to you. Try to serve Him with devotion and leave the results to Him.

“Better far the little company, tried and tested by God Himself, than the large and respectable body which commands respect in the eyes of the world by its numbers.”

**Section V:  
Conclusion**

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## 57. **Closing Tips**

1. Develop a habit of daily seeking to do something good for another person. This can open up wonderful possibilities to glorify God.
2. Encourage someone each day. There is always need for this.
3. Do not grumble. If you read 1 Corinthians 10, you will see that this is not acceptable to God.
4. Pray like Andrew Bonar to, „finish strong“. Your ministry should not explode like fireworks followed by a pile of ashes.
5. Be cheerful. The Lord is not against this. Franz Joseph Hayden said: „God gave me a cheerful heart. He will certainly forgive me, when I cheerfully serve Him.“ Did the Psalmist not say: „Serve the Lord with joy“?
6. If you make a promise, keep it. If you don't mean it, don't say it.
7. Always follow your impressions to do good. Do not push them aside.
8. Be thankful. Count your blessings. You will be amazed at what the Lord has done.
9. Do not waste time. Be diligent in the work of the Lord.
10. Visit the sick, the elderly and those who mourn. Just your presence shows them that you care.
11. Live daily in light of the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is coming soon. We just do not know how soon.
12. Hold your tongue, put a guard over your mouth. You will be amazed how much you learn through listening.
13. Do not try to plan or direct other people's lives for them. Realize that you are not responsible for everything in the Universe.
14. Do not display your aches and pains for all to see, everyone has enough of their own.
15. Try to see Jesus in others. It is helpful to encounter people with this positive attitude.
16. Jesus loves children. Take interest them, and reflect His love.
17. Make an effort to have good relationships with the mentally or physically weak. Every one of them is special and valuable to the Lord.

### **Practical assignment:**

Colossians 1:27-29

Think about what these verses mean to you!

## **Appendixes**

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## **Appendix A**

### ***Show It, Don't Blow It***

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What did Greg, as a young convert, do wrong?
2. How should Greg, as a son, have acted toward his parents?
3. What would Greg have to change in his life so his actions fit together with his words?
4. How can Greg help his family to acknowledge the Lord Jesus?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Matthew 10:34-36 – What do we need to watch out for so we do not misuse these verses?
6. 1 Peter 2:20-24 – How is the Lord Jesus an example for us?
7. 2 Kings 5:1-5 – Explain the behavior of the young girl that led to Naaman seeking Elisa to be healed.

**Personal questions:**

8. Which attitudes and actions do you need to change to influence your non-believing relatives and friends to be more open to the Gospel?
9. Which areas of our lives do we need to live very carefully so as not to repel non-believers?
10. How can you show that the Lord Jesus has really changed your life?

**Practical assignment:**

This week, show an unbeliever that you really care for him with an act of love.

## **Appendix B**

### **Lifestyle Evangelism**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Describe the process of evangelism.
2. How should we act toward unbelievers around us?
3. Describe the relation between the unbelievers around us and God's intentions.
4. How can we build relationships to unbelievers and why is this necessary?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Colossians 4:5-6 – What do you learn about lifestyle evangelism?
6. John 4:35-38 – What does the Lord Jesus teach about our evangelistic ministry?
7. Romans 12:12-21; Philippians 2:14-16; Colossians 4:5-6 – What does Paul teach about our way of life?

**Personal questions:**

8. How can we participate in the social community as more than just a prophet?
9. What keeps you from spending time with unbelievers? Please go through your timetable and priorities and ask yourself if something needs to be changed?
10. How might you prepare the people around you that they might also get to know the Lord Jesus?

**Practical assignment:**

Please make a list of all the people you regularly have something to do with. Where do you think these people are on their way to Christ? Are they indifferent (underline in blue)? Unknowing (underline in green)? Undecided (underline in red)? Now pray for these people every day.

Family	Acquaintances	Neighbors	Friends	Work Colleagues

## **Appendix C**

### ***Lifestyle Discipleship***

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What lessons should we learn from Peter and the great catch (Luke 5:4-11)?
2. How does the Lord use mundane daily routine to form us as disciples?
3. Why is everyday life (school, household, work) an ideal training camp?
4. What should motivate us to see everyday life as service for the Lord?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. Colossians 3:23 – Why could this verse be a motto for every disciple?
6. 1 Peter 2:1-3, 17 – How and where should the believers practice their priestly service?
7. 1 Corinthians 7:20-24 – Why is it good for individuals to remain in the situation in which he is called?

**Personal questions:**

8. Why is it good for a disciple to accomplish his daily tasks?
9. How do you experience daily discipleship? What is fun? What is difficult?
10. How can you help younger Christians to have discipleship as a lifestyle?

**Practical assignment:**

Today, pray for each and every task: “Lord Jesus, help me to do this work for You. Please show me how I should do it so that You are honored.”

## **Appendix D**

### ***I Like The Assemblies***

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What are the eight reasons William MacDonald gives for why he likes the assemblies?
2. Why are these points so important to him?
3. Why is the remembrance of the Lord during the weekly Breaking of Bread essential?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

4. Ephesians 4:12 – How can we utilize our gifts to achieve this goal?
5. Ephesians 5:25 – In light of the Lord's example, how should we love the church?
6. 2 Corinthians 8:1-6 – What was commendable and worth imitating regarding the church in Macedonia? How did these assemblies express their love?

**Personal questions:**

7. Which points would you name if you had to finish the following sentence?

8. I  
love the assemblies, because...

**Practical assignment:**

Please think about one way in which you could apply Ephesians 4:12 this coming Sunday.

## **Appendix E**

### **Should We Hire A Pastor?**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Why is it sensible not to pay a full-time worker in the assembly?
2. What dangers are there if someone is financially dependent on the church?
3. What should the full-time worker's attitude be concerning financial support?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

4. 1 Timothy 5:17-18 – Describe what our responsibility to other workers should be.
5. Acts 20:32-35; Philippians 4:13-19 – What do we learn from Paul about work and money?

**Personal questions:**

6. What responsibility do we have as members of the assembly to the “ox threshing the grain?”
7. How can I help full-time workers of God's kingdom to do their job happily before God?

**Practical assignment:**

The full-time worker also needs vacation, new car tires, food and drink, schooling for his children and all the things each one of us needs. Be creative, pray and ask the Lord where and how you can support him.

## **Appendix F**

### **Thinking As God Does**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What are the eight points listed in which God thinks much differently than the world?
2. What is the difference between God's standard of value and the world's?
3. Why are God's thoughts so different from those of the world?
4. How can I learn to think like God?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 1 Corinthians 1:18-21 – Compare God's thinking and that of the world.
6. 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 – Which lesson did Paul have to learn concerning God's thoughts?
7. Hosea 11:8-9 – Explain God's attitude. Why does He react like this?

**Personal questions:**

8. With which of these eight points concerning God's thoughts do you have the most difficulties? Why?
9. What would help you to think like God?
10. Describe the way of this world. How do people think in the world today? What does the Bible say about these thoughts?

**Practical assignment:**

We should repent when we have adapted our thinking to that of the world! Romans 12:1-2 challenges you to renew your thinking. Please be specific in confessing where you need to change. Our thinking is influenced positively by reading the Bible.

## **Appendix G**

### **Christian Literature – The Possibilities And Limitations**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. What are the advantages of harnessing the printed page for the gospel?
2. What are the limitations of literature?
3. In which areas are men, as good tools in the hand of the Master, irreplaceable?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

4. 2 Timothy 4:1-5 – If you were the recipient of these lines, where would you pitch in and work in the distribution of literature?
5. Acts 8:26-35 – Describe Philip’s role in this encounter.
6. 2 Kings 22:8-14 – What was the effect of finding the Book of Law?

**Personal questions:**

7. How can you help spread good Christian literature?
8. Dawson Trotman said: “The answer is the man, not materials.” Why do you agree or disagree with this statement?
9. How many Christian books have you read in the last twelve months? Which would you recommend? Why?

**Practical assignment:**

Every week, give away a good Christian book.



## **Appendix H**

### **Fundamental, Important, and Non-essential Issues**

A suggested Method for Resolving Differences in the Assembly (since Appendix H is not part of the present English edition, we give the whole text of the chapter here)

There are certain doctrines of the Christian faith which are absolutely fundamental. They are of first importance. As far as they are concerned, there can be no difference of opinion. Believers must be united on these great truths.

There are other matters that are not fundamental but are nevertheless important because they are the subject of biblical teaching and call for obedience.

There are still other subjects that are non-essential. They are neither right nor wrong. The Lord allows liberty for each one to be fully persuaded in his own mind.

#### **I. What are the fundamentals?**

When we speak of the fundamentals, we are referring to the following:

**The inspiration of the Scriptures.** The Bible is the Word of God.

**The Trinity.** There is one God, existing eternally in three Persons. It necessarily follows from this that Jesus Christ is God.

**The incarnation.** Jesus is also perfect Man.

**Christ's substitutionary death at Calvary.** He died on behalf of sinners.

**His burial, resurrection, and ascension to heaven.** He was buried, rose again on the third day in a glorified body, and ascended to the right hand of God the Father.

**The gospel.** Salvation is by grace, through faith, and apart from works.

**The Second Advent.** Christ is coming again. Though not all agree on the details of His return, the fact itself is a basic tenet of the faith.

**The eternal blessedness of the saved.**

**The eternal punishment of the lost.**

Now these doctrines are not negotiable. We are to earnestly contend for them. They are clearly taught in the Scriptures. The evangelical church has held them down through the centuries. Conflicting views have been labeled heresies. Believers have been willing to die for these precious truths. We cannot have fellowship with those who deny the fundamentals.

## **II. Important even though not fundamental**

There is a second class of subjects which, while not fundamental, are nonetheless important. Jesus implied such a distinction when He said to the Pharisees, "...you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith..." (Matt. 23:23). In other words, some parts of the law are "weightier" than others. But Jesus also reminded them that even the less weighty matters of the law require obedience... "these you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."

So, in the New Testament, there are matters which are not fundamental but which require obedience. These are matters on which the Bible speaks. Some of them are described as commandments of the Lord (1 Cor. 14:37). We must not call them non-essentials or treat them as such.

These subjects include baptism, divorce and remarriage, the outline of prophecy, the eternal security of the believer, women's head covering, women's public ministry in the church, the gifts of the Spirit, and the topics covered by the five points of Calvinism.

The problem is that Christians hold differing views on these matters. While there is only one right interpretation, believers do not agree as to what that interpretation is. Great and godly believers do not see eye to eye. Let us look at some of these issues on which the Bible gives instruction and which are important, even though they have never been regarded as fundamentals of the faith.

### **Baptism**

In the Christian church there is considerable disagreement as to the mode and meaning of baptism. Some practice baptism by immersion, some by immersing three times, and some by sprinkling. Some see baptism as signifying identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Others see sprinkling as a picture of the descent of the Spirit.

You can be a true believer and hold any of those views, and this should not be a bar to fellowship. But once an assembly has adopted a position on the subject, then no one should cause trouble by pushing alternate views.

It is a different matter when a person believes in baptismal regeneration, that is, that a person must be baptized in order to be saved. Or that by baptizing an infant, you make him a member of Christ and an inheritor of the kingdom of God. This is a false gospel, a denial of the truth that salvation is by faith alone. Because it is contrary to a fundamental of the faith, it precludes the fellowship of Bible-believing Christians.

### **Divorce and Remarriage**

Some say, "No divorce-PERIOD." Some say, "Divorce but no remarriage." Others say, "Divorce for unfaithfulness but no remarriage." Still others say, "Divorce for unfaithfulness with freedom for the innocent party to remarry." Some even say, "Divorce for desertion." There is no end to the different views, and it's doubtful that there will ever be unanimity on this subject as long as we are here on earth.

Sooner or later, every local assembly must adopt a position on the subject in the fear of God, and adhere to that position. Individuals may hold other interpretations, but they must not press their views publicly or privately so as to cause division.

It should be added that even after an assembly adopts a position, the elders will still have to consider each case individually. Such complex situations arise today in the marriage relationship that no stated policy will cover every case.

### **The outline of prophecy**

Some believers are premillennial, others are postmillennial, and still others are amillennial. Even among premillennialists, there are four major views: pre-tribulation rapture, mid-tribulation rapture, pre-wrath rapture, and post-tribulation rapture. There are problems connected with every position. A person can hold any of these views and still be a good Christian.

It is proper that everyone knows what he believes and rejoices in it. But it is also proper that we remember there are godly, sincere believers who hold other views. These honest differences should not prevent us from breaking bread together. On the other hand, those who hold alternate views should respect the prophetic stance of an assembly, and not push their views, thereby causing dissension. When someone insists that everyone must agree with his minority view, there is bound to be trouble.

### **Eternal security**

Many Christians believe that when a person has been truly born again, he will never lose his salvation. They believe that to deny the eternal security of the believer questions the sufficiency of the work of Christ and mixes faith and works.

There are other people who love the Lord and yet they sincerely believe that Christians can forfeit their salvation through sin. To refuse fellowship with these saints means that you would not break bread with John Wesley and men of that spiritual stature.

Again we say to each assembly, “Know what you believe and why you believe it.” Adopt that as the official stance of the assembly,” and say to those who believe differently, “You can hold a different view, but don’t teach it in public or in private. If you would like to discuss it, please speak to the elders.”

### **Women’s head covering**

On the one side are those who hold that Paul’s instructions concerning head coverings were just for the culture in which he lived. Others insist that they are the commandments of the Lord, that Paul bases them on the order and purpose of creation, and that they are “because of the angels,” therefore, for all time and not just for the culture of Paul’s day. Questions arise whether the head covering is just for meetings of the church (and, if so, what is a meeting of the church?), what constitutes a proper covering? etc.

If the elders of an assembly don’t adopt a policy on the subject, there is bound to be confusion. They owe it to the saints to state clearly what they believe the Scriptures teach.

### **Women’s ministry**

When may a woman sing or speak in a meeting of the church? The answers given today are too numerous to list. With a sincere desire to obey the Scriptures as closely as possible, elders should adopt a clear, united position. These prayerful conclusions become the policy of the assembly.

## **The sign gifts**

Another issue that holds the potential for trouble is the charismatic question. Tongues, healing, and prophesying seem to be the gifts around which most controversy has swirled. The differing viewpoints, even among charismatics themselves, are legion.

We can and must love Christians who disagree with us, but we must not allow the issue to cause division. Therefore, an assembly must decide what the Bible really teaches on this score. The elders have both a right and a responsibility to deal firmly with any who insist on teaching views that conflict and threaten the peace of the assembly.

## **Five-point Calvinism**

A five-point Calvinist believes in man's total depravity, God's unconditional election, limited atonement (i.e. only for the elect), irresistible grace, and the perseverance of the saints. Accurate definition of these terms is essential before an intelligent judgment can be formed.

Many believers accept only the fifth, although they would prefer to call it the perseverance of Christ. Those who disagree with the others insist that Christ's atonement was for all in its sufficiency and availability. They also point out that Calvinism rules out man's free will whereas Christ constantly appealed to man's will in the matter of salvation.

Spiritually minded, soul-winning Christians are found on both sides of this issue. The fireworks begin when someone insists on pushing his own view when it is not welcome, or when he harps on one subject as if it were the only doctrine in the Bible. When silenced, he leaves the assembly and influences others to leave with him.

The path of wisdom is to enjoy privately one's convictions on the subject, but not to force them as if they represented the whole truth.

On all these subjects that are important though not fundamental, an assembly, under its leaders, should adopt a clearly stated position. This should be done after careful study and research, after much prayer, and with a sincere desire to adhere as closely as possible to the Scriptures. If an assembly adopts a position that is not Scriptural, it is conceivable that some believers will want to withdraw. If so, they should do so graciously, and without seeking to draw others away with them.

Since each assembly is autonomous, that is, responsible to the Lord alone, no other church or outside individual can dictate policy with regard to these important doctrines.

We should have a spirit of love toward those who disagree with us on these important matters. It is impossible to be a Christian and be poorly taught. And we should always remember that if we could see ourselves in the light of God's perfection, we would realize that wisdom will not die with us. We should walk humbly before the Lord.

## **III. Non-essential issues**

In addition to the above subjects, there are some that can be clearly labeled as non-essential. When it comes to these matters, there should always be liberty to disagree without causing strife or division. Here the second line of the formula applies:

In fundamentals, unity.  
In non-essential matters, liberty.  
In all things, love.

Among the non-essential issues are some on which the New Testament doesn't legislate specifically but which some people feel embody important principles: voting and military service; wine vs. grape juice at the Lord's Supper; one cup vs. individual cups; and the use of musical instruments in church services,

### **Voting and military service.**

In these issues, each person must go before the Lord and seek His will for himself or herself. Each one should be fully persuaded in his own mind. Once that is done, he should obey his guidance and allow others to do the same.

### **Wine vs. grape juice at the Lord's Supper**

Let's face it! There are valid arguments on both sides. There is no question that when the Lord instituted the Supper, He used fermented wine and unleavened bread (grape juice did not come until Pasteur developed pasteurization). But wine stumbles people who have a problem with alcohol, and we should never do anything that stumbles others (1 Cor. 8:13). Also, there are many places in the world where wine is not available. After all, it is not the bread and wine that are important. We must get beyond them to the Lord Himself.

### **One cup vs. individual cups**

Again, there are two sides of the matter. On the one hand, one cup symbolizes the unity of the body of Christ. But as an assembly grows it is not uncommon to use two, three, or even four cups. If four are valid, why not 40? The argument for individual cups rests largely on the danger of spreading disease through the common cup, since wine does not have sufficient alcoholic content to kill germs. In any event, this is not a matter of fundamental importance. Rather it provides an opportunity to show love and consideration to those who disagree with us.

### **Use of musical instruments**

Here again there must be liberty for an assembly to adopt its own policy. No major creed has ever considered instrumental accompaniment as a fundamental of the faith. We could paraphrase Paul's words without doing violence to them, "For in Christ Jesus neither does an organ avail anything nor the absence of an organ, but a new creation" (see Gal. 6:15).

### **Times of meetings**

Clearly the Lord has left this decision to the local assembly or its leaders. Sometimes changes must be made, depending on local circumstances. The best time for reaching the unsaved in one locality may not be the best time in another. Traditional times are not sacred. We must be ready to make changes when they are indicated.

### **Thou vs. You**

Many older Christians prefer to address God as Thee and Thou out of a sense of reverence. Younger believers prefer to use You out of a sense of intimacy but without any lack of reverence. It is not a

Biblical problem. In the original language of the New Testament, there is no distinction between a formal “you” and a familiar one. But when the King James Version was published, people addressed one another as thou (singular) and ye (plural). Thus, Jesus is quoted in the King James Version as saying to Judas, “Betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?” It was certainly not the language of reverence.

What it boils down to is this: any assembly should be big enough to allow for both usages without creating a threatening atmosphere or driving people away.

### **Bible versions**

Considerable heat has been generated over this issue as a result of the proliferation of versions in recent years. Some believers sincerely believe that the truth of God is at stake. Others point out that the differences among the reputable versions are minor and do not affect any of the doctrines of the faith. As much as we might love any English version, we cannot insist that it is the only right one, because then none of the foreign language versions would be right.

Individual Christians should be allowed to have their favorite version. When speaking publicly, a person should announce the name of the one from which he is reading if it is not the one in common use. This is a simple courtesy..

### **Foods, drinks, and observance of days**

These are other matters of moral indifference. They are actions that are neither right nor wrong in themselves. It is about these non-essential matter that Paul writes:

“Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind” (Rom. 14:5b). He would not have said this about a fundamental of the faith, but in matters of moral indifference, there is liberty for everyone to be fully convinced in his own mind.

“All things are lawful unto me” (1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23). This can only refer to areas or activities not prohibited by God’s Word.

“All things indeed are pure” (Rom. 14:20b). “Unto the pure all things are pure” (Tit. 1:15). This cannot mean all thing absolutely, but all things that are neither right nor wrong in themselves.

“I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself” (Rom. 14:14a). The subject is foods. Under the Old Testament economy, certain foods were unclean. Under grace this distinction between clean and unclean no longer holds (Mark 7:19 NASB).

It should be clear that in these passages Paul is dealing with matters that are non-essential. He allows for a difference of opinion among God’s people. Yet it is often over these inconsequential matters that serious splits occur. We must learn to distinguish between what is central and what is peripheral.

### **Conclusion**

Let us now summarize.

Concerning the fundamentals, there must be unanimity in any Christian assembly.

Concerning matters that are Scripturally important, even though not fundamental, each assembly should adopt a position in the fear of God. Any contrary teaching, either public or private, that would create strife or division should not be allowed. If a person disagrees with the assembly position and feels he must leave out of faithfulness to the Lord, he should do so quietly and peaceably.

Concerning the non-essential matters we have listed, there has to be a certain amount of give and take for the sake of unity and peace (Eph. 4:1-6). We may have strong convictions in these areas, but we must recognize that there are Christlike souls who do not agree with us. Because of this, we should avoid excessive dogmatism. Cromwell said, "I beseech you by the tender mercies of Christ to conceive it possible that you may be mistaken." When someone tried to nit-pick with Dr. Ironside on some non-essential matter, he would say, "Well, brother, when we get to heaven, one of us is going to be wrong -- and perhaps it will be me." The fire invariably went out, because Dr. Ironside didn't add fuel to it (see Prov. 26:20).

In all the topics we have discussed, an assembly should adopt a definite stance or policy. Failure to do so results in confusion. Believers generally want guidelines to follow. When the leadership adopts a position after much waiting on God, there is a sense in which their decision is ratified in heaven (cf. Matt. 16:19; 18:18), provided it does not violate any Scriptural precept or principle.

Leaving an assembly over a non-essential matter is never the ideal. There can be fellowship without total agreement on these topics. Where there is love and brokenness, prayer and patience, humility and forbearance, differences can be settled amicably. Believers can disagree without being disagreeable.

The only times when it is better to leave is when a person is convinced that in staying, he is being unfaithful to the Lord or unable to remain without disturbing the peace of the assembly. Even then the third line of our timeless formula applies -- in everything, love.

## **Appendix H**

### **Study Guide**

#### **Fundamental, Important, and Non-essential Issues**

**Read the text in the book and answer the following questions:**

1. Which biblical doctrines are non-negotiable?
2. Which topics are important, but not fundamental? Of what do we especially need to watch out?
3. How should the local assembly handle the important doctrines?
4. What is irrelevant, and how should the local assembly handle these topics?

**Study the verses, answer the questions and note down further findings.**

5. 2 Kings 5:17-19 – How would you categorize this incident?
6. Galatians 2:11-14 – Which area is described in this story? Why is Paul so adamant?
7. Acts 11:1-18 – Which of the three areas is evident? Why does Peter describe his actions in such detail?

**Personal questions:**

8. What would be a valid reason to leave an assembly?
9. Explain why there is so much fighting about “irrelevant” issues. Where do we err?
10. If someone new came to your assembly, how would you explain this subject to him?



**Practical assignment:**

Assess the following grid. Why do you agree or what would you change?

<b>Fundamental</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Irrelevant</b>
Inspiration of the Word	Baptism	Sacrificing to idols
The trinity	Divorce and remarriage	Clean and unclean food
Deity of Jesus	Development of the End Times	Wine or grape juice at the Breaking of Bread
Jesus's substitutionary death on the cross, His burial, resurrection and ascension	Election and human choice	Leavened or Unleavened Bread
The Gospel, salvation through grace, through faith without works	Roles of men and women in the church	One cup or individual cups
The return of Christ	Spiritual gifts	Time of the meetings
The eternal punishment of the lost		Musical instruments in the meeting
		Use of different Bible translations
		Methods of Christian ministries

## **HOW TO get the most out of this course**

There can be no training without standards or requirements. Indeed, training without standards is like a game without rules. There is no way to measure results or effectiveness of participation. The following guidelines will make the training both effective and meaningful.

1. **ATTENDANCE.** Participants should plan to attend the full sessions in order to obtain maximum benefit from the training. Past experience has shown that excessive absences (three or more) leaves the participant inadequately prepared for the next session.
2. **PROMPTNESS.** Tardiness displays a contempt for the value of other's time. Prompt attendance at meetings will allow the sessions to start and finish on time.
3. **HOMEWORK.** The completion of homework is an essential ingredient to participating in the course. Doing the homework causes interaction with the Scriptures and provides an opportunity to participate in the discussion groups and better understand the lectures.

Some helpful tips:

- PI  
an time during the week to do the homework so as not to be under time pressure.
  - T  
hough the lesson begins with the reading material, is important to first read the worksheet. In general, the answers are found in the reading material.
  - AI  
l questions should be answered. If you do not understand a question, call your discussion group leader to ask for help. Difficult questions can help us to more deeply consider an answer and challenge a response.
4. **HOMEWORK EVALUATION.** The discussion group leaders will evaluate the homework. This is helpful in learning to understand and apply the Word of God. Incompleted homework should be completed the following week and turned in for evaluation.
  5. **MEMORIZATION.** Participants are to weekly memorize the assigned Bible verses.
  6. **COMPLETION OF TRAINING/EVALUATION.** Each participant will be evaluated by the group leader(s). More important than this, however, is that everyone involved in the training seek the "AUG" degree - - Approved Unto God. We should consider that training makes us more responsible before God. Unto whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48). The ultimate test of participating is the personal application of God's truth. The proof is in our changed lives. If we have made no adjustments after looking into the "mirror" of the Word, then the training has failed (James 1:22-25). Be encouraged to take steps in living a changed life!