



Tree of Life Discipleship Series

Booklet 4

Pollen

Let us not give up meeting together,
as some are in the habit of doing,
but let us encourage one another
—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:25

Booklet 4 – Pollen

Table of Contents:

Lesson 1 – The Family of God	Page 3
Lesson 2 – The Glorious Church	Page 5
Lesson 3 – New Relationships	Page 9

Symbols Used in the Series



When you see this symbol in the booklets, stop and pray right then about what God is saying to you.



When you see this symbol it means there is a homework assignment to do.



When you see this symbol it means the subject is like a deep well and requires special thought.



Lesson 1 – The Family of God

In this lesson you will learn:

- Who is in your family.
- The family of God is large and from many cultures.
- Your forever family is more important than your birth family.
- The purpose of God's family is to love and support each other.

Your tree of life is rooted in Jesus, fed by the Word of God, and powered by the sap of the Holy Spirit. You are growing into a beautiful tree. Leaves and flowers of new life have developed. However, you cannot continue alone. You need other Christians—you need pollination. Pollination is one flower fertilizing another. Only as you give to and receive from the believers around you can your tree complete its intended purpose.

1) When you received Jesus as Savior, you were adopted into God's forever family. This means you have many new brothers and sisters who are from different cultures. What does Revelation 7:9, 10 tell you about your forever family?

2) In Matthew 12:46-50, who does Jesus say are his family?

3) In 1 Peter 4:17 it says judgment is beginning. He asks what will happen to those not in the family of God. What do you think will happen to them?

4) Luke 14:26 records Jesus' strong words about leaving earthly life behind. According to this passage, which family should be more important to you, your birth family or your Christian family?

5) Acts 4:32-35 records the love of the family of God right after it was born in Jerusalem. List the ways this family cared for each other.

6) Write the names of those you know in the family of God who could become your adopted brother in the Lord, sister in the Lord, mother in the Lord, and father in the Lord.

Review of Lesson 1

- All believers are in your family of God.
- The family of God is large and from many cultures.
- Your forever family is more important than your birth family.
- The purpose of God's family is to love and support each other.

Summary of Booklet 4 - Pollen

- You are part of a large and beautiful forever family.
- The church is a heavenly organization where you have a role.
- All your relationships are new and blessed.



Lesson 2 – The Glorious Church

In this lesson you will learn:

- The church is a heavenly organization.
- The church has an organizational structure.
- You have a responsibility to the church.

The family of God is the people in the church of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the parts of the church are the family of God, Jesus Christ as head, and the Holy Spirit as chief minister. There is one church of Jesus Christ made up of all true believers, from different denominations. The church is not a building, human organization, or denomination. The full structure of the church cannot be written on paper because it is a big spiritual network held together by the Holy Spirit. It includes many cultures, traditions, and centuries.

7) 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 compares the church to a human body. What are some ways a body is a good symbol for the church?

8) In Matthew 16:18 Jesus is speaking to Peter. According to this passage, who built the church and what eternal promise was made about the church?

9) Ephesians 1:22, 23 is talking about Jesus. According to this passage, how much of Jesus should be found in the church?

To forgive is to let God be the judge of the offender. We should not try to take God's place as judge. We must always forgive, however, we only reconcile when the offender truly repents. Reconciliation means the relationship and trust are restored. The steps for reconciliation are listed in Matthew 18:15-17. There is a big difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. Most importantly, keep your heart free of anger, hatred, or unforgiveness.

Search your heart and repent of any anger, hatred, or unforgiveness against another person. In difficult cases, ask for the help and prayers of your church elders.

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:14-16

Review of Lesson 3

- Christ changes your relationships.
- How to heal conflicts.
- Stop gossip.
- Live free of hatred.

10) The Bible also calls the church the bride of Christ. In Revelation 19:5-9 we get a look at the final outcome of the church. What human ceremony is used in this passage to symbolize the church's union with Jesus?

11) God made organization within the Church. Look at 1 Corinthians 12:27, 28, and list the order of jobs.

12) In the church, leadership works differently than in the world. According to Mark 9:35 and John 13:1-17, what is the goal for leaders in the church?

13) According to Hebrews 13:17, how should you act toward those who lead in the church?

14) What place do you think God might have for you to serve in the church?

15) If you follow Hebrews 10:25, what activity will regularly fill your schedule?

24) If the church is forced to reject a member, what is the purpose of the punishment? Read 2 Thessalonians 3:14, 15.

25) When the rejected person repents, should we receive them back into the church? Read 2 Corinthians 2:5-8.

Healthy relationships are an important part of your growing tree of life. There are two rules to loving others. The first is to stop all gossip. Gossip is anything said to hurt another person. Even if it is truth, if it is hurtful, it is gossip.

Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor? James 4:11, 12



Ask Jesus to forgive your past gossip and for power to stop future gossip.

The second rule to healthy relationships is to live free from unforgiveness and hatred. By human strength this is impossible, yet, by the power of the Holy Spirit, it can be done. Anger against others is a poison Jesus does not allow us to keep in our hearts.

26) Read Matthew 18:21-35. According to verse 35, what will happen if you do not forgive those who sin against you?

22) Draw lines to connect the Bible verses to the relationships listed.

Romans 12:10	Children and parents
1 Timothy 5:2	Those in the church
Ephesians 6:1-4	Men to women
Ephesians 6:5-9	Christians to enemies
1 Peter 3:1-7	Citizens to government
Romans 13:1	Husbands and wives
Matthew 5:44	Masters (employers) and slaves (employees)

Because we are sinful humans, conflicts are sure to come. We must show others grace in our relationships. Paul says:

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:17, 18.

Even when we obey Paul's words, others can feel condemned by our righteous ways and start conflicts. With those outside the church, we are to forgive their offenses while doing what we can to stop them from sinning more against us or others. Within the church, we have rules to help us heal conflicts.

23) Read Matthew 18:15-17. What are the four steps of healing?

If you ask me to dinner, but say, "Please leave your wife at home. I do not like her," I will say no to your invitation. My wife and I are united and where I go, she goes.

Just so, we cannot say to Jesus, "I want you in my heart, but I want nothing to do with your bride the church."

The church is sometimes unfaithful, shallow, and sinful, but it is still the bride of Christ. Where Jesus goes, the church will go. We have a responsibility to help the church become beautiful for the return of Christ.



If you had a negative experience in the church, forgive those who sinned against you as Jesus forgave you.

16) What is the reason Jesus gives for the church to live in unity? John 17:20-23.

The universal church is made of many groups meeting in different locations. The purposes of a church are:

- Teaching
- Accountability
- Sharing burdens
- Sharing resources & money
- Serving
- Evangelism
- Friendship
- Prayer
- Events (Baptisms, weddings, celebrations, funerals)

17) What activities of a church do these passages show? Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Colossians 3:16.

18) According to 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7 what should be our attitude toward giving money?

19) According to Jesus in Matthew 18:20, how many people does it take to constitute a church in his presence?



Get involved with at least one group of believers and enjoy the presence of the Spirit of Jesus.

Review of Lesson 2

- The church is a heavenly organization.
- The church has an organizational structure.
- You have a responsibility to the church.



Lesson 3 – New Relationships

In this lesson you will learn:

- Christ changes your relationships.
- How to heal conflicts.
- To stop all gossip.
- To live free of hatred.



A cross is made of two boards, one that stands up and one that reaches side to side. The longer standing board is symbolic of the up and down relationship between you and God. This relationship comes first. The second board goes side to side and symbolizes your other relationships with those around you. These relationships are your second responsibility.

20) In Matthew 22:37-40, what does Jesus say is the summary of all God's laws?

21) According to 1 John 4:7-12, is it possible to love God and hate people?