

Tree of Life Discipleship Workbook

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Preface

The Tree of Life Discipleship Workbook guides believers toward maturity in the Christian faith. The lessons can be used individually, with a mentor, or in a group setting.

The workbook has two goals—First, to help Christians grow in maturity. Second, to teach the skills necessary for continued growth.

Throughout the workbook, the student must answer questions about Bible passages. This format allows the Holy Spirit to be the teacher as the student thinks on the scriptures.

The Tree of Life Discipleship Workbook is a biblical, non-denominational resource that can be easily translated into other languages. The author encourages the workbook to be shared freely with others. For permission to translate or to receive free PDF files that allow you to make your own workbooks, contact: donjgoulding@gmail.com or go to don-goulding.com

Introduction to the Workbook

Trees are used throughout the Bible to teach lessons. In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, the tree of life was in the garden where God placed humans. Because humankind sinned, they were never allowed to eat the fruit of the tree of life.

In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, the tree of life is talked about again. This time, the tree is in the paradise of God. Christians will be able to eat of that tree because Jesus Christ made a way for us to enter the paradise of heaven by dying for our sins.

Trees are at the beginning of the Bible and the end, but also in the middle. Jesus said:

“What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.” Luke 13:18–19 NIV

When the gospel truth is believed, we become like a seed planted in a garden. Through learning the ways of Jesus, we grow like a plant. Eventually, we become a strong tree that helps others find rest and safety, just like the birds in the parable of Jesus.

While we wait to be completed in paradise, we are to grow like trees. Another word for this growth is discipleship. That is why this workbook is titled 'Tree of Life Discipleship.' Our job from God is to grow like the seed in the parable of Jesus until we become a tree of life.

This workbook uses the metaphor of a tree. Beginning with the roots and ending with the seeds, we will compare the Christian to the life of a tree.

Growing in Jesus is one of the most exciting aspects of life. Anyone can grow strong in Jesus. It does not matter what personal history brought you to Christ, or what status you hold, or what age, race, outward appearance, or education you have. Every Christian can grow to be beautiful to men, angels, and God himself. The rich and famous have more obstacles to Christian beauty than the poor.

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. 1 Corinthians 1:27 – 29 NIV

As you commit yourself to discipleship growth, you will discover these are the most productive days of your life.



When you see this symbol in the chapters, 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.

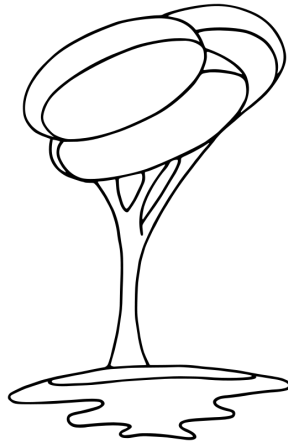
How to Get the Most From the Lessons

Use discipline, but avoid rushing through the lessons. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in your heart as you think and pray over each lesson. If possible, use a Bible in your native language for the studies. Also, share what you are learning with other Christians. If the Lord shows you a change you need to make in your life, share it with someone who will help you, then put the change into practice.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 NIV



Stop and pray right now. Ask God to honor the time you spend in this study to grow you into one who reflects the glory of Jesus.



Chapter 1 – ROOTS

Make the Basic Truths Clear

But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7, 8 NIV

Chapter 1 - Roots

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Lesson 1 - Know the Gospel

In this lesson you will learn:

- God loves you and created you for a purpose.
- Sin is actions, words, and thoughts that separate you from God.
- Jesus died to unite you with God.

The first thing a young tree does is to push down roots. It cannot make leaves or fruit until it is anchored in the soil and has established its food source. In the same way, a Christian's first job is to be rooted in Jesus Christ, who is the source of salvation.

You may already be familiar with the fundamental truths in this lesson; however, you must understand them thoroughly. The gospel message is beautiful, no matter how many times it is repeated.

Let's review the gospel you believed to become a Christian. The word gospel means good news. But this news begins good, turns bad, then ends very good.

Good News, God Loves You

1) The word genesis means beginning. Read Genesis chapter 1:1-5 & 26-31. What did you learn about the creation of life that you did not know before?

2) Read Colossians 1:15-17. This passage refers to Jesus Christ. What additional knowledge does this scripture give you about how the universe was created?

3) Read Isaiah 43:7. Why did God create you?

4) Read Psalm 139:1-6. List some ways God knows you.

5) Read Matthew 10:29-31. What does this teach about your worth to God?

6) Read Romans 5:8. How does this prove God's love for you?

7) Read Jeremiah 31:3. What response do you have to God's love for you?

Bad News, Sin Separates You From God

8) In Matthew 5:21-22 & 28, does Jesus define sin as evil actions, words, thoughts, or all three?

9) According to Romans 3:23, who has sinned in the world?

10) In Isaiah chapter 6, the prophet appears before God in a vision. Why does this righteous man know he is ruined in Isaiah 6:5?

God is love. However, he is also perfect in holiness. He is so pure that he cannot allow any sin in his presence. Therefore, because of our evil choices in actions, words, and thoughts, we were separated from God's love. All sin must be punished, so we were headed for eternal hell.

Very Good News, Jesus Unites You With God

11) Read Romans 5:8 and Isaiah 53:5, 6 about Jesus. According to these verses, how was the punishment for sin paid so we can be united with God's love?

12) What does John 3:16 teach you about the purpose of the life of Christ?

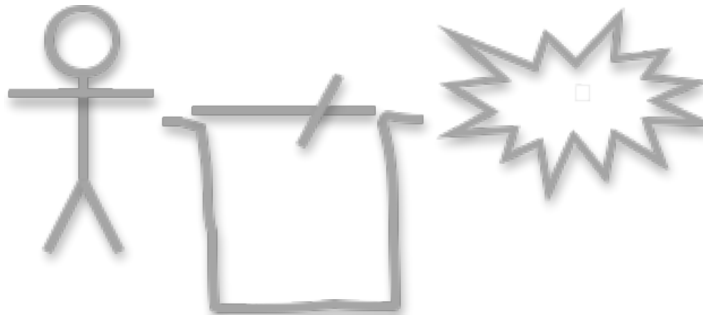
13) Read Acts 2:38, 39. What action steps may a person follow to receive Jesus and the Holy Spirit?



If you have not already done so, stop now and repent of your sin and ask God to forgive you. Claim the punishment that Jesus paid for you. Agree to follow Jesus as Savior and Lord of your life. If you have already done these things, thank God for what he has done for you.

Gospel Graphic

This picture shows humans separated from God by a deep pit made by their sin. There is no way to jump across the pit. The only way is to use the bridge of the cross of Jesus. This simple picture can be drawn with a pencil and paper or even marked in the dirt if necessary.



Find an opportunity to explain the gospel to another person using the diagram above.



Memorize key Bible verses to explain the gospel. Examples are: Romans 5:8, Romans 3:23, John 3:16, and John 14:6.

Review of Lesson 1

- God loves you and created you for a purpose.
- Sin is actions, words, and thoughts that separate you from God.
- Jesus died to unite you with God.



Lesson 2 – Baptism

In this lesson you will learn:

- How baptism is commanded and what it symbolizes.

Baptism is the most holy and beautiful ceremony given to man. The word baptism means to dip under. In the New Testament, people were dipped under water to symbolize the burial of the old self, and raised to represent a new life in Jesus.

Baptism is like the marriage ceremony between a believer and Jesus Christ. It is a way to publicly declare you will follow Jesus. In allowing yourself to be lowered under and raised from the water, without any work on your part, you are symbolizing that only the work of Jesus can save you. There is nothing you can do to erase sin, and you are trusting Jesus to do the work for you.

Many people are not baptized because their pride makes them embarrassed by public dipping. We must submit our pride to Jesus to be accepted by him.

There is no special method or words given in the Bible for baptism. Any believer may baptize another believer. If you were baptized by sprinkling, you may ask to be baptized again by dipping. If you were baptized by dipping but later stopped following Jesus, or if you have doubts about your understanding at the first baptism, you may ask to be baptized again.

14) What were those who believed that Jesus was the Messiah (Promised Savior of the world) told to do in Acts 2:38, 39?

15) Matthew 3:13-17 tells of the baptism of Jesus. What is one of the first ways you can copy the life of Jesus?

16) In Mark 16:15, 16, who is commanding baptism?

17) Read Acts 8:26-40 about the Ethiopian who was baptized. Why did the Ethiopian ask for baptism? How long did he wait?

18) What does Romans 6:3, 4 tell you about the symbolism in baptism?

19) In baptism, the water has no extraordinary power. However, the union with Jesus that is symbolized has the power to raise you from the dead. In 1 Peter 3:21, 22, the power in baptism to save is not by physically washing _____ from the body, but by the power of the _____ of Jesus.



If you have not already done so, go to another believer and ask to be baptized before witnesses.

Review of Lesson 2

- Jesus and the Bible command baptism.
- Baptism symbolizes union with Christ before witnesses.



Lesson 3 - Grace and Deeds

In this lesson you will learn:

- The relationship between grace and good deeds.

The Bible teaches about faith and good deeds (also called works). Both are important; however, the Bible also says good deeds can never erase even the smallest of our sins. Therefore, no amount of good deeds can remove our separation from God, as we learned in Lesson 1.

Only faith in Jesus and his work on the cross can remove sin and save us from eternal punishment.

20) According to Ephesians 2:8, 9, what saves you?

21) The Bible also teaches that not all faith is the same. For example, according to James 2:19, do the demons believe in God?

Even demons have faith. However, their faith does not save them because it does not result in good deeds. Good deeds do not save us, but they are necessary to show we have the kind of faith that saves.

Let us symbolize this lesson with a donkey cart. Faith is the donkey, and deeds are the cart. Both are necessary to carry the gift of salvation; however, the donkey must pull the cart—the cart cannot pull the donkey.



Donkey cart pulling the gift of salvation

God paid the full price on the cross for our punishment, and now he requires that we not handle his gift carelessly. Only a donkey pulling a cart shows our respect for the cost of salvation. A cart of deeds does nothing, because good works will never remove the sin that holds us apart from God. Likewise, a donkey of belief kicking about with no deeds is so disrespectful that it is pointless. We need a donkey pulling a cart—we need faith in the blood of Jesus that is reflected in our deeds.

22) Jesus said: "...a tree is recognized by its fruit." Matthew 12:33. List some examples of fruit or good deeds.



It is not right to think of God's justice as a balancing scale. God does not let us into heaven if our good deeds outweigh our sins. God's perfect holiness cannot allow any sin into his presence. The only way to be restored to God is for all our sins to be removed from the scale.

23) What is the only way to remove all sin? (If you need help with this question, read John 14:6 & 1 Peter 3:18.)



The only proper response to God's gift of grace in Jesus is thankfulness that spills over to good deeds. Offer him thanks now for his amazing gift.

Review of Lesson 3

- Good works grow from faith—they don't earn salvation.



Lesson 4 – Hold Truth Tightly

In this lesson you will learn:

- To hold fundamental truths tightly and non-fundamental truths loosely.

Human words make it difficult to communicate the truth. The Bible is trustworthy and error-free; however, because it must be conveyed through our limited human language, misunderstandings often diminish the power of this great book.

24) Look up 1 Corinthians 13:9-12. What does this passage tell you about our current ability to understand truth? What does it say about our ability in heaven?

Because of humankind's current weaknesses, we must accept the truths plainly taught in the Bible and avoid those that are unclear and come from human ideas. Humility and gentleness must hold the hands of doctrine.

25) What does Mark 10:14, 15 tell you about the kind of faith necessary to enter the kingdom of heaven?

26) What does Titus 3:9-11 warn you about?

While we are warned to stay out of non-important arguments, we are also warned to

hold onto the fundamental truths with all our strength.

27) In 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15, what words are used to encourage you to remain faithful to the gospel?



The 17th-century German Lutheran Pastor Peter Meiderlin said:

“In essentials unity, in doubtful things liberty, but in all things love.”

28) Rewrite this phrase in your own words.

The Christian who is humble will hold onto the fundamental truths of the gospel firmly. However, he will also allow others to have differing views on less important matters, such as special days, the order of events in the last days of the world, and styles of worship.

In the fourth and fifth centuries, church leaders from around the world gathered to formulate a statement of fundamental Christian beliefs. They wanted to agree on the truths necessary to the Christian faith. Here is the Nicene Creed they wrote:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom

will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic (catholic means universal) and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

As you can see, the basic gospel is simple. However, the gospel's truth is also profound and rich in spiritual mystery. We must allow the fundamental truths to take root deeper in our hearts, rather than arguing over unimportant beliefs.

Review of Lesson 4

- Hold onto the fundamental truths of salvation in Jesus and his lordship, while showing grace to others on non-fundamental teachings.



Lesson 5 – Sure of Salvation

In this lesson you will learn:

- Why you can be sure of your salvation.
- What happens when you sin in the future.
- To stay humble and cautious in your confidence.

You have an enemy. Satan and his demons (fallen angels) are against your faith in Jesus.

29) According to Revelation 12:7-12, why is Satan filled with anger?

Among the many lies Satan will try is the lie that you are not saved. He will make you doubt the incredible grace found in the gospel. He will also suggest that you are not worthy of salvation. On that point, he is right, none of us is worthy. However, our union with the Father is based on our honest acceptance of Jesus, and not on our righteousness.

When you enter times of doubt, base your beliefs on the promises found in the Bible, and not on how you feel at the moment. Emotions change, but the word of God never changes.

30) Look at what the Bible says to make us sure of salvation. What does 1 John 5:11-13 tell you is required for eternal life?

31) According to the following passages, how do you receive Jesus so you know with

confidence you 'have the Son'?
John 1:12

Romans 10:9-11

John 6:40

Jesus is clear on the subject of salvation:

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24 NIV

Do not let Satan fool you. If you trust Jesus with an honest faith, then you are saved. The test of the sincerity of your faith is simple—does it result in a changed heart over time? Are you becoming more like Jesus? If your faith passes this simple test, then the blood of Jesus cleanses you from any sin, and you are saved.

What happens when you sin in the future? We all sin every time we are not walking close enough to the Holy Spirit to obey his moment-by-moment direction. We do not lose salvation with each new sin. Instead, we need to confess any sins directly to Jesus as they come to our attention.

32) Read 1 John 1:8-10 and 1 John 2:1, 2. This passage says that if we claim we do not sin, then we are _____. What does it say we should do when we sin?

33) According to John 1:12, 13, what is your relationship to God now that you follow Jesus?

When you said yes to Jesus, you made God your Father, and He adopted you as His son or daughter. God's faithful promise anchors your family bond. In a healthy family, we do not cease to be a member when we make mistakes. Likewise, we are often bad, disloyal, and sinful against God, but as long as we accept Jesus, God continues to call us his son or daughter.

While we follow Jesus, we can be sure of our salvation. However, we should never become prideful or disrespectful about our relationship to Jesus. The old nature is still inside us, and if we let it rule over our lives, there is a danger that it could cause us to reject Jesus.

To understand how both the old nature and the new Christ-like nature are in us, read this illustration from J. Oswald Sanders:

"I have in my hand a piece of lead. I hold it over a pool of water, and relax my grip. The lead is drawn irresistibly earthwards and sinks to the bottom of the pool. It has been mastered by the law of gravitation. I take the same piece of lead, attach it to a piece of wood and drop it into the pool. Now it floats. No change has taken place in the nature or tendency of the lead, nor has the law of gravitation ceased to function, but through its union with the wood, it has been mastered by a stronger law, the law governing floating bodies, and has been emancipated from the downward pull of gravitation."

Our old nature is like the lead, and it yields to the downward pull of sin. The floating piece of wood symbolizes the new nature. It attaches to our old nature and overcomes the pull of sin. The power of Christ is stronger than the pull of sin, and so we can float in obedience, even though we still have the old nature pulling inside us.

34) In Romans 7:21-25, what are the two parts of himself that Paul finds wrestling inside him?

35) Who does Paul say can win the battle for him?

The way to be sure of our assurance of salvation is to keep our trust in Jesus Christ with humility and care.

See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and the Father. And this is what he promised us—even eternal life. 1 John 2:24 & 25 NIV

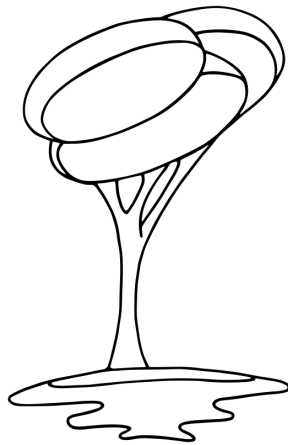
36) Look up Colossians 1:22, 23. What is the one condition necessary to maintain your forgiveness from Jesus?

Review of Lesson 5

- When your faith is in Jesus, you can be sure of your salvation.
- When you sin, your adopted status does not change. Confess and receive forgiveness.
- Because of your old nature, remain humble and cautious in your confidence.

Summary of Chapter 1 - Roots

- Jesus died to unite you with God.
- Baptism symbolizes union with Christ.
- Good works must flow from faith.
- Focus on the fundamental doctrines of salvation in Jesus and his lordship.
- When your faith is in Jesus, you can be sure of your salvation.



Chapter 2 – NUTRIENTS

Learn and Trust the Bible

*Oh, how I love your law!
I meditate on it all day long. Psalm 119:97 NIV*

*How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103 NIV*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 NIV*

Chapter 2 – Nutrients

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Lesson 1 – The Word of God

In this lesson you will learn:

- Jesus is the living Word of God, and the Bible is the written Word of God.
- Every book in the Bible points to Jesus.

After a tree has anchored roots in the soil, it can begin to pull nutrients (food) for growth. In the same way, you have planted your salvation in Jesus Christ and become anchored in him. Now it is time to feed on his nutrients and grow in Christ-like maturity.

Our nutrients come from the Word of God.

1) Read John 1:1-14 and Revelation 19:11-13. Who is meant by ‘the Word’ and ‘the Word of God’?



Jesus is the Word of God because he is one with all that God is. Therefore, God speaks to us through Jesus Christ. This is a profound mystery that humans cannot yet fully comprehend. Nevertheless, it is a wonderful truth worthy of deep thinking.

2) Look up Colossians 1:19 and John 14:9-11. What do these passages tell you about the relationship between God the Father and Jesus the Son?

3) Read what Jesus said about the Scriptures in John 5:39. According to this, what is the purpose of the Bible?

The Bible is a basket the Holy Spirit uses to carry us to Jesus. When we look closely, we see every book of the Bible points to Jesus, at least through analogy (symbolically). Consider the chart on the following pages.

Old Testament Book	Main Revelation About Jesus
Genesis1	The Seed of the Woman
Exodus	The Passover Lamb
Leviticus	The High Priest
Numbers	The Cloud and The Fire
Deuteronomy	The Prophet Like Moses
Joshua	The Captain of Our Salvation
Judges	The Judge And Lawgiver
Ruth	The Kinsman Redeemer
1 & 2 Samuel	The Prophet of The Lord
1 & 2 Kings	The Lord Our King
1 & 2 Chronicles	The Reigning King
Ezra	The Faithful Scribe
Nehemiah	The Rebuilder of the Walls
Esther	He is Our Mordecai
Job	The Dayspring From on High
Psalms	The Lord Who Is Our Shepherd
Proverbs & Ecclesiastes	The Wisdom of Jesus
Song of Solomon	The Lover (church) & Bridegroom (Jesus)
Isaiah	The Suffering Servant
Jeremiah & Lamentations	The Weeping Prophet
Ezekiel	The Son of Man
Daniel	The Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven
Hosea	The Bridegroom

Joel	The Baptizer With The Holy Spirit
Amos	The Burden Bearer
Obadiah	The Mighty Savior
Jonah	The Forgiving God
Micah	The Messenger With Beautiful Feet
Nahum	The Avenger of God's Elect
Habakkuk	The Great Evangelist, Crying For Revival
Zephaniah	The Restorer of the Remnant
Haggai	The Cleansing Fountain
Zechariah	The Pierced Son
Malachi	The Son of Righteousness
New Testament Book	Main Revelation
Matthew	The Messiah
Mark	The Miracle Worker
Luke	The Son of Man
John	The Son of God
Acts	The Ascended Lord
Romans	The Justifier
1 & 2 Corinthians	The Last Adam
Galatians	The One Who Sets Us Free
Ephesians	The Christ of Riches
Philippians	The God Who Meets Our Every Need
Colossians	The Fullness of The Godhead
1 & 2 Thessalonians	The Soon Coming King
1 & 2 Timothy	The Mediator Between God And Man
Titus	The Blessed Hope
Philemon	The Friend, Closer Than a Brother
Hebrews	The Blood That Washes Away My Sins

James	The Great Physician
1 & 2 Peter	The Chief Shepherd
1 & 2 & 3 John	Everlasting Love
Jude	The God our Savior
Revelation	The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

The chart below shows a few of the many prophecies about Jesus found in the Old Testament. They were first recorded more than 500 years before the birth of Jesus.

Topic	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Place of birth	"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2), 700 BC.	"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea" (Matthew 2:1).
Born of a virgin	"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14), 700 BC.	"His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:18).
His triumphal entry	"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9), 500 BC.	"They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it" (John 12:13-14).
His rejection	"He was despised and rejected by men... Like one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3), 700 BC.	"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him" (John 1:11).
Crucified with sinners	"He... was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12), 700 BC.	"Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left" (Matthew 27:38).

Hands and feet pierced	"They have pierced my hands and my feet" (Psalm 22:16), 1000 BC.	"Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side" (John 20:27).
His resurrection	"You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay" (Psalm 16:10), 1000 BC.	"You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead" (Acts 3:15).
His ascension	"You ascended on high" (Psalm 68:18), 1000 BC.	"He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

The Bible is the error-free written word of God. Its truth must, therefore, guide our faith. However, we must not allow the Bible to become a talisman or a good luck charm. The truth about Jesus found in the Bible is to be loved, not the ink, paper, and leather. God alone (Father, Son, Spirit) is to be worshiped.



There is one God but in three persons known as the Trinity: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. This is a mystery worthy of deep contemplation.

Review of Lesson 1

- Jesus is the living Word of God, and the Bible is the written Word of God.
- Every book in the Bible points to Jesus.



Lesson 2 – Overview of the Bible

In this lesson you will learn:

- How the Bible was written.
- The Bible reveals the character of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
- Summary of the contents of the Bible.

The Bible is a collection of sixty-six books by forty different writers. They wrote in Hebrew, a small part in Aramaic, and Greek.

4) Read 2 Peter 1:21. Who inspired the words of the prophets?

5) According to 2 Timothy 3:14-17, what is the source of Scripture?

6) In Hebrews 4:12, what parts of the human being can the word of God affect?

The Bible is trustworthy because God inspired the words to be written. The Bible provides a record of how the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit showed themselves to the world. It tells us that God is unchanging, merciful, compassionate, against sin, pure, all knowing, all powerful, and yet he is also humble to the point that he accepted punishment and death at the hands of men. These true qualities of God are only found in the Christian Bible.

The following chart summarizes the contents of the Bible.

Old Testament Books Point Forward to Jesus (39 Books)			400 Years of Silence Before the Cross	New Testament Books Point Backward to Jesus (27 Books)		
History	Poetry	Prophecy		History	Teaching	Prophecy
Law Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy History and government Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	Major Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Minor Prophets Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi		Gospels Matthew Mark Luke John The Early Church Acts	Paul's Letters Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon General Letters Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude	Revelation



Memorize the sections in the chart above and learn which section each book belongs to. This will help you as you use the Bible for the rest of your life. Ask a friend to test you.

The Catholic and Orthodox Bibles have additional books in the Old Testament. These books were all written between 170 B.C and 70 A.D. (before Jesus) and are not considered important by Protestants. The Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox New Testaments are the same. The current chapter and verse numbering system used in the Bible was added in the 16th century.

Review of Lesson 2

- God inspired the Bible.
- The Bible reveals the nature of the Trinity.
- The Old Testament points forward to Jesus, and the New Testament points backward to him.



Lesson 3 – The Bible is Trustworthy

In this lesson you will learn:

- Why we trust the Old Testament.
- Why we trust the New Testament.

The Bible took approximately 1,500 years to be written (from around 1400 B.C. to 100 A.D.). In those old times, the pages used for books did not last long. Therefore, we no longer have the original documents. It is essential to understand the history of the Bible so that we can verify its authenticity and trust its words.

The Israelites carefully guarded the books of the Old Testament. Many committed their life's work to copying and saving each text with the highest standards. Scribes (copiers) were required to be bathed entirely and wear special clothes. As line-by-line copies were made, proofreaders counted the letters of each line and checked the count against the original. More proofreaders compared sentence counts of the whole document. The Jews carefully followed these ways through the many years the Old Testament was guarded.

7) Moses wrote most of the first five books of the Old Testament. In Deuteronomy 31:24-26, to whom did Moses give the responsibility of saving the Bible?



The most significant evidence we have for the validity of the Old Testament is that Jesus frequently quoted from it and drew upon it in his teachings. Jesus's rising from the dead gives him the authority to approve the Old Testament.

In 1947, copies of the Old Testament were discovered in eleven caves near the Dead Sea in Palestine. The Jewish scribes employed their specialized methods to create these copies as early as 150 B.C. These were the same Scriptures in use at the time of Jesus. The Dead Sea Scrolls demonstrate that the Old Testament has remained unchanged from before the time of Jesus to the present day, more than 2,000 years later.

8) In Luke 24:44, what parts of the Old Testament does Jesus say prophesy about him?

9) First, read Matthew 22:41-46. Now compare the words of Jesus to Psalm 110:1. Based on this comparison, how would you describe the respect Jesus had for the Old Testament?

We have the words of Jesus to validate the Old Testament from its first writing until his time. Then we have the Dead Sea Scrolls, which provide evidence that the Old Testament was unchanged from the time of Jesus until the present day. The result is that the Old Testament is accurate and given by God.

The New Testament was written between approximately 45 A.D. and 100 A.D. Although we do not have the original pages, we possess more than 5,000 early copies or fragments dating back to before 300 A.D. These are from as early as 117 A.D. The Rylands Library Papyrus P52 is a copy of the Gospel of John, dated by scientific methods to between 117 A.D. and 138 A.D. Therefore, we have pages that were made between seventeen and forty-eight years after the originals.

New Testament events are also proved because they are talked about in non-Christian histories (Ex. Tacitus, A.D. 64; Pliny the Younger, A.D. 112; Josephus, A.D. 40-100; Talmud, A.D. 70-200).

10) Read Luke 1:1-4 and John 20:30, 31. Why did Luke and John write their gospels?

The early church fathers wanted to protect the new church from wrong teachings. They established rules for determining which books were included in the New Testament. The three rules for acceptance were:

- Apostolic
- Recognition
- Teaching

Apostolic

Was it written by an Apostle or by a student or associate of one of the twelve Apostles?

Recognition

Did the early churches accept the book, and was it in continuous use since the beginning?

Teaching

Was it in agreement with the teachings of Christ?

In 393 A.D., the Synod of Hippo agreed on the twenty-seven books of the New Testament as we use them today. However, this was not a new decision. They agreed on what had been in the mind of the churches since shortly after the Apostles died. Therefore, there is powerful historical proof that our New Testament should be trusted.

Review of Lesson 3

- The Old Testament was carefully saved by the Jews and approved by Jesus.
- The New Testament is historically proven and was approved by the early church.



Lesson 4 – How to Feed

In this lesson you will learn:

- The most essential activity you can do each day.
- Why study the Bible.
- How to study.

11) In Luke 10:38-42, Martha was busy preparing food. Jesus spoke to her and said only one thing was necessary. What was the one thing?

A daily time of feeding on the teachings of Jesus is more important than eating food each day. Food only helps the body, which is only a part of who you are. The whole of you includes your soul and spirit, which must be fed and encouraged to grow daily.

12) In John 6:48-51, what does Jesus compare himself to? What does this teach you about how often you must feed on the truth of Jesus?

13) Read Luke 5:16 and Mark 1:35. According to these verses, how did Jesus feed with his Father?

Each day, at least once a day, the sincere believer will meet with Jesus and feed on his truth. One of the best ways is to meditate (think deeply) on Scripture and pray. Study of the Bible is good, however, meditation is better. Study results in knowledge, meditation can lead to a changed heart and changed actions. In meditation, we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in becoming more like Jesus.

The goals of a daily quiet time are:

- Learn the heart and ways of Jesus.
- Become aware of sin and repent.
- Receive guidance and direction.
- Understand your life from God's point of view.
- Prayer and praise.
- Learn to have a trusting, Christ-centered inner self.
- Develop a deep friendship with Jesus.
- Receive strength for the coming day.

Not all of these goals are met every day; however, it is beneficial to spend enough time to receive all that God has in store for you that day.

14) According to Matthew 6:6, who should be present when you have your quiet time?



There are many effective methods for quiet times, including daily guides. The following is one method of daily quiet times. Begin in a place where you can be alone with Jesus. Ask what heart-work should come first, then read one chapter of Scripture. Next, allow the Holy Spirit to highlight the few words on which you are to meditate. Fight your old nature into repentance for those words. Prayer and writing in a journal will help seal the lesson into action.

A good way to pray is to use this order, A.C.T.S:

- A-Adoration (praise) of the Trinity.
- C-Confess known sins.
- T-Thanksgiving for all God is doing for you.
- S-Supplication (asking) for others and your needs.

The sincere disciple will strive to keep Jesus at the center of every activity through ongoing prayer.

As you advance in prayer, you will learn to listen to Jesus as much as you talk. By listening to Jesus, you pray according to his will. When you pray according to his will and wait on his timing, he grants every request. Thus, in true prayer, you wrestle to understand his desires.

15) In John 15:7, what is the condition Jesus gives for receiving what you ask for?

Tips For Reading the Bible

- Begin with the Gospel of John.
- Use a system to ensure you eventually read the entire Bible (see chart on last page).
- Read both Testaments; however, spend more time reading the New Testament. The covenant (agreement) found in the New Testament fulfills and reinterprets the covenants of the Old Testament.
- As you read, understand how the Spirit of Jesus is speaking into your life.
- Read slowly and apply the truths shown to you. Learn the habit of acting on lessons, even if they call for self-sacrifice.
- Be patient with the Spirit's teaching of truth in his time. Bible study is a lifelong task.
- Understand passages by how they fit into their books and the whole Bible. Read all the Bible has to say on a subject.
- Spend most of your time meditating on the basic truths (See Chapter 1, Roots, Lesson 4).
- Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the eternal truth of each passage, rather than only copying the cultural ways.

16) As an example of the last point above, read 2 Corinthians 13:12. What is the cultural command? How can you put the eternal truth into action if kissing is not acceptable in your culture?

The Bible is the greatest book given to humans. Daily study is not painful, but the joyous blessing of personal time spent with the Creator. Enjoy God through using his Bible.



Spend time in prayer to commit to when and where you will maintain daily quiet times.



Ask a friend to make you accountable for daily quiet times.

Review of Lesson 4

- Your quiet time with Jesus is the most important part of the day.
- Using the Bible is a great way to spend time with Jesus.
- At the beginning of each day, read a section of the Bible, meditate, and pray.

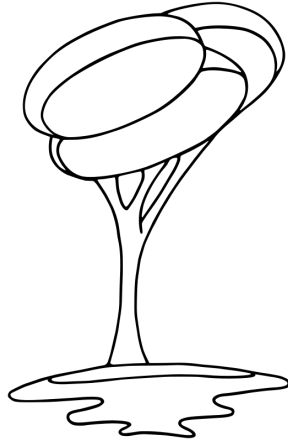
Summary of Chapter 2 - Nutrients

- Jesus is the living Word of God.
- The Holy Spirit uses the Bible to carry us to Jesus.
- The Bible is trustworthy.
- Have daily quiet times with Jesus.

One Year Bible Reading Plan							
	Epistles	The Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy	Gospels
Week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Romans 1-2	Genesis 1-3	Joshua 1-5	Psalms 1-2	Job 1-2	Isaiah 1-6	Matthew 1-2
2	Romans 3-4	Genesis 4-7	Joshua 6-10	Psalms 3-5	Job 3-4	Isaiah 7-11	Matthew 3-4
3	Romans 5-6	Genesis 8-11	Joshua 11-15	Psalms 6-8	Job 5-6	Isaiah 12-17	Matthew 5-7
4	Romans 7-8	Genesis 12-15	Joshua 16-20	Psalms 9-11	Job 7-8	Isaiah 18-22	Matthew 8-10
5	Romans 9-10	Genesis 16-19	Joshua 21-24	Psalms 12-14	Job 9-10	Isaiah 23-28	Matthew 11-13
6	Romans 11-12	Genesis 20-23	Judges 1-6	Psalms 15-17	Job 11-12	Isaiah 29-33	Matthew 14-16
7	Romans 13-14	Genesis 24-27	Judges 7-11	Psalms 18-20	Job 13-14	Isaiah 34-39	Matthew 17-19
8	Romans 15-16	Genesis 28-31	Judges 12-16	Psalms 21-23	Job 15-16	Isaiah 40-44	Matthew 20-22
9	I Cor. 1-2	Genesis 32-35	Judges 17-21	Psalms 24-26	Job 17-18	Isaiah 45-50	Matthew 23-25
10	I Cor. 3-4	Genesis 36-39	Ruth	Psalms 27-29	Job 19-20	Isaiah 51-55	Matthew 26-28
11	I Cor. 5-6	Genesis 40-43	I Samuel 1-5	Psalms 30-32	Job 21-22	Isaiah 56-61	Mark 1-2
12	I Cor. 7-8	Genesis 44-47	I Samuel 6-10	Psalms 33-35	Job 23-24	Isaiah 62-66	Mark 3-4
13	I Cor. 9-10	Genesis 48-50	I Samuel 11-15	Psalms 36-38	Job 25-26	Jeremiah 1-6	Mark 5-6
14	I Cor. 11-12	Exodus 1-4	I Samuel 16-20	Psalms 39-41	Job 27-28	Jeremiah 7-11	Mark 7-8
15	I Cor. 13-14	Exodus 5-8	I Samuel 21-25	Psalms 42-44	Job 29-30	Jeremiah 12-16	Mark 9-10
16	I Cor. 15-16	Exodus 9-12	I Samuel 26-31	Psalms 45-47	Job 31-32	Jeremiah 17-21	Mark 11-12
17	II Cor. 1-3	Exodus 13-16	II Samuel 1-4	Psalms 48-50	Job 33-34	Jeremiah 22-26	Mark 13-14
18	II Cor. 4-5	Exodus 17-20	II Samuel 5-9	Psalms 51-53	Job 35-36	Jeremiah 27-31	Mark 15-16
19	II Cor. 6-8	Exodus 21-24	II Samuel 10-14	Psalms 54-56	Job 37-38	Jeremiah 32-36	Luke 1-2
20	II Cor. 9-10	Exodus 25-28	II Samuel 15-19	Psalms 57-59	Job 39-40	Jeremiah 37-41	Luke 3-4
21	II Cor. 11-13	Exodus 29-32	II Samuel 20-24	Psalms 60-62	Job 41-42	Jeremiah 42-46	Luke 5-6

22	Galatians 1-3	Exodus 33-36	I Kings 1-4	Psalms 63-65	Proverbs 1	Jeremiah 47-52	Luke 7-8
23	Galatians 4-6	Exodus 37-40	I Kings 5-9	Psalms 66-68	Proverbs 2-3	Lament. 1-5	Luke 9-10
24	Ephesians 1-3	Leviticus 1-3	I Kings 10-13	Psalms 69-71	Proverbs 4	Ezekiel 1-6	Luke 11-12
25	Ephesians 4-6	Leviticus 4-6	I Kings 14-18	Psalms 72-74	Proverbs 5-6	Ezekiel 7-12	Luke 13-14
26	Philippians 1-2	Leviticus 7-9	I Kings 19-22	Psalms 75-77	Proverbs 7	Ezekiel 13-18	Luke 15-16
27	Philippians 3-4	Leviticus 10-12	II Kings 1-5	Psalms 78-80	Proverbs 8-9	Ezekiel 19-24	Luke 17-18
28	Colossians 1-2	Leviticus 13-15	II Kings 6-10	Psalms 81-83	Proverbs 10	Ezekiel 25-30	Luke 19-20
29	Colossians 3-4	Leviticus 16-18	II Kings 11-15	Psalms 84-86	Proverbs 11-12	Ezekiel 31-36	Luke 21-22
30	I Thes. 1-3	Leviticus 19-21	II Kings 16-20	Psalms 87-89	Proverbs 13	Ezekiel 37-42	Luke 23-24
31	I Thess. 4-5	Leviticus 22-24	II Kings 21-25	Psalms 90-92	Proverbs 14-15	Ezekiel 43-48	John 1-2
32	II Thess. 1-3	Leviticus 25-27	I Chronicles 1-4	Psalms 93-95	Proverbs 16	Daniel 1-6	John 3-4
33	I Timothy 1-3	Numbers 1-4	I Chronicles 5-9	Psalms 96-98	Proverbs 17-18	Daniel 7-12	John 5-6
34	I Timothy 4-6	Numbers 5-8	I Chronicles 10-14	Psalms 99-101	Proverbs 19	Hosea 1-7	John 7-9
35	II Timothy 1-2	Numbers 9-12	I Chronicles 15-19	Psalms 102-104	Proverbs 20-21	Hosea 8-14	John 10-12
36	II Timothy 3-4	Numbers 13-16	I Chronicles 20-24	Psalms 105-107	Proverbs 22	Joel	John 13-15
37	Titus	Numbers 17-20	I Chronicles 25-29	Psalms 108-110	Proverbs 23-24	Amos 1-4	John 16-18
38	Philemon	Numbers 21-24	II Chronicles 1-5	Psalms 111-113	Proverbs 25	Amos 5-9	John 19-21
39	Hebrews 1-4	Numbers 25-28	II Chronicles 6-10	Psalms 114-116	Proverbs 26-27	Obadiah	Acts 1-2
40	Hebrews 5-7	Numbers 29-32	II Chronicles 11-15	Psalms 117-118	Proverbs 28	Jonah	Acts 3-4
41	Hebrews 8-10	Numbers 33-36	II Chronicles 16-20	Psalms 119	Proverbs 29-30	Micah	Acts 5-6
42	Hebrews 11-13	Deut. 1-3	II Chronicles 21-24	Psalms 120-121	Proverbs 31	Nahum	Acts 7-8

43	James 1-3	Deut. 4-6	II Chronicles 25-28	Psalms 122-124	Ecclesiastes 1-2	Habakkuk	Acts 9-10
44	James 4-5	Deut. 7-9	II Chronicles 29-32	Psalms 125-127	Ecclesiastes 3-4	Zephaniah	Acts 11-12
45	I Peter 1-3	Deut. 10-12	II Chronicles 33-36	Psalms 128-130	Ecclesiastes 5-6	Haggai	Acts 13-14
46	I Peter 4-5	Deut. 13-15	Ezra 1-5	Psalms 131-133	Ecclesiastes 7-8	Zechariah 1-7	Acts 15-16
47	II Peter	Deut. 16-19	Ezra 6-10	Psalms 134-136	Ecclesiastes 9-10	Zechariah 8-14	Acts 17-18
48	I John 1-3	Deut. 20-22	Nehemiah 1-4	Psalms 137-139	Ecclesiastes 11-12	Malachi	Acts 19-20
49	I John 4-5	Deut. 23-25	Nehemiah 5-9	Psalms 140-142	Song of Sol. 1-2	Revelation 1-6	Acts 21-22
50	II John	Deut. 26-28	Nehemiah 10-13	Psalms 143-145	Song of Sol. 3-4	Revelation 7-11	Acts 23-24
51	III John	Deut. 29-31	Esther 1-5	Psalms 146-148	Song of Sol. 5-6	Revelation 12-17	Acts 25-26
52	Jude	Deut. 32-34	Esther 6-10	Psalms 149-150	Song of Sol. 7-8	Revelation 18-22	Acts 27-28



Chapter 3 – SAP

Receive and Walk With the Holy Spirit

*And the disciples were filled with joy
and with the Holy Spirit.
Acts 13:52 NIV*

Chapter 3 – Sap

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Lesson 1 – God’s Plan for the Holy Spirit

In this lesson you will learn:

- God’s plan for the Holy Spirit throughout history.
- You are made like the temple.
- You are the temple of God.

Your tree has pushed roots into the foundation of Jesus and begun to feed on the nutrients of his truth. Now it is time to allow the sap of the Holy Spirit to flow through your life. The sap (juice) of a tree is the source of life moving through its trunk and branches. Just so, the Spirit of Jesus—also known as the Holy Spirit—is the source of spiritual life that moves in you.

1) Read John 3:5-8. Here, Jesus compares the Holy Spirit working inside a person to wind. Name some ways wind is like the Holy Spirit. How is the Holy Spirit like sap?

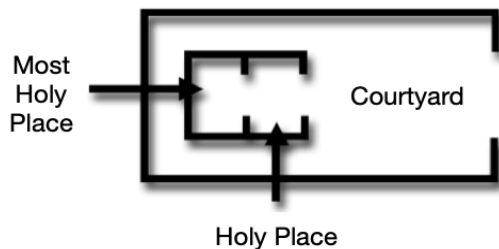
2) What are some of the functional names for the Holy Spirit according to these passages: John 14:16, 17; John 14:26; Romans 8:2?

We first need to understand the history of God’s plan concerning the Holy Spirit. In the beginning, humanity was created to have a spiritual union with God. When the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, sinned, the union was broken. God’s Spirit could not live inside sinful people.

3) Beginning with the time of Moses, God's Spirit came into a temple. In Exodus 25:8, 9, who provided the plans for the tabernacle? What special warning was given for the building of this temple?

God dwelt among his people. However, his glory remained inside the temporary temple, hidden by a curtain. Later, the tabernacle was replaced by a stone temple built by King Solomon.

The basic pattern given by God for the new temple was the same as the tabernacle of Moses. Both had an outer court, an inner holy place, and another room inside the holy place called the most holy place. The curtain was between the holy place and the most holy place.



4) What happened when God's Spirit moved into the temple? Read Exodus 40:34, 35.

Later, the Holy Spirit left the temple because, even with the curtain, the people were bringing sin too close. God had a new and better plan.

5) Read 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. Where is the new temple of God?

The old temples were built according to God's exact pattern because they were pictures of the living temple God had in mind. The outer courtyard was a picture of our body. The holy place was a picture of our mind. The most holy place was like our spirit.

When Jesus died on the cross to take away sins, he made it possible for the Holy Spirit to live with humans once again.

6) In Matthew 27:50, 51, what symbolic act did God perform to reveal he was no longer in the most holy place and there was no longer a barrier between his people and him?

The most important difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is that the Holy Spirit is no longer found in temples, but in the hearts of God's followers. Since the first sin separated God from humans, God planned and foretold this new union. The Holy Spirit living within the believer is the greatest blessing a Christian can have.

Review of Lesson 1

- From the beginning, God planned to make his home in us.
- You are made like the temple building.
- You are the new temple of God.



Lesson 2 – How to Receive the Holy Spirit

In this lesson you will learn:

- The Holy Spirit is out of our control.
- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is given to all who receive Jesus.
- God is generous in giving his Spirit.

The Holy Spirit often surprises us. Recall that in Lesson 1 of this chapter, we read how Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to the wind. Just as we cannot see, hold, or predict the wind, so we cannot control the Spirit of God.

7) In John 16:5-7, Jesus said it was better if he left because then something special could happen. What did he promise would happen?

8) After Jesus rose to heaven, the promised Holy Spirit came. What were the signs of his coming in Acts 2:1-11?

9) Up to the time of the coming of the Holy Spirit, the apostles (twelve leaders selected by Jesus) and the disciples (all the followers of Jesus) did not have special ministry power. After the Holy Spirit came, what were they given power to do? See Acts 4:31-35.

10) Read Acts 2:38, 39. What were the people told to do to receive the Holy Spirit?

11) In Mark 16:15-18, Jesus gives his last words before leaving. He provides examples of signs from the Holy Spirit. According to Jesus, what must we do to receive salvation and special power?

12) In Acts 8:14-17, how did the believers receive the Holy Spirit?

13) In 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, what are some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

14) The gifts of the Spirit are never given to bring glory to us. According to 1 Corinthians 12:7, why are they given?

15) According to 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, should we all expect to have the same gifts? Look at the list in this passage. Are all the gifts supernatural?

In the passages above, we learn the Holy Spirit was promised to all who receive Jesus. At special times, the Apostles needed to lay hands on and pray for the believers. Thus, we cannot always control the work of the Holy Spirit. We can only open ourselves to receive whatever gifts he decides are best for his glory in our lives.

16) According to Romans 8:9, is it possible to be a Christian if you do not have the Holy Spirit?

17) In Luke 11:13, what does Jesus promise?

Do not doubt that God will give his Holy Spirit if you receive Jesus in baptism and earnestly seek the Spirit. However, he may come unexpectedly.



Ask the heavenly Father now for more of his Holy Spirit.

Review of Lesson 2

- The Holy Spirit is out of our control.
- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is given to all who receive Jesus.
- God is generous in giving his Spirit.



Lesson 3 – How To Be Filled With the Holy Spirit

In this lesson you will learn:

- The difference between receiving and filling of the Spirit.
- Habits that lead to Holy Spirit filling.
- The difference between the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit.
- The test to see if you have the Holy Spirit.

Even though we received the Holy Spirit by accepting Jesus as Savior, the Spirit's power in our lives will be small if we are not obedient to his control. We must both receive the Holy Spirit and be filled with him.



A sailboat may have the wind blowing all around it, and never be moved by the wind's strength. To use the power of the wind, the boat must raise its sails. The sails must then be constantly adjusted for changes in direction and speed.

According to the promises of Scripture, if you have trusted in Jesus Christ, you are standing in the wind of the Holy Spirit of Jesus. However, we don't always raise our sails. You must give your life to his control and adjust to his direction and timing.

18) What does 1 Thessalonians 5:19 warn against?

19) What do Galatians 5:25 and Ephesians 5:18 encourage you to do?

These are commands to do your part by raising your sails to the fullness and power of the Spirit of Jesus. The way to raise your sails is through the basic Christian disciplines (good habits):

- Read the Bible
- Pray / Meditate / Fast
- Worship
- Fellowship / Accountability
- Empty Yourself
- Serve Others

It is important to remember you do not use these disciplines to earn acceptance from God; instead, you do them to be filled with the Holy Spirit. By yourself, you cannot make good fruit; however, when you are filled with the Spirit, fruit comes naturally.

The following questions will help you know if you have the Holy Spirit.

20) Read 1 Corinthians 12. What is the overall topic of this chapter?

21) In verse 31, it says we are to desire the gifts that are greater than the spiritual gifts just covered in chapter 12. Paul also says he is going to show us what these greater gifts are. Read the next chapter, 1 Corinthians 13. What is the overall topic?

22) Love is discussed in detail in 1 Corinthians 13, and it is the first of the fruits of the Spirit. The rest of the fruit of the Spirit are listed in Galatians 5:22, 23. Write them here.

23) According to the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:31, which are greater, the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12, or the fruits of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 13 and Galatians 5:22, 23?

24) In 1 Corinthians 12:29, 30, Paul says that not everybody will speak in tongues (foreign or heavenly languages). Further, 1 John 4:1 says that Satan can counterfeit supernatural gifts. Therefore, speaking in tongues or performing other gifts of the Spirit is not a valid test that you have the Holy Spirit. Jesus gives the true test in Matthew 7:15-20. What is the true test?

Satan can copy the gifts of the Spirit; however, he does not copy the fruits of the Spirit. Therefore, only the fruits of the Spirit in your life show you have believed on Jesus Christ and received his Holy Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are discussed in detail in Chapter 5—Fruit.



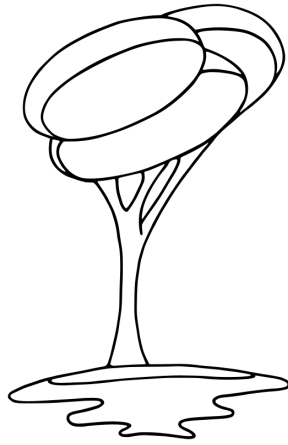
Go through the list of the fruit of the Spirit and ask yourself if there is evidence of these qualities in your life. If you are growing in these areas, then the life-giving sap of the Holy Spirit flows in your life.

Review of Lesson 3

- You must both receive and be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Practice the habits that lead to Holy Spirit filling.
- The difference between the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit.
- The fruits of the Spirit test if we have the Holy Spirit.

Summary of Chapter 3 - Sap

- You are the new temple of God's Spirit.
- God generously gives his Spirit to those who receive Jesus.
- When you are filled with the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit will show.



Chapter 4 – POLLEN

You Belong In the Church of Jesus

*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 NIV*

Chapter 4 – Pollen

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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 when one flower fertilizes 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 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 that judgment has begun. 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.



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, comprising all true believers from various denominations. The church is not a building, a human organization, or a denomination. The full structure of the church cannot be written on paper, as it is a vast 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 refers to Jesus. According to this passage, how much of Jesus should be found in the church?

10) The Bible also calls the church the bride of Christ. In Revelation 19:5-9, we gain insight into the 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?

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; wherever 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 comprises many groups that meet in various 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 upright and one that extends from 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?

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. NIV

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?

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 a person who has been rejected repents, should we welcome them back into the church? Read 2 Corinthians 2:5-8.

Healthy relationships are an essential 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 true, 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 can save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor? James 4:11, 12 NIV



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

The second rule for 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 want 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?

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 and shows genuine remorse. 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.

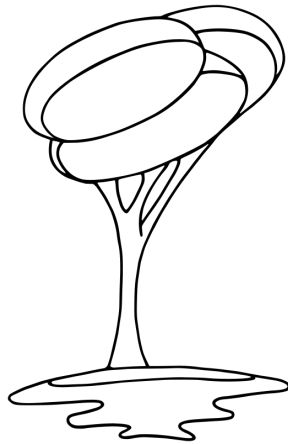
Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other 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 NIV

Review of Lesson 3

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

Summary of Chapter 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.



Chapter 5 – FRUIT

Mature in the Fruits of the Spirit

*This is to my Father's glory,
that you bear much fruit,
showing yourselves to be my disciples.
John 15:8 NIV*

Chapter 5 – Fruit

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Lesson 1 – Fruit Comes From the Spirit

In this lesson you will learn:

- Fruit grows naturally, not by force.
- You must abide in Jesus the vine.

As you worked through the first four chapters, your tree was rooted in Jesus, fed with nutrients from the Word of God, powered by the sap of the Holy Spirit, and pollinated with fellowship in the church. It is time to allow fruit to grow. Fruit is the beautiful change in your character that makes you like Jesus. Fruit brings glory to God and eternal rewards to you.

The sweetest fruit is not what you do for Jesus, but what he does in you. He uses life, suffering, the Bible, fellowship, teaching, and his Spirit in the process of growing fruit in you. Changing your character is your greatest challenge and primary responsibility.

Fruit does not come from your effort, but from your connection to Jesus.

1) Read John 15:1-17. This wonderful passage holds several truths you will explore. According to verses 4 and 5, what can you do on your own?

2) According to verse 16, what did Jesus appoint you to do?

3) In verse 4, Jesus tells you to remain in him. List some ideas for how you can remain in him.

4) Fruit naturally grows on a branch when it is connected to the trunk and the sap flows out to the twigs, leaves, and flowers. In the same way, you do not need to force fruit to grow in your life; it will come joyfully when you are well connected to the trunk. According to verse 1, who is your trunk?

5) What will happen if you try to work for God on your own? See verse 6.

6) Circle the activities that are Jesus working in you, and cross out activities that are self-effort.

Pray with a listening heart

Give everyone the gospel

Break habits with willpower

Demand God heals you

Wait on the Lord's timing

Obey the Spirit's prompt

Repent when convicted of sin

Live according to rules

See how the great work of Paul was accomplished:

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. Colossians 1:28, 29 NIV

Review of Lesson 1

- Fruit grows naturally, not by force.
- You must abide in Jesus the vine.



Lesson 2 – You Are Pruned to Increase Fruit

In this lesson you will learn:

- Why bad things happen.
- How to turn trials into good.
- The result of pruning.

WARNING: The truth in this lesson goes against human nature, so it may take a long time to learn, even a lifetime.

The present earth is a damaged, dark place. This brokenness was introduced when humanity brought sin into the world; however, God has a plan to restore everything. Will you join Jesus to become part of the solution? The Bible promises that this life will be difficult, and then relief will come in paradise. Jesus said:

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33 NIV

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:1-3 NIV

7) For now, you must live in a fallen world. Romans 8:18-25 reveals the connection between the earth's suffering and the suffering of God's followers. What will happen to creation when Jesus comes for his loved ones?

8) According to 1 Peter 1:6, 7, what is the purpose of trials?

God temporally permits evil and pain so you can be refined into Christ-likeness.

9) In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul advises spouses, the uncircumcised, slaves, and the unmarried. What recommendation is repeated to these groups in verses 17, 20, 24, 26?

If you pray for things like, "Do not let my loved one die," or, "Heal this sickness," or, "Grow my ministry," and God does not answer, your heart may develop an unspoken mistrust. Understand God's silence. He loves you very much and leaves problems in your life so you will be refined for eternity. You must learn to pray, "God, do not remove this situation until you have used it to refine my faith."

10) Read Hebrews 12:5-11. According to verse 6, does discipline prove God's anger or his love?

11) Temporary problems are used to refine your faith and bring eternal glory. God values the eternal over the temporal. You should do the same. You can help the refinement process if you understand its benefits. Look again at John 15:1, 2. What is the purpose of pruning?

When Jesus spoke these words, he was most likely thinking of grapevines. Vines only grow fruit on the branches grown in the current year. Therefore, pruning produces new branches and more fruit.

The same is true in your life. By removing earthly attachments, God causes you to push energy into the best branch of your life, which is your relationship to him. He uses trials and temptations to prune everything but his love. To assist in God's work through trials, you must move your attachments from earthly comforts to Jesus.

When you feel sadness over a trial, use it as a reminder to turn to Jesus in prayer, feel his love, and thank him for your eternal blessings. Rather than focus on what you have lost, remember your heavenly blessings, such as forgiveness, adoption, forever family, heaven, etc. The result of this mental exercise is lasting joy.

If you cooperate, the final product of harsh pruning will be less attachment to this fading world and a richer, fuller, more Christ-like character for eternity. You will develop better fruit.

12) James 1:2-4 tells us to embrace trials. What advantages of trials does James list?

Suffering can only hurt our inner self if we fail to use it to become more like Jesus.

Review of Lesson 2

- Bad things can refine you.
- Use trials to draw close to Christ.
- Pruning increases fruit.



Lesson 3 – Understand Your Fruit

In this lesson you will learn:

- About the fruit of the Spirit.
- How to connect your branch to the vine.

13) The list of the fruit of the Spirit is found in Galatians 5:22, 23. Write them here.



Memorize the nine fruits and pray through them one at a time. Earnestly seek God's help in growing in these important areas.

Love

14) Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Verses 4-6 list eleven qualities of love. Choose any two and write real-life examples of these qualities in action.

15) List the four qualities of love given in verse 7 and write a short description of each one.

Joy

16) Write the reasons for joy as found in Luke 2:10, 11; Luke 6:22, 23; Luke 10:21.

17) What is the difference between the joy found in these verses and happiness?

18) According to John 15:9-11, what reason do you have for complete joy?

Peace

19) Look up John 14:27; Colossians 3:15; 2 Thessalonians 3:16. What is the source of peace?

20) If peace is the result of a relationship with Jesus Christ, what does it mean when you are not experiencing peace?

21) Is it possible to live in the midst of big problems and still enjoy peace?

22) According to Philippians 4:6, 7, what are you to do when you feel anxious? What result can you expect?

23) According to these verses, will peace in your spirit always make sense to your mind?

Patience

24) Read Colossians 3:13. What reason do you have to be patient with others?

25) According to Hebrews 6:12, what are the two traits necessary to receive your promised inheritance?

26) In James 5:7-11, what is patience compared to? According to these verses, what event will end your waiting?

Kindness

27) To most first-century Jews, the Samaritans were considered outcasts and no good. Yet, in Luke 10:30-37 Jesus makes a Samaritan the hero of his parable. According to this teaching, who are you to show kindness to?

28) In Matthew 5:43-48, who does Jesus tell you to be kind to?

Goodness

29) Goodness can also be defined as righteousness or purity. Ephesians 5:8, 9 compares the goodness of your life in Christ to the darkness you were in. List some of the changes to goodness you have made since coming to Jesus.

30) Read Matthew 5:17-20. Jesus says the believer must be more righteous than the Pharisees and teachers of the Law. The Jewish leaders adhered to strict guidelines for outward observance of religion. In Luke 11:39-41 Jesus says they honored God with their rules, but not with their hearts. How can your righteousness go beyond that of the Pharisees? (Hint: see John 15:5.)

If you truly love Jesus, you will want to honor him with goodness, honesty, and purity in every action.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23, 24

Faithfulness

31) Are you true to your promises to God and others, even when it means loss to yourself? Can you give an example, either bad or good?

32) In 3 John 1:3, the Christians are praised for their faithfulness to what?

33) How does Paul show sacrificial faithfulness in Acts 20:24?

Gentleness

34) What words does Matthew 12:15-21 use to describe the gentleness of Jesus?

35) What reason does Philippians 4:5 give you for being gentle?

36) Gentleness does not mean weakness. How is this taught in Ephesians 4:15?

Self-control

37) Draw lines to match the verses with the descriptions of self-control.

James 1:19, 20	Control lust
James 3:2-12	Control thoughts
1 Thessalonians 4:3-7	Control anger
Romans 13:14	Control the tongue

As you pursue these beautiful fruits of the Spirit in your life, remember they are of the Spirit, not of you. Therefore, your task is to abide in Jesus Christ with all your heart, soul, and mind. The definition of abide is: to wait upon the guiding of the Lord; to rest in him; look to him for direction and guidance in life. As you press close to the Spirit of Jesus, his fruit will come naturally. In Chapter 3 – Sap, lesson 3, you learned the disciplines necessary to stay filled by the Holy Spirit:

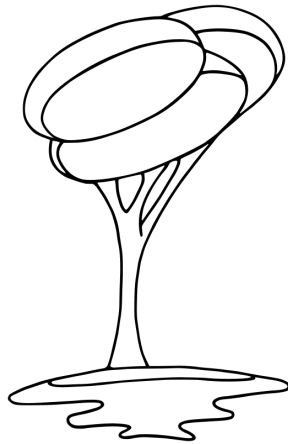
- Read the Bible
- Pray / Meditate / Fast
- Worship
- Fellowship / Accountability
- Empty Yourself
- Serve Others

Review of Lesson 3

- Qualities of the fruit of the Spirit.
- How to connect your branch to the vine.

Summary of Chapter 5 - Fruit

- Fruit comes from the Spirit.
- You are pruned to increase fruit.
- The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



Chapter 6 – SEED

Share Jesus and Train Disciples

*For you have been born again,
not of perishable seed,
but of imperishable,
through the living and enduring word of God.
1 Peter 1:23*

Chapter 6 – Seed

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Lesson 1 – Spreading Seed

In this lesson you will learn:

- You are called to the great commission.
- Spread seed to anyone.
- The seed is the truth of God.

As Jesus promised, your tree is bearing fruit and becoming a safe place for others.

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches. Matthew 13:31, 32 NIV



The final step in your intended lifecycle is to spread the seed of the gospel to others. One tree can spread many seeds. It is wonderful that God chooses to use Christians to spread his word. We are sinful and weak, but he uses us to prove that the power is his and not from us. Get ready, because in this last chapter you will learn how to spread the seed of the gospel.

1) Look up Matthew 28:19, 20. Why do you think this passage is called the Great Commission?

2) Read Matthew 13:3-9 and 18-23. In this parable, who does the farmer represent? The farmer let the seed fall on all types of soil. What does that tell you about whom you should share the gospel with?

3) What are the four types of people symbolized by the four soils?

4) What type of soil are you and why? It is okay to choose more than one.

5) Can a person change from one type to another? Should we ever give up hope that a person will accept the gospel?

6) Do the weeds of temptation and worry ever stop pulling at our tree?

7) In 1 Peter 1:23 what do you think the seed represents? What are some differences between physical seed and spiritual seed?

Review of Lesson 1

- You are called to the great commission.
- Spread seed to anyone who receives it.
- The seed is the truth of God.



Lesson 2 – Your Story

In this lesson you will learn:

- Be ready to share.
- Know your story.
- Be bold and let the Holy Spirit work.
- Your life must match your words.

8) Read 1 Peter 3:15, 16. What is the main instruction?

You need to know the basic gospel message so that you are prepared to share it with others. You also need to practice your own story of how you received Christ. The power of the gospel is proven by both the resurrection of Jesus and how he changes lives today.

9) Draw the gospel picture you learned in Chapter 1 – Roots, lesson 1.

10) What Bible verses have you memorized to use in telling others the gospel?

The gospel is the best good news ever told. Most people can understand how we all sin and need forgiveness. The truth that Jesus came from God to take our punishment is wonderful. The offer for reconciliation with God speaks to people's hearts.

11) Read Acts 2:14-39. What happened when the crowd understood that Jesus died for them? Note verse 37.

12) The simple gospel has power that needs no addition or long speech. How did Paul want to tell the gospel in Colossians 4:3, 4?

You need to practice until you can explain the gospel in a short, natural, and clear way.

Your Story

13) What was your life like before you accepted Jesus?

14) How did you hear the gospel?

15) What did you do when you heard the gospel?

16) What is your life like after receiving the gospel?



Practice telling your conversion story to a friend.

17) According to Romans 1:16, what does the gospel have the power to do?

18) If you are ashamed of telling others the gospel, what will happen to you according to Luke 9:26?

19) What does 2 Peter 3:9 teach you about the heart of God toward the unsaved?



As you consider who you can pray for and share the gospel with, remember the heart of God. Be patient as he is patient. Think of faith in Jesus as a journey. Some are only beginning. Others began but lost the path. Still others are far along on the journey of faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit may give you many people to help on their journey. Each one is in a different place and needs different encouragement.



You are not responsible for the unsaved. You are only to speak when the Holy Spirit prompts you to help another person on the next step of their journey. The power to save is in the gospel message and the Holy Spirit, not in you.

20) According to 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7, what is the source of growth in others?

Saint Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

You need to explain the truth of the gospel when the time is right. However, evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your life is proof of the words you pass on to others. They will believe your actions more than your words.

Review of Lesson 2

- Be ready to share.
- Know your story.
- Be bold but let the Holy Spirit work.
- Your life must match your words.



Lesson 3 – The Discipleship Cycle

In this lesson you will learn:

- Without discipleship, Christians die.
- Discipleship requires involvement in lives.
- Work in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Helping another person receive the seed of the gospel is one of the greatest thrills of life. However, leaving that person without follow-up training may mean the death of their faith. It is like helping a baby to be born, then leaving it in the bushes and saying, “I hope you grow to maturity.”

21) In the parable of the four soils, which of the hearts symbolized by the soils made it to glory in heaven? See question 3 above.

22) The second and third soils received the word but never produced fruit. How can we help others avoid the failure of the second and third soils?

23) How many generations of Christians are suggested by the following verse?

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Timothy 2:2 NIV



Pray for the Lord to show you those you can disciple. Offer to go through the Tree of Life Discipleship Workbook with them. Teach them also to use the workbook with others.

24) Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-6. In what ways did Paul pass on the gospel without words?

Now it is your turn. Jesus Christ chooses you to go and make disciples. As you learned from the life of Paul, discipleship is not only teaching, but includes involvement in the lives of your disciples. You are to discover and use your spiritual gifts within the church. You are to use the power of the Holy Spirit to help others. You will help others on their journey of faith while continuing on your own.

25) Read Luke 10:1-23 about how Jesus sent his followers to spread the gospel. Write the verse numbers that tell you to:

Expect enemies—

Live simply—

Pray a blessing of peace—

Eat with others—

Heal the sick—

Preach God is near—

Use spiritual authority—

Expect success—

Your greatest task is to grow closer to Jesus for the rest of your life. As you do this, it is your privilege to help others on their journey of faith in Jesus. May your tree of life grow strong and beautiful as you spread gospel seed, see it grow to maturity, and share in the harvest. Your wages in paradise will go beyond your imagination.



Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. John 4:35-36 NIV

Review of Lesson 3

- Without discipleship, Christians die.
- Discipleship includes involvement in lives.
- Work in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Summary of Chapter 6 - Seed

- You are called to spread the gospel seed.
- Your personal story has power.
- Participate in the cycle of discipleship.