

A RESPONSIBLE CHRISTIAN

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

TIME

FAMILY LIFE

GIVING

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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P. O. BOX 31995
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA
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Remember the promise of Jesus in Matthew 28:20 that he will always be with you, until the close of the age. Jesus did not choose you that you should work for him. He chose you that he would work through you to accomplish what he had left undone when he ascended into heaven. So a Christian must be a clean vessel, ready for use by his Master. (Read 2 Timothy 2:21).

**BE SURE YOU HAVE READ
THESE BIBLE VERSES**

Matthew 28:19-20
2 Timothy 2:2
John 15:14

2 Timothy 2:21
Colossians 1:28
John 15:16



A RESPONSIBLE CHRISTIAN

PREPARED FOR USE IN BIBLE WAY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

**BIBLE WAY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL
P. O. BOX 32262
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

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DISCIPLING PRODUCES MATURE CHRISTIANS (Read Colossians 1:28)

The purpose for discipling is "that we may present every man mature in Christ." It is sad for a church to embark on a program of evangelism but to neglect discipling. The result is poor, immature Christians who do not know what to do in times of distress, temptations and trials. They often stop going to church and try to fight their own battles. Paul commanded young Timothy to carry on with discipling. A new Christian must be given the best training. This will help him grow in the areas of prayerfulness, feeding on the Word of God daily, fellowship with the other believers and witnessing to the nations.

Making disciples is a multiplication process, which must be carried on by all Christians. We ought to make as many disciples as possible who, in turn, will make other disciples. When something good has happened to us, we always want to share it with someone. Jesus has done the greatest job of saving us. We must tell others about this and encourage them to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord.

Paul did not like to see "baby Christians" in the churches. He always aimed at producing mature Christians. In Colossians 1:28 he says, "Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ." Note that Paul emphasized the phrase "every man." This means every person should be made a disciple. Every person must be taught and trained. Every person must become mature in Christ. Every person must be presented to Christ, not as a baby, but mature in Christ.

This is what we should bear in mind always. It is my responsibility. It is your responsibility as a Christian.

Growing does not take a few hours or days. It takes years. Do not be discouraged when it can take more time than you thought. Be patient and always look at Jesus for help and guidance. Your actions as a discipler will speak louder than your words.

DISCIPLING IS GOD'S COMMAND (Read Matthew 28:19-20)

We need to disciple others because it is the command of God. When Jesus was on earth, many people followed him. Many believed him and became his disciples. Jesus knew they would not continue with his ministry if he left them untrained. That is why he chose the twelve disciples, whom we call the apostles. He chose the twelve for two reasons:

1. to stay with them
2. to charge them—that is, to give them responsibilities.

The charge Jesus gave his disciples was to go and make disciples of all nations. He first trained them and often sent them to do what he had commanded them to do. He did this so they would carry on with his ministry after he had ascended into heaven. It was a command to all Christians, or believers. Therefore, if discipling others is the Lord's command, we ought to obey and take the responsibility to disciple others. Jesus says in John 15:14, "You are my friends if you do what I command you." Discipling others is not the responsibility of the church leaders only. Jesus did not give this command to the "twelve" only; he gave it to all believers.

DISCIPLING BUILDS STRONG CHURCHES (Read John 15:16)

Another reason we should disciple others is to produce strong Christians who will make strong churches. In John 15:16 we read, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..."

The fruit Jesus mentioned in this verse is bringing people to Christ. The new Christian cannot grow by himself. He needs someone to help him become a mature, useful Christian who will, in turn, help others to grow. Second Timothy 2:2, our memory verse, teaches us that discipleship helps to make strong Christians who will disciple others as well. This is the fruit that will abide—that will remain.

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LESSON TWELVE

RESPONSIBLE IN DISCIPLING OTHERS

Read Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2; Colossians 1:28
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

*"And what you have heard from me before many witnesses
entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others
also" – 2 Timothy 2:2.*

INTRODUCTION

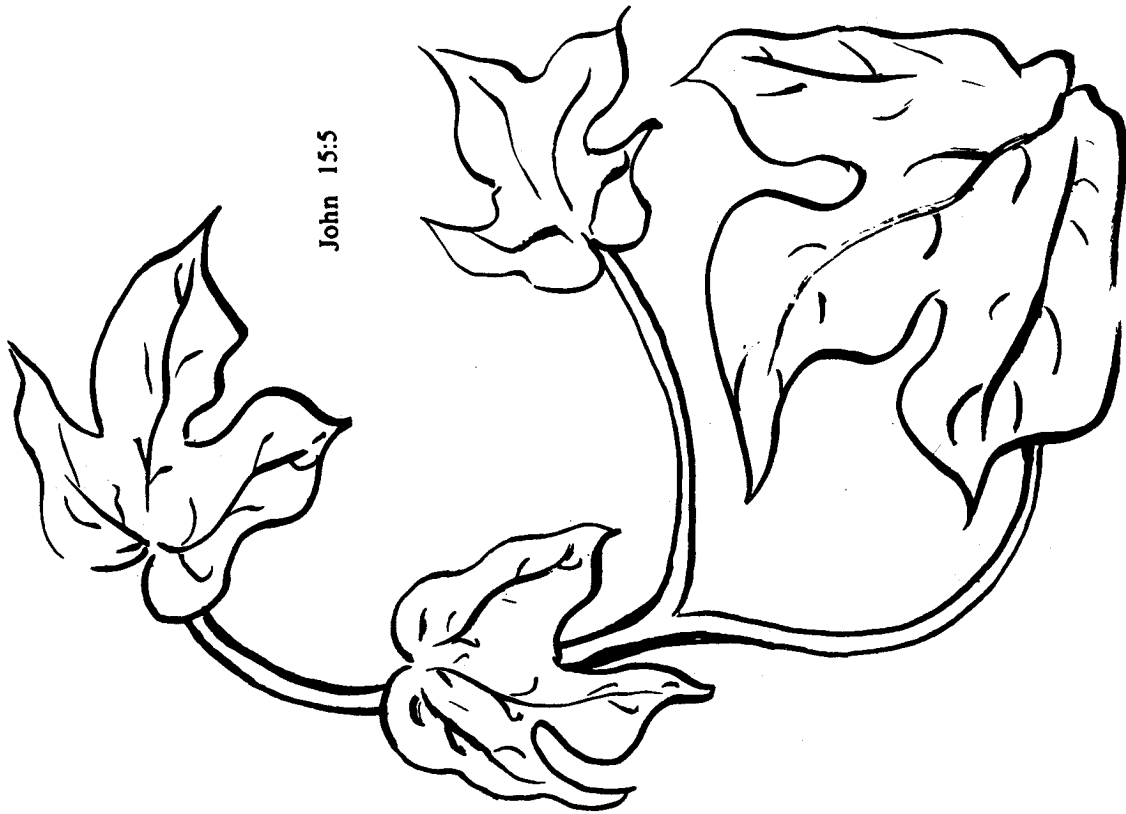
New converts are like newly-born babies. They are sometimes called "baby Christians." A baby cannot grow by itself. It needs the mother's care for health, strength and growth. The parents have the responsibility of taking every care to nurture the baby until it is fully grown. They give it the necessary food, all its needs, care and protection.

When the baby becomes a full-grown person then he will have the same responsibility of nurturing babies so they can grow as useful persons. In this lesson we will learn the responsibility of a Christian to disciple others.

WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

Discipleship is a training process which helps a new Christian to grow as a useful, mature Christian who will also help others to grow. It is a training that will plant in a Christian those qualities which will be passed on to other persons.

John 15:5



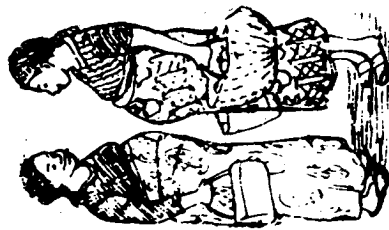
Read 1 John 5:12-13: "He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son has not life. I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

Tell someone TODAY about Jesus.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

Acts 1:8
John 15:8
Matthew 28:20
Romans 6:23
Romans 10:9
1 John 5:12-13

Acts 4:18-20
John 4:1-30
Romans 3:23
Romans 5:8
Ephesians 2:8-10



1 Peter 3:15

INTRODUCTION

The Christian life is a life of responsibility. This book will help you understand what you will do if you are a responsible Christian. Study it carefully, with your Bible always with you. Remember, you are studying the Bible; the book is only your Bible study guide. At the beginning of each lesson you will see a list of Bible verses you should read before you begin to study the lesson. This will help you understand some of the main ideas to be studied in the lesson. Then, as you work through each lesson you will find Bible verses mentioned. Always read the verses as you come to them in the lesson, even if you have already read them at the beginning of the lesson. In this way you will understand the ideas being taught in each part of the lesson.

This book is different from other books in the Bible Way Correspondence School series in one way. Other books have each been written by one person. In this book a different person wrote each lesson, so there are twelve writers instead of one. The names of the writers are given in the Table of Contents. These writers come from different countries in Africa, and each of them has a different style of writing. We think you will enjoy the variety and will learn effectively by having the viewpoints of twelve different people who want to help you grow as a responsible Christian.

May God richly bless you as you study his Word.

Prayer Releases All Your Eternal Resources



John 15:7

THE POWER FOR WITNESSING

You cannot change the heart of a person. You can take all your time to talk to him about Jesus, but you cannot change his life. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to change people. Acts 1:8 says, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." The Holy Spirit will always help you as you witness of Jesus to other people. Jesus promised in Matthew 28:20, "And, lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." When you witness for Jesus, his Spirit is with you. The Holy Spirit will fill you if you ask him; he will give you power to witness. The Holy Spirit will lead you to people whom God has already prepared if you walk in the Spirit.

HOW TO WITNESS

A good way to begin a witness is to share your testimony. Be sure to tell a person what you were before you received Christ, and what happened when Jesus came into your life.

Next, you want to show the need for salvation. Ask the person to read Romans 3:23: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The result of sin is shown in Romans 6:23. Read that verse next.

The Bible also shows us how God has provided for our salvation through our Lord Jesus. Read Romans 5:8.

Now, help the person know how to receive Jesus. Tell him to confess with his lips the Lord Jesus and believe with his heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. Read Romans 10:9.

It is good to show that no one can save himself. Ephesians 2:8-10 can help to show salvation is in Christ alone. Finally, help the person to know the certainty of salvation.

2. He brought the conversation quickly to spiritual matters. ("Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst," verse 14).
3. He caused the woman to admit her own sinfulness. ("He whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly," verse 18).
4. He refused to be distracted by argument. ("God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth," verse 24).
5. He clearly stated his claims and required her to make her own decision about him. ("I who speak to you am he," verse 26).

After she heard and believed Jesus, she went off immediately to her own town to tell people about Jesus. The Lord Jesus is our example in witnessing. He wanted people to know about God his Father. He spoke to fishermen, tax collectors, a lawyer and even a thief. In the same way all Christians should be witnesses to all kinds of people, telling them about Jesus.

THE NECESSITY TO WITNESS

In Acts 1:8 Jesus commanded every Christian to witness, beginning in his own town or village and the next village. If you are a Christian you must tell others about what Jesus has done for you. Acts 4:18-20 tells of a time when Peter and John were arrested for preaching and warned never again to speak for Jesus. They responded, "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." (verse 20) It is in the very nature of a Christian to witness – you must share what has happened in your life. In John 15:8 Jesus said one of the proofs of discipleship is witnessing, or bearing fruit; if you are his disciples your life will overflow in witness.

LESSON ONE

RESPONSIBLE IN PRAYER

Read Luke 11:1-13

before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you" – John 15:7.

INTRODUCTION

As a Christian you are a disciple – a follower of Jesus. The first disciples requested our Lord to teach them to pray. They had seen the strength it brought to him. They had seen the blessing it brought to others. Why should you ask your Lord Jesus to teach you to pray? There are several reasons. Let us study them.

GOD'S WORD COMMANDS YOU TO PRAY

The Bible is God's Word. God tells you in his Word what he wants you to do. Read Isaiah 55:6; Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 21:36; and Philipians 4:6. After you have read these instructions from the Lord, then read John 14:15. As a Christian the most important reason to pray is that God commands you to pray.

GOD WANTS YOU TO PRAY

Did you notice, Jesus taught the disciples to speak to their heavenly Father when they prayed? Prayer is talking with your heavenly Father. It is having fellowship with God. Read James 4:8. Is that not a wonderful promise? Your Lord is honoured and pleased when you talk with him about everything.

YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH DEMANDS YOU TO PRAY

Jesus said you can ask your heavenly Father for what you need. You may ask for his kingdom to come. That means you are asking for his rule over people to be a reality, and for his will to be done on this earth. You may ask for bread for each day. This teaches you to depend upon your heavenly Father for everything. You may ask for forgiveness of sin and deliverance from temptation. Satan is your enemy. He will tempt you and lead you to sin. If you do not pray you will yield to temptation. If you do sin, you can be forgiven only if you confess your sin to your Lord. Read 1 John 1:9. Have you seen how important it is for you to pray? You cannot grow as a Christian without praying.

YOUR BEARING FRUIT DEPENDS UPON YOUR PRAYING

On another occasion Jesus taught his disciples to "abide in" him (John 15:5-7). A branch can remain alive and bear fruit only if it remains joined to the vine. As a Christian, you are like that. You are joined to Christ, your Lord. This is what it means to live in Christ. To bear fruit as a Christian is to live in such a way that people come to know Christ as Saviour and are strengthened as you minister to them. One way you can do this is by prayer. Learn right now to claim this wonderful promise. Read again John 15, verses 7 and 16.

OTHER PEOPLE NEED YOUR PRAYERS

In our background verses (Luke 11:1-13), Jesus told a story about a man who went to his friend at midnight. A guest had arrived and he did not have food to give him. He asked his friend for three loaves of bread. The friend replied: "Do not bother me. I am in bed. I cannot get up and give you any-

LESSON ELEVEN

RESPONSIBLE IN WITNESS

Read Acts 1:8; Acts 4:18-20; John 15:8
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" – Acts 1:8.

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we shall study what the Bible teaches concerning witnessing about Jesus to the people of the world. God expects every Christian to be a witness of Jesus.

Have you ever seen a house burning? When you saw the fire you were a witness. You gave that witness to other family members, your friends and perhaps even to people you do not know. People wanted to know what happened. People waited for you to tell them what you had seen. You and I are witnesses of what Jesus has done for us. You have met Jesus. What happened to you when you allowed him to come into your life? How can Jesus help others? Jesus helped you to be saved from your sins. You should tell others what happened in your life when you received him.

THE EXAMPLE OF WITNESSING (Read John 4:1-30).

In these verses we read how Jesus witnessed to a Samaritan woman at the well. Notice what Jesus did:

1. He began a conversation by using what was at hand. ("Give me a drink," verse 7).

him to bless our efforts as we try to do what he gives us to do for him. We must ask him to help us see the ways we can help other people in his name. God will bless us when we seek his leadership in using our time.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

Psalms 90:12 Ecclesiastes 12:1
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Psalms 5:3
Ecclesiastes 9:10 Mark 1:9-13
Exodus 20:8 Matthew 12:9-12



Ephesians 5:16

thing.” But the man kept asking his friend to help him. Finally the friend got up and gave him what he needed. Jesus used this story to teach us not to give up when we are praying for others. He gave us a wonderful promise in Luke 11:9-10. ‘And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.’”

YOU MUST MEET GOD'S REQUIREMENTS FOR PRAYER

The Bible says, “The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects” (James 5:16). That is a wonderful promise. In Ephesians Paul said, “Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Ephesians 6:18, NIV). Pray for lost people, that they may be saved. Pray for friends who are being tempted, that they will be strong and faithful to Jesus. Pray for those who are ill, that they may be healed. Pray for the leaders of the government, that they may lead wisely (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

It is very important to be the kind of Christian whose prayers God hears.

1. You must pray in faith. (Hebrews 11:6)
2. You must have a clean heart. (Psalms 66:18)
3. You must be holy in your daily life. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
4. You must pray according to God's will. (1 John 5:14-15)
5. You must abide in Christ. (John 15:7)

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

Luke 11:1-13 John 15:5-7
 Isaiah 55:6 James 5:16
 Luke 18:1 Ephesians 6:18
 1 Thessalonians 5:17 1 Timothy 2:1-2
 Luke 21:36 Hebrews 11:6
 Philippians 4:6 Psalms 66:18
 John 14:15 2 Chronicles 7:14
 James 4:8 1 John 5:14-15
 1 John 1:9 John 15:7



self spent 30 years before he began his ministry. Then after his baptism he went into the wilderness for an additional 40 days in preparation for the work he would do. (Read Mark 1:9-13). He also spent much time with his disciples teaching them before they began their work. God would not have given us the chance to go to school if he had not wanted us to use that time in preparation for some future work.

There are many times when lessons seem unimportant. Perhaps we are tempted to feel we do not need to learn some things our teachers want to teach. The writer of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 teaches us there is a time for everything. When God gives us an opportunity to learn something new, we should try very hard to understand it. We cannot always know just how he plans to use it in future. He may have plans for us to use that very lesson we thought was unimportant.

TIME TO WORSHIP AND REST (Read Exodus 20:8)

God set aside one day of the week and told us to keep it holy. This means that on the day set aside for rest and worship we will not carry on with the regular activities of the week. It does not mean we must refuse all work. Read Matthew 12:9-12.

Sunday is a day for Christians to go to church and worship God. It is a day for praying and Bible study. This is the most important thing for Christians to do on Sunday.

It is also a good day for rest, relaxation, visiting friends and making new friends. It is a time for praising God in ways which many people find hard during a busy week.

CONCLUSION

Each day during our time with the Lord, we should ask him to plan our schedule for that day. Then we should ask

would have a ten-minute meeting with a friend to plan for a program. We must think about what needs to be decided, and list those things in order of their importance. Then we will consider the most important things first, so that if some items are not finished, at least the most important things are done. Read again Psalms 90:12.

TIME TO PRAY (Read Psalms 5:3)

The most important part of every day should be beginning the day with God. We should plan to spend some time with him every morning before we do other things. During that time we will praise God for who he is and thank him for his blessings. We want to read his Word and let him speak to us. We will make our requests to him for blessings for ourselves and for other people. We will ask God to control our activities for that day. No other part of the day is as important as our time with God. The rest of the day will be better if we begin it with him. This may mean we will need to get up earlier than we usually do. It will be worth losing the few minutes of sleep to start the day with God.

TIME TO WORK (Read Ecclesiastes 9:10)

We must always allow the proper amount of time for our work or school responsibilities. This, too, is a gift from God, and we should give our best effort to it. If we have a job, we should thank God for it and give our best to our employer. We expect him to pay us for our work. He expects us to work for our money. We would not be honest if we did not give a good day's work for the money we get. We should never try to get by with less than our employer expects. School work also deserves our best effort. We have a great blessing when we have the opportunity to go to school. Jesus taught the importance of preparing for the work of the future. He him-

LESSON TWO

RESPONSIBLE IN BIBLE STUDY

Read 2 Timothy 3:16
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"—2 Timothy 3:16.

INTRODUCTION

A wise and loving father will always make his wishes clearly known to his children. Then he will expect them to obey him. God is the same. God loves us and wants us to do his will. He teaches us in his Word, the Bible, the way we should live. In this lesson we will learn why it is so important to study the Bible.

BECAUSE IT IS GOD'S MESSAGE TO US

The memory verse, 2 Timothy 3:16, tells us all Scripture is inspired by God. Read that verse again, now. Although men such as Moses, Isaiah, and Paul wrote the words of the Bible, they did so under the guidance of God. Therefore, the message they wrote is God's message to us.

Anyone receiving a letter from the president of his country would quickly open it and read it carefully. How much more should we prayerfully read God's message to us, and obey it.

BECAUSE THE BIBLE TELLS THE LOST PERSON HOW TO BE SAVED

Many people are confused concerning the way of salvation. Different people tell them different things. It is from the Bible that we learn God's only way to eternal life. There is no other way. Read 2 Timothy 3:15. It is the sacred writings (the Bible) which teaches God's plan for sinful man's salvation. Notice this: just knowing the Bible will not save you. You are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. (Read Ephesians 2:8-9). When you carefully study the Bible and understand its message about Jesus, you can know you are following God's way of salvation.

BECAUSE THE BIBLE TEACHES THE CHRISTIAN HOW HE SHOULD LIVE

Sometimes Christians are uncertain about what is right and what is wrong. Our memory verse tells us we can find the help we need in the Bible. This does not mean the Bible will list all the things which are good and all the things which are sinful. It does mean it will teach you how to follow the will of God. The Bible will show you the way which is pleasing to God. It will reprove and correct you when you fail to walk in that way.

BECAUSE THE BIBLE WILL HELP YOU BECOME A GOOD SERVANT OF CHRIST

Every true Christian wants to please and serve Jesus Christ. Read 2 Timothy 3:17. It says you will be equipped for every good work by following the teachings of God's Word. Not only will you know how to live your own life, but you will learn how to help others. You will learn to use the Scriptures to help the unsaved come to Christ and eternal life. Also, you will learn how to help your fellow Christians become stronger

LESSON TEN

RESPONSIBLE IN USE OF TIME

Read Psalms 90:12; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" – Psalms 90:12.

INTRODUCTION

God gives each person a gift more valuable than money. No man can buy more of it than God gives. No man can know exactly how much of it he has. There is no other way to get it except to receive the gift from God. What is that gift? It is time. God gives us time to use, but it is not really ours. It is his time. How can we use the precious time God gives us in the best way?

TIME TO PLAN (Read Psalms 90:12)

First, we must plan how we want to use our time, as God leads us. We must list all the things we want to do, including prayer, Bible study, worship and all our activities. If we plan, we can choose how we will use our days and hours. If we fail to plan, the time will pass, but we will wonder what has happened to it. Without a plan we will not get the things done we wanted to do.

We should plan what we want to do in a year, in a month or in a week. We should plan how our day will be used. Write these things on paper. Even a few minutes will be of more value if we plan how we are going to use them. Perhaps we

**BE SURE YOU HAVE READ
THESE BIBLE VERSES**

Mark 10:2-12
1 Peter 3:1-7

Ephesians 5:21 - 6:4



in the Lord. You will no longer tell people what you think; you can tell them what God says. This will truly help them.

**BECAUSE THE BIBLE WILL HELP YOU OVERCOME
TEMPTATION**

Many people try to excuse themselves for their sins by saying, "Satan is wiser and stronger than I am. How can I resist his temptations?" The Bible will help you understand the tricks of Satan. It will also tell you how you can receive strength from the Lord so you can resist temptation.

The Psalmist said, "I have laid up thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalms 119:11). Now turn to Matthew 4:1-11 and read how Satan tempted Jesus. Notice that Jesus answered Satan's temptations with words from the Scriptures.

**BECAUSE THE BIBLE CONTAINS MANY OF GOD'S
PROMISES TO YOU**

Suppose you had applied for a place in a certain school. The headmaster answered your letter and promised you could have a place if you were at the school on opening day. This was the headmaster's promise to you. But suppose you failed to read the letter upon receiving it. The opening day of school arrived, but you failed to appear because you had not read the letter. You would have lost your place. It is the same with God's promises in the Bible. You must know them and meet God's conditions before you can receive the wonderful things he has promised. (Read Romans 15:4).

HOW SHOULD I STUDY THE BIBLE?

This is a very important question, and there is not space to answer it completely in this lesson. However, three things will help you very much as you study God's Word.

1. Study it every day! (Read Acts 17:11). Plan a special time each day when you can be alone and study the Bible. Do not just read it; study it! Three good questions to ask as you study are:

- (a) What does this passage say?
 - (b) What does it mean?
 - (c) How does this apply to my life?
2. Study it prayerfully! Ask God to help you to understand what he is saying to you. (Read John 14:26 and John 16:13).

3. Study it obediently! Show God you want to understand so you can obey. He will help you. (Read again Psalms 119:11).

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

2 Timothy 3:15-17	Romans 15:4
Ephesians 2:8-9	Acts 17:11
Psalms 119:11	John 14:26
Matthew 4:1-11	John 16:13



encourage, and care for our children in the way God commands. To do this we must discipline our children. If we do not discipline them, the people around us may look at them and say, "Ah, what kind of children are these?" or "Why do these children behave like this and yet their parents call themselves Christians?" More important, failure to discipline our children will prevent their growing into responsible Christian adults. Disciplining our children does not mean provoking them to anger. It means guiding their lives by correcting them when they do wrong. In a Christian home the parents in love discipline their children and treat them as valuable gifts from God.

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO A NON-CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE PARTNER (Read 1 Peter 3:1-7)

Peter addressed these verses to Christian women with non-Christian husbands. However, the truth also applies to Christian men with unsaved wives. God says, "Likewise you wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behaviour of their wives" (1 Peter 3:1). Christian wives (and husbands) must show they are different from other people. Good behaviour sometimes can win a person to the Lord without preaching the word to him. By being submissive to her non-Christian husband, a wife can often win him to the Lord, because her behaviour speaks of a quality of life he desires. A Christian husband married to a non-Christian woman might do the same by showing her love and consideration.

A strong Christian home can be achieved only if the teachings of our Lord are followed.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS AND WIVES TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO THEIR CHILDREN (Read Ephesians 5:21 – 6:4)

God spoke to the Ephesian Christians through his apostle Paul. He gave them the foundation to build up their strong Christian home. He said, “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21). To be subject to one another means to be loyal to one another. Christian husbands and wives must, therefore, be loyal to one another. They must give themselves to one another because God commands them to do so.

Love is another important aspect in having a Christian home. In his message to Christian husbands, God said, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25). In Africa, it is very rare for a husband or wife to tell the other openly, “I love you.” Rather, a husband would show his love and appreciation for his wife by doing something for her. In some cultures, however, a husband would tell his wife openly, “I love you.” What is important is not the way husbands and wives show their love to one another, but that they express mutual love and concern.

Also, God gives warning to Christian parents. He says, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Children are one of the most precious gifts God has ever given us. When we receive a gift from someone, we value it so much that sometimes we write a letter to the person who gave it to us, thanking him for his valuable gift to us. We treat the gift in a very special way.

God wants us to value our children, too, and treat them in a very special way. It grieves God when we mistreat our children and provoke them to anger. We need to teach,

LESSON THREE

RESPONSIBLE IN WORSHIP

Read 1 Chronicles 16:23-34
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

“Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day” – 1 Chronicles 16:23.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus worshipped. Why should the Son of God need to worship God the Father?

Why does a Christian worship? What are the benefits? What difference does it make, anyway?

Interesting questions, are they not? Worship is at the centre of the Christian's life. The Christian's behaviour, speech and love for others all depend upon his love for God. And his love for God is seen in the sincerity and depth of his worship of God.

WORSHIP IS GOD'S PLAN

Worship is God's idea, not man's. God knew exactly what man needed. A person who truly loves God cannot live without worshipping him. It is impossible. We worship God not to get something from him, but because we love him. We please God when we worship him. Our background Scripture, 1 Chronicles 16:23-34, is a song of praise and thanksgiving. It calls us to beauty and truth.

WORSHIP IS REJOICING (Read 1 Chronicles 16:23)

The Christian has much to rejoice about, so he sings. Worship is not sad. The power of light is greater than the power of darkness. Jesus Christ arose from death! The Christian life is filled with victory, peace and love.

We are to sing to the Lord. We worship a living and loving Lord, our Creator and Redeemer. We worship no one else, for no one else has done for us what he has done. No one else can love us as he loves us.

ALL THE EARTH IS CALLED TO WORSHIP (Read 1 Chronicles 16:23)

God's great desire is for all on earth to worship him. He created the earth, and all the universe. He is Lord of all peoples of the earth. All are to sing to the Lord. Praise expresses our love and gratitude to God, so it is an important part of spiritual worship.

WORSHIP IS DECLARING GOD'S GOODNESS (Read 1 Chronicles 16:24-27)

In worship we tell of God's salvation, his glory and his great works. He is Lord! We must declare that truth to all who will hear "from day to day." (See verse 23).

He made all things; he alone is worthy of our praise. Let us give him the best praise we know how to give.

WE WORSHIP ALONG WITH OTHERS (Read 1 Chronicles 16:28)

The "families of the peoples" are called upon to honour the Lord. In the Bible there are instances of individual worship, but the emphasis seems to be upon group worship. (Read Psalms 42:4 and Hebrews 10:25).

LESSON NINE

RESPONSIBLE IN FAMILY LIFE

Read Mark 10:2-12; Ephesians 5:21 - 6:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7 before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife" - Mark 10:7.

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we want to study what the Bible teaches about the responsibility to have a Christian home. There are many teachings about the subject; it is important for us to learn and pattern our lives upon what God himself says about the responsibility to have a Christian home.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS AND WIVES TO MARRIAGE (Read Mark 10:2-12)

The Scripture leaves no doubt that God intended marriage to be for life. One of the most serious problems many people face today is separation and divorce. Separation and divorce are world-wide problems facing both Christian and non-Christian husbands and wives. But the Bible says, "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:9). Christian husbands and wives must strive to live according to the Bible. They will certainly face times of difficulty in their marriage. They must make a commitment to one another and to their marriage to find solutions to the problems they face. Christian husbands and wives must ask the Lord to help them live together like one body.

strength. It is beyond human ability. Only the power of God living in us can love these people. God has given us super-human love, called *agape* love. *Agape* love lets us love people who are hard to love, who do not deserve our love and who do not want our love. God puts this love in us. Did Christ set a limit on his love? No! He forgave those who spat on him and drove nails into his own hands. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34), was his prayer. Are Jesus' followers to set a limit on their love? What was Jesus' answer when Peter asked, "Shall I forgive seven times?" What did Jesus really mean when he answered, "Seventy times seven"? (Matthew 18:21-22)

WHAT IS OUR GOAL FOR FELLOWSHIP?

Are we living in fellowship: eager, making every effort to maintain or keep the unity of the Spirit in or through the bond of peace? Are we living our lives with lowliness, meekness and patience: "forbearing (or bearing with) one another in love"? (Read Ephesians 4:1-3).

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

1 John 1:6-7	Ephesians 4:1-16
Acts 2:42-47	Hebrews 10:24-25
John 13:1	John 17
Hebrews 10:24	1 John 4:21
1 John 3:14	1 John 2:3-6
Matthew 5:23-24	1 John 1:9
James 5:16	Hebrews 12:14-15
Luke 23:34	Matthew 18:21-22

WORSHIP IS BOTH AN HONOUR AND A RESPONSIBILITY (Read 1 Chronicles 16:29)

How wonderful it is to come before him! It is both an honour and a responsibility. It is an honour because he is holy and we are sinful. It is a responsibility, because we dare not neglect him. We dare not forget his love, nor his wrath. We dare not lose our source of power. We dare not ignore our Saviour. We dare not fail to understand who we are – sinners set free for his glory. We belong to him! (Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

WORSHIP IS GIVING (Read 1 Chronicles 16:29)

Bringing an offering is an act of worship. True worship involves giving as well as receiving. As we offer ourselves into his presence, we offer our praise, our thanks and our gifts. Whether we bring a goat, a sheep or money, we bring glory to him; and we build his church with our gifts.

WORSHIP REQUIRES PREPARATIONS (Read 1 Chronicles 16:29)

We are told to worship in "holy array." The Lord blesses those who truly honour him. We glorify God by preparing our minds, spirits and bodies for worship. The Israelites were serious about religion. The priests dressed carefully for their role in public worship. God's people must be prepared in every way as they enter into God's holy presence in worship.

WORSHIP IS RESPECT (Read 1 Chronicles 16:30-34)

We "tremble before him," not so much in fear, as in awe and in complete respect of God's majesty. "The Lord reigns!" He is King! With his might "the world stands firm,

never to be moved.” (verse 30) Only the fool will say in his heart, “There is no God” (Psalms 14:1).

The Lord “comes to judge the earth.” God will never abandon his creation. Everything in it is his. He has every right to judge, or to hold accountable, all he has created. He is Lord of all.

So let us praise him! Let us “give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever!” He commands our respect because he is completely righteous and fair. His love never fails and never ends.

WORSHIP: RITUAL AND SUBSTANCE (Read Micah 6:6-8)

In Old Testament worship, ritual was important. The Israelites carefully followed the ceremonies of worship. Ceremony has value. However, ceremony must never replace the spiritual part of worship.

In the New Testament, simplicity was primary in Christian worship. Worship usually included praise, prayer, Scripture reading and teaching. The emphasis throughout worship was upon the spiritual, the devotion and inner love of the heart. Jesus said God is to be worshipped “in spirit and truth.” (Read John 4:24).

So it is, and always will be, in true worship.

“Sing, all ye people! Sing! Sing!”

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

1 Chronicles 16:23-34 Psalms 14:1
Psalms 42:4 Micah 6:6-8

We must recognize this and take action to correct it. In 1 John 2:3-6 we learn how we can be sure we know him. Read these verses to learn what we will do if we know him and are in him. Do you know him? Do you walk in him?

Does God always accept our gifts? Read Jesus' requirement in his teaching from his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:23-24. Jesus did not tell us whether the person at the altar was the offender or the one offended, the one hurt or the one doing the hurting. What are we to do if we have caused the offense? Read 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16. God gives a promise to forgive and cleanse us if we do as he tells us.

GOD'S METHOD OF FELLOWSHIP

The writer of Hebrews gave us a plan “that no ‘root of bitterness’ spring up and cause trouble, and by it the many become defiled.” His plea was, “Strive for peace with all men.” (Hebrews 12:14-15)

“Through understanding comes acceptance.”

“If you do not understand, your line of vision or sight is too narrow and not broad enough.”

These are old wise sayings. If we learn to know the reasons a person thinks and acts as he does, it is easier to accept his behaviour. An example of this is a person who grabs for food when it is served. He may not have been cared for and had to get food quickly himself or not receive any. Although there may be plenty of food now he acts from his old memories. Paul begs us to “. . . forbear (or bear with) one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2).

Each of us must relate to some people who disappoint us. A parent, a child, a friend or a fellow Christian can hurt and nearly destroy us. We cannot love them with our human

but he was willing to let Mary and Martha cook for him. We help each other become all God wants us to be when we give and receive love in fellowship. Read Hebrews 10:24. Think how we can help one another to show love and to do good. "God is light . . . if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another" (1 John 1:5-7). ". . . not neglecting to meet together" (Hebrews 10:25). How do believers strengthen and improve their fellowship? We need to spend meaningful time together, even as the believers did after Pentecost. Read Acts 2:42-47 and learn the kinds of activities the early Christian shared together. These kinds of activities require planning and the giving of time, effort and resources. Are you giving of your time, effort and resources to have Christian fellowship?

THE RESULTS OF FELLOWSHIP

True fellowship brings positive results. As you study the fellowship at Pentecost notice what happened:

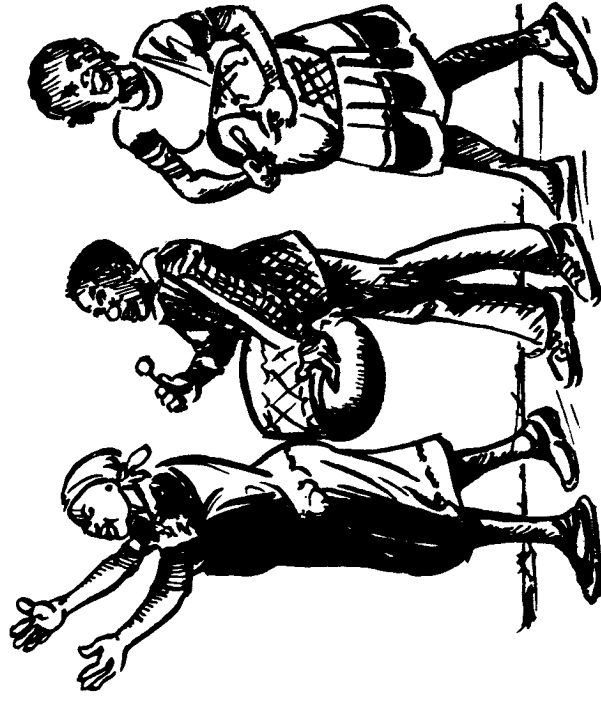
1. Distribution of the money to fill everyone's need;
 2. Wonders and miracles;
 3. The good will of all the people;
 4. People whom God saved being added to their group.
- Does our fellowship bring these results?

THE TEST OF FELLOWSHIP

God commands, "He who loves God should love his brother also" (1 John 4:21). No choice! John gave a method of testing real Christianity. Read 1 John 3:14 to know the quality present in a true Christian. He describes the change as from death into life. Even in this new Christian life there can come a break or breach in fellowship. Problems in relationships or fellowship are caused from sin in one or both lives.

Hebrews 10:25
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

John 4:24



LESSON FOUR

RESPONSIBLE IN RIGHTEOUS LIVING

Read Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness" – Romans 6:12-13.

INTRODUCTION

Righteousness is right standing with God. We receive this right standing with God only through Christ himself, who fully met every requirement of the law in our place. Christ is "made our righteousness" (1 Corinthians 1:30). In this lesson we shall learn the key to righteous living as Christians.

HUNGER AND THIRST FOR CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

In Matthew 5:6 Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." In Matthew 6:33 he stated the same truth in a different way, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." In the Bible God has given many invitations to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Read Isaiah 55:1-2; John 4:10-14; Revelation 22:6; and Revelation 22:17.

LESSON EIGHT

RESPONSIBLE TO LIVE IN FELLOWSHIP

Read 1 John 1:6-7; Ephesians 4:1-16; Acts 2:42-47
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another" – Hebrews 10:24-25.

INTRODUCTION

"Look how the Christians love one another." This spirit of fellowship must be shown among Christians.

GOD'S PLAN FOR FELLOWSHIP

In love God the Father gave us the Prince of Peace, his son Jesus Christ. Read of Jesus' love in John 13:1. Jesus would soon leave the earth to return to his heavenly Father. He prayed for all of us who would ever believe in him as he prepared for this departure. Read this prayer in John 17, noting especially verses 11 and 22. Jesus said he and God the Father are one. What was his prayer for us? God loved us so much, he longed for us to have that loving, caring bond with each other. Do you long to have that loving, caring bond with fellow Christians?

WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP?

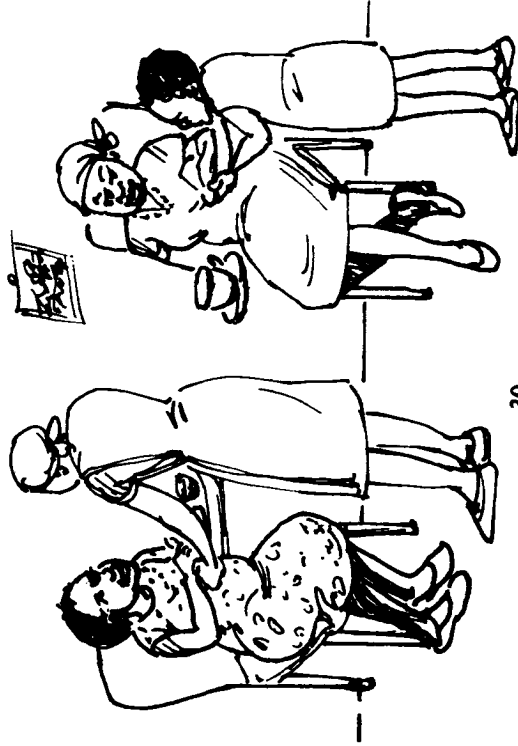
Fellowship is receiving love from others and giving love to others. Jesus washed his disciples' feet, but he also let Mary wash his feet with her tears. Jesus fed the five thousand,

the choir. If you can teach, ask to help with the teaching programme of the church. As you use your gift God will bless others through you.

4. Be obedient in the exercise of your gift. Remember, when gifts are used correctly they will bring unity. Show God's love with the use of each spiritual gift. Without his love the gifts will have little effect. God's love is like holy oil that allows the whole church to function in unity. Begin today to discover and use the spiritual gift God has given you.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

Romans 12:4-13	1 Corinthians 12
1 Peter 4:10	Galatians 5:22-23
1 Corinthians 2:14	1 Peter 4:11-12
1 Corinthians 2:12	Ephesians 5:18



What does it mean to hunger and thirst after righteousness? When you have been in a hot dry place for sometime, you get thirsty. More than just thirsty, you want a drink more than anything else. You would give all you own for just one small sip of water. You would walk a long distance, even climb up rocks hurting your hands and knees just to get water.

Are you really hungry and thirsty for righteousness? Do you desperately want to rid your life of sin and corruption? Do you want to be pure and holy more than anything else? Would you search for justice and truth, even if you were hurt in the search?

Not only does being hungry and thirsty after righteousness apply to our search for God, it also applies to our fellow man. If we hunger and thirst after righteousness, we will be sorely hurt by the evil and moral problems in this world. We will not stay quiet while someone is treated badly because of lack of justice.

Indeed we are commanded to hunger and thirst after righteousness! We are first to seek God so strongly that we cannot stop. We are to become instruments of God's holiness and justice. We are also to seek after righteousness with our fellow man.

And what is our reward? We shall be satisfied.

After you have searched and searched and find water, you take that small sip. You are so hot and dry. The small drops of water go down your throat and then you drink and drink. Then you are satisfied – full and complete.

Many people are hungry and thirsty for this world. They want power, money, fame and attention. Will they be satisfied from those things? We are promised if we hunger and thirst after righteousness, we will be satisfied.

God has promised that when we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we "shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6).

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled with the righteousness that is far better than any of their own. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness must turn to Christ. When we receive him into our lives through faith, we are filled with his righteousness. This is the beginning of a new kind of life for us. Day by day, as we seek him, he leads us to grow more and more in his image. Read Romans 12:1-2 to discover how living in Christ leads to the transforming—or changing—of our minds.

YIELD TO CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

In Romans 6:12-19 we see our response to the righteousness we receive by faith. We choose to yield ourselves to God, that he may use us to fulfil his purpose in us and through us. Since Jesus is our righteousness, we must give our all to him. Then, as he daily fills our lives, we live out the righteousness received through faith in him. If we rebel against Christ and his Word, we yield ourselves to sin and become instruments of wickedness. Even though we may feel we are doing good things, we cannot fulfil God's righteousness in our own power. We choose to be a slave to sin (for wickedness) or a servant of God (for righteousness). Romans 13:14 helps us understand this. ("But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.") When we choose to be in Christ, the true righteousness, we agree to live our lives under his control.

3. Study the Scriptures concerning spiritual gifts. God reveals truth through his Word.
4. Understand your own abilities. Think about ways God uses you now. Are there things you do that cause others to know, love and serve God?
5. Write down the things you enjoy doing. Do you like to teach children? Do you enjoy witnessing? Remember, God uses anything given to him for his glory.
6. Ask counsel from other believers. God uses others to help a person to know his gift. Christians in your church know the things you do that glorify Christ.
7. Accept your gift gratefully. When God does show you your gift, be thankful. Do not desire the gift another has. There are no small gifts in God's sight. All are important to build his church.

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR GIFT

It takes every member of the human body to make it function as a whole. It takes every part of the body of Christ to allow it to carry out its purpose in the world. Some things you can do to develop your gift or gifts are:

1. Allow the Holy Spirit the freedom to develop your gift. Be available to be used. Each day ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and to make you a blessing (Read Ephesians 5:18).
2. Get involved in the work of the church. The gifts are given to build the body of Christ, the church. It is through the church that spiritual gifts are to be used.
3. Try out ways you think you can use your gifts. If you can express your gift through music, begin to sing in

HOW TO KNOW YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

The gifts of the Spirit are named in three different passages of Scripture. Read the Scriptures and list the spiritual gifts named in each one:

Romans 12:4-8:

1 Corinthians 12:8-10:

Ephesians 4:11-12:

The following guidelines will help you discover your gift or gifts:

1. Realize you have at least one spiritual gift.
2. Pray about it. Ask God to show you what your gift is.

CONCLUSION

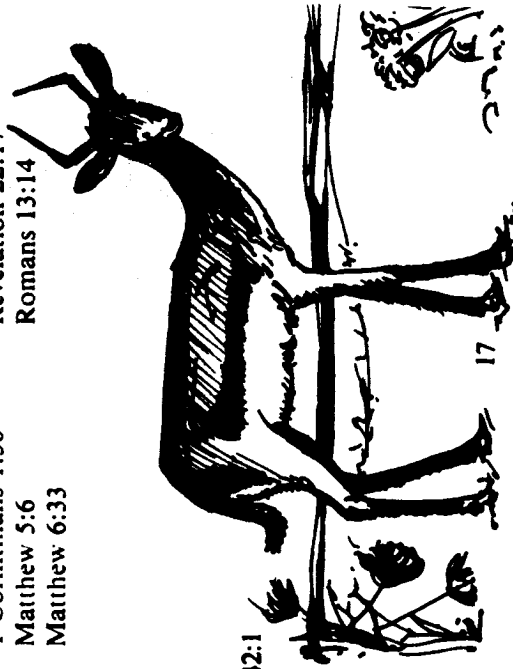
The Christian responsible in righteous living will do these things.

1. He will hunger and thirst for Christ, our righteousness.
2. He will accept the righteousness God provides, as revealed in the Scripture; that is, Christ is made righteousness for us.
3. He will yield himself to Christ the Lord, to live under his control.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

Romans 12:1-2	Isaiah 55:1-2
1 Corinthians 6:19-20	John 4:10-14
Romans 6:12-19	Revelation 21:6
1 Corinthians 1:30	Revelation 22:17
Matthew 5:6	Romans 13:14
Matthew 6:33	

Psalms 42:1



LESSON FIVE

RESPONSIBLE IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Read Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22; Matthew 16:18
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

*“And he has put all things under his feet and has made him
the head over all things for the church, which is his body”*
—Ephesians 1:22-23.

INTRODUCTION

In preparing a charcoal fire, I usually start with small chips of wood or paper. After lighting these chips, I place several pieces of charcoal on the chips. As these start to burn, I heap the amount of charcoal I want to use over the burning chips and charcoal so the fire from within will cause a nice hot fire for cooking the food. As long as the charcoal is heaped together and can get air, the fire burns and the food will cook. When the charcoal is scattered, each piece burns awhile and then stops burning. In order to burn with a hot fire, the charcoal needs to be placed close together so that each piece contributes heat to the fire.

Church membership is like the charcoal fire. Each member needs the heat contributed by the other members to help us burn brightly. We need encouragement from a group of other Christians in order to grow and be nurtured in the Christian faith. Christianity is lived out in community with other Christians. This community is called the Christian church. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to be a Christian

learn to play an instrument well. Others have the ability to draw beautiful pictures or to carve figures out of wood. God gave these talents, but they are not spiritual gifts. However, when a natural ability is dedicated to God for his use it can become a means of expressing a spiritual gift.

2. Spiritual gifts are given to believers by the Holy Spirit. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14 and 1 Corinthians 12:11. God decides which gift each believer is given. When you receive Christ as your Saviour and Lord you are given the Holy Spirit. At the same time you are given at least one spiritual gift which the Holy Spirit uses in your life (1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10).

3. Spiritual gifts are to glorify Christ and build his church. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3; Ephesians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 2:12. Spiritual gifts are to be used for ministry in the world. They are to glorify Christ and help the church to grow. Any expression of a spiritual gift that calls attention to a person cannot glorify Christ at the same time.

THE FUNCTIONS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts are believers' spiritual tools to do God's work with God's power. The apostle Paul compares the church to a physical body. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. The body has many members and each has a special job to do. One part cannot do the work of another. The eye cannot hear; the hand cannot walk. In the same way, if the church is to perform its work in unity, each believer must know and use his gift. God has equipped believers to do certain jobs in the church. If a person fails to express his gifts, that part of the function of the church is weak.

LESSON SEVEN

RESPONSIBLE IN USING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Read Romans 12:4-13 and 1 Corinthians 12
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" – 1 Peter 4:10.

INTRODUCTION

Every believer has a spiritual gift. When a person is born physically he has certain natural abilities. When a person is born again spiritually, he is given certain spiritual abilities. This lesson will help you to know:

- what spiritual gifts are
- the function of spiritual gifts
- how to know your spiritual gift
- how to develop your gift.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINED

Spiritual gifts are special abilities given to believers by the Holy Spirit to be used to glorify Christ and build his church. Spiritual gifts are not rewards for good works, talents or natural abilities or spiritual fruit as named in Galatians 5:22-23. They are gifts. Therefore, it is not possible for a person to achieve them through hard work, to earn them or to learn them from books.

1. Spiritual gifts are special abilities. All people are born with talents or natural abilities. Some can sing or

and to grow in the Christian faith without the help and encouragement of other Christians.

Jesus Christ instituted the church to enable his followers to grow and help each other in living the Christian life. As followers of Jesus Christ, we have a responsibility to be a part of the **BODY OF CHRIST**, the **CHURCH**. We need to know and believe several important things about the church.

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD

"And he (God) has put all things under his (Christ's) feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body" (Ephesians 1:22-23). Paul the apostle calls the church "the body of Christ." Christ died to bring his followers into a right relationship with God and to join them into a family of believers. That family is the church. This family, this body, is responsible to carry the message of Christ and salvation to all the world.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

"He (Jesus Christ) is the head of the body, the church" (Colossians 1:18). Christ is the Head. The church is the body of Christ.

The head directs the body. It also gives life to the rest of the body. Without the head, the rest of the body will die.

Jesus Christ directs the body, the church. Without him, there would be no life at all in the church.

The head cannot work without a body through which it can accomplish its purpose.

To call Christ the Head of the church presents Christ as the source of the life of the church. It is Christ's church.

JESUS SAID, "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"

Jesus told Peter, "I will build my church." (Read Matthew 16:18). The church of Christ was built by the Lord himself. Jesus wanted to make it clear that no man was to build his church. The Lord knew of man's need for fellowship. He knew his followers would not grow in their faith without the body (the church). They would not be faithful to him and his way of life. They would not have the spiritual strength to overcome the evil of the world and the temptations of the devil. He wanted them to know it is not a church unless Christ builds it.

CHRISTIAN PEOPLE ARE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH

"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). No one should be a member of the church until he has been born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord chooses those who are members of his body, the church. There is no place in the church for men or women, boys or girls or young people whom the Lord has not added. Salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ, is necessary for those who are members of Christ's church. Members of Christ's church are believers in Jesus Christ.

THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH, DOES THE WORK OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD TODAY

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Members of the body of Christ are workers for Christ in the world today. The head of the

until it hurts. Giving until it causes pain or discomfort proves it is true sacrificial giving, they say. Others who are equally dedicated say God loves a cheerful giver. They say we should not give until it hurts, but give until it brings joy.

With all of these different answers, how can we know which is right? Can a person really know what is right? Yes, we can know. There is only one right answer. We are to give "by the will of God" (See verse 5). We should give what God says for us to give at this time.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Psalms 24:1

Matthew 23:23

Mark 12:41-44

Acts 2:45



First they gave themselves to the Lord 2 Corinthians 8:5

3. Verse 3 says they gave "according to their means." That is, they gave according to how much they had. Those who had more gave more. Those who had less gave what they could. This kind of giving is called proportional giving. Proportional giving is giving a part or a portion of what you have. Tithing is giving one tenth of what you have. This is proportional giving. Jesus said we should not forget to give our tithe (Matthew 23:23). Jesus encouraged proportional giving.
4. Verse 3 also says they gave "beyond their means." They gave more than they were able to give. This kind of giving is called sacrificial giving. In Mark 12:41-44 the widow gave all she had. In Acts 2:45 the Christians gave everything. Nowhere in the Bible does God say to give less than one tenth, but giving one tenth is not always enough. There are times when a responsible giver gives sacrificially.
5. The Macedonians gave because they wanted to give. Verse 4 says they begged to be able to give and then gave with joy. There is no place in the church for forced giving. People are to give freely because they want to give. To give responsibly is to give willingly.
6. They gave "by the will of God" (verse 5). A very difficult question comes up when we think of this kind of giving. The question is, "How much should I give?" Some say to give everything and let the church decide what part you get in return. Some churches require their priests to do this. Some church leaders say you must give an amount the church agrees on. Still others say you must give a tithe. If you give the tithe, they say that is all you are responsible to give. Dedicated Christians sometimes say you should give

church, Christ, gives directions concerning his work. This command is given to members of the body of Christ. Each member has his own place to fill. He has his own work to do. All is done under the direction of Christ, the Head of the church. As followers of Jesus Christ, we have a responsibility to become a part of his body, the church. When we help to strengthen this community, the church, we are helping to build strong foundations beneath our lives and that of our families and neighbours.

By joining the church and supporting its local worship, work and outreach, we are helping to strengthen God's kingdom throughout the world.

Because the church has Christ as its Head, each individual member will be accepted. The church believes that in every person there is something of ultimate meaning and value. We invite you to discover this truth for yourself.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

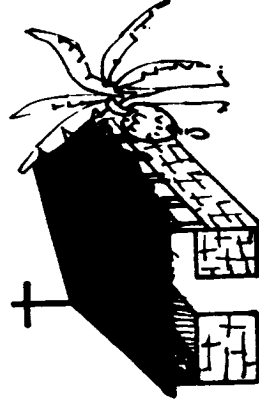
Colossians 1:18

Acts 2:47

Ephesians 1:22-23

Matthew 28:19-20

Matthew 16:18



LESSON SIX

RESPONSIBLE IN GIVING

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
before you continue with this lesson

Memory Verse:

"And this, not as we expected, but first they gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God" – 2 Corinthians 8:5.

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we will learn two things. First, we are responsible to give because of God's grace. Secondly, there are six parts in responsible giving. The Bible is clear. Genesis 1 says God created all things. All things belong to God. We belong to God; everything around us belongs to God. Read Psalms 24:1. If we own nothing, how can we have anything to give to God? God's grace allows us to use some of his things as if they belong to us.

WE GIVE BY GOD'S GRACE

Have you seen a mother give a biscuit to a child she is holding? Often the child tries to get his mother to eat some of the biscuit. The mother does not need the child's biscuit. She has a package of biscuits for herself. The child wants to share with his mother who has given to him. God's grace works in the same way. As his children we want to share with him what he has given to us.

GOD'S GRACE IN MACEDONIA

In 2 Corinthians 8:1 Paul speaks about God's grace working in Macedonia. The Macedonians were giving back to

God what he had given them. They did this by sharing with those who were in need in Jerusalem. Different churches were sending help. The Corinthian church had promised to help, but had not sent their gift. Paul wrote the verses for this lesson to the Corinthian church. He wanted them to know the way the Macedonians were giving (verse 1). A wonderful thing had happened! The way the Macedonians gave excited Paul. He was sure the Corinthians would be encouraged if they knew what had happened. There were six things the Macedonians did which showed responsible giving. Let us look at these one by one.

SIX PARTS IN RESPONSIBLE GIVING

1. The first and most important thing is in verse 5. They gave themselves. They gave themselves in two ways. They gave themselves first in repentance and faith in order to be born-again Christians. Then they gave their total life in service to Christ. A responsible giver must begin in this way. First, be sure you are a born-again Christian. When you are sure of that, then give your life completely to God in service. Only after you do this are you qualified to go further in responsible giving.
2. They did not let things around them determine what they gave. Things were not going well for the Christians in Macedonia. In verse 2 Paul points out that they were suffering trials and afflictions. In addition, this verse says they were extremely poor. If we look at their circumstances, we see several excuses they could have used for not giving. They did not give excuses; they gave offerings. A responsible giver does not look for excuses; he looks for opportunities to share.