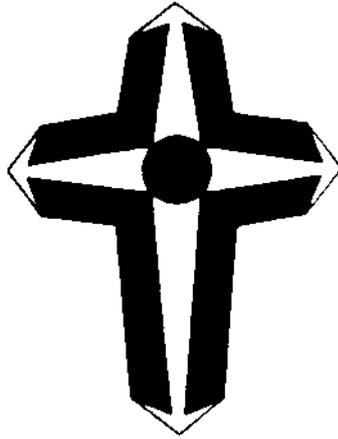


MasterLife

BOOK FOUR

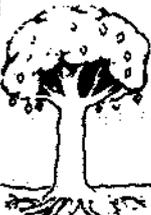
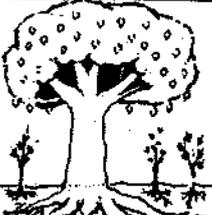
THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR



MasterLife

BOOK FOUR

THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR

	Lessons 1-4	5-9	10-13	14-18	19-23	24-26
						

Introduction

The
Disciple's
Cross

The
Disciple's
Personality

God's Word
in Your Heart
and Hand

The
Spiritual
Armour

The
Good
News

Discovering
Your Spiritual
Gifts

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INTRODUCTION



Cultivation



Development

INTRODUCTION TO MASTERLIFE BOOK FOUR

“...We shall become mature people reaching to the very height of Christ’s full stature” (Ephesians 4:13b). You are now at the half way point in MasterLife. In this second half you will see some familiar things. However, you will notice many differences. *Book Four through Book Six* emphasize becoming a leader, finding God’s special plan for your life and examining various kinds of ministry.

In MasterLife you have been growing as disciples of Jesus. You have learned to remain (abide) in Christ so you can bear fruit. The emphasis has been on being with Christ. Thus far lessons have dealt mainly with the vertical bars of THE DISCIPLE’S CROSS and your relationship with God. In the remaining lessons more attention will be given to the horizontal bars and your relationship with people. The drawing at the beginning of this book shows the growth process you are going through in MasterLife.

The maize plant at the top of the previous page symbolizes the experience of the first half of MasterLife. You have been putting down roots and growing. Other people have been very helpful in this process. The sunshine, rain and the farmer symbolize the help you have received from God, your leader and group members.

You are now at the point that you need to grow and produce as shown in the picture on the bottom of the page. Now you will be producing whether others help you or not. Others will help, but the responsibility has been shifted to you.

During the first half of MasterLife you received much direction. You were told what to do and how to do it. Then you were checked to see if you were doing it. This helped you to form good habits and to discipline yourself. As you mature you will not receive as much direction from others. You will become more responsible for your personal development.

During this last half of MasterLife, you will begin to find God’s special purpose for your life. You will discover the gifts he has given you. Also, you will help each other learn how to serve Christ best.

Some in the group will begin using the gifts God has given them more quickly than others. The rate of growth will not be the same for everyone. Each person will decide how much help he needs from others. Often assignments and memory verses will not be checked during the lessons. Those who need help and encouragement can ask their prayer partner, husband/wife or another member of the group to work with them.

You will improve your relationship with others during Lessons 14-18. You will evaluate your life purposes and life goals. Also, you will grow in your prayer life. Lesson 18 is a half day of prayer.

In Lessons 19-26 you will learn how to witness to the lost. Also, you will look at ministries for which God is preparing you. The end of *Book Six* provides a special time when you discover your spiritual gifts and how to use them in ministry. You will become a leader who can train others.

You have begun to understand how God wants you to serve him in the body of Christ. Ask your prayer partner to pray that you will become the person God wants you to be and do the work he has for you.

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MY WALK WITH THE MASTER, LESSON 14

SPENDING TIME WITH THE MASTER

- Have a Quiet time each day. You may choose one or more of the assignments under LIVING IN GOD'S WORD and PRAYING IN FAITH to include in your Quiet Time.

Record daily the amount of time spent in your Quiet Time.

___ Sunday, ___ Monday, ___ Tuesday, ___ Wednesday,
___ Thursday, ___ Friday, ___ Saturday

LIVING IN GOD'S WORD

- Take notes on a Sunday School lesson or sermon using the "Hearing the Word" form on page 114.
- Meditate on a verse or Scripture passage using the "Guide to Scripture Meditation" (pp. 159-160).
- Read your Bible daily and write in your Quiet Time Notes what God says to you and what you say to God.
- Complete the Bible study "Making Wrong Relationships Right."
- Memorize Matthew 5:23-24.
- Memorize 1 John 5:13.
- This week you will begin to memorize verses from the Good News Presentation in *Book Five*.
- Revise all memory verses you are not sure you have learned well.

PRAYING IN FAITH

- Read through THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR and use it as you pray.
- Pray with your prayer partner about sharing your testimony with an unbeliever.

FELLOWSHIPING WITH BELIEVERS

- Read "Understanding My Relationships" Part 1 and Part 2.
- Mark and discuss the "Relationship Evaluation Form" (pp. 188-190) with a family member or friend.
- After marking the form, read Part 3 and answer the questions.
- Have a special time of fellowship with your family. Play games together, take a trip or read to the family.

WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

- Share your testimony with someone in person, or write it in a letter to an unbeliever.

SERVING OTHERS

- Explain THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR (pp.181-185) to someone and show how it can be used in prayer. You may use your Bible. You are not expected to know all the verses.
- Think about your relationship with your husband/wife. If you are not married, think about your relationship with family members (parents, sisters, brothers). Are your relationship pleasing to God?

THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR

As a disciple you are at war. You have experienced the conflict that goes on in your life between the forces of good and evil. No matter how many battles you win, Satan always returns to fight another day. But you are not just fighting a private war. You are a part of the army of God called to defeat Satan and his evil forces. We all live within the enemy's territory. Spiritual warfare continually takes place around us in the world.

God equips Christians to win the battle. (Read Ephesians 6:10-20.) He wants every believer to stand up against Satan and all his plans in spiritual warfare (v. 11). He wants you to resist the enemy's attacks when the evil day comes and then to conquer and still hold your ground when the battle is over (v. 13). He warns you that "...we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age" (Ephesians 6:12). The way to win over the evil spiritual forces is to use the spiritual armour mentioned in this Scripture: truth, righteousness, readiness to announce the Good News of peace, faith, salvation and the Word of God. Paul compared each of these to a part of a Roman soldier's armour.

Paul finished the list of characteristics with a call to prayer. "Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people" (Ephesians 6:18). The spiritual warrior begins on his knees. It is through prayer that he clothes himself with all the other pieces of spiritual armour before going out to meet the enemy.

Verse 18 reminds us that prayer is warfare. We are told to:

- pray on every occasion.
- ask for God's help.
- be alert.
- do not give up.
- pray for all God's people.

Spiritual warfare begins with prayer. Prayer is one of the ways God uses to strengthen you by his mighty power. When you have put on the spiritual armour, you can claim victories through prayer.

Winning the victory in prayer first is illustrated by an Old Testament story. Jehoshaphat was threatened with an attack by three kings. (2 Chronicles 20:1-25) He called the whole nation to prayer. After they fasted and prayed, God assured them: "...The battle depends on God, not on you.... You will not have to fight this battle. Just take up your positions and wait; you will

see the Lord give you victory...” (2 Chronicles 20:15-17). The next morning he encouraged his people to believe God. He placed the choir in front of the army as they marched into battle. What an unusual way to march to battle! How great was their faith in God. By the time they reached the battlefield, God had caused the three enemy armies to destroy each another. The children of Israel only had to walk out on the battle field and pick up the things of value.

The secret of victory is this: win the battle in prayer first, and then you can attack the enemy and claim the victory God has won already.

The following explanation shows you how you can put on each part of the spiritual armour in prayer:

THE HELMET OF SALVATION Ephesians 6:17

You received the helmet of salvation when Christ saved you. Let this symbol remind you to:

1. Thank God you are his child. “But you belong to God, my children, and have defeated the false prophets, because the Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit in those who belong to the world” (1 John 4:4). Thank him for your salvation.
2. Praise God for eternal life. The helmet protects you at all times in any battle. Praise him for it.
3. Claim the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16) It is included in salvation.

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS Ephesians 6:14b

Christ gave the breastplate of righteousness to produce righteous living in you. Think of it as protecting you. Let it remind you to:

1. Ask God to examine you and see if you have any evil thoughts. (Psalms 139:23-24)
2. Confess any sin. (Psalms 66:18 and 1 John 1:9)
3. Claim Christ’s righteousness to cover your sins and give you right standing with him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Keep the breastplate firmly fastened in place with upright character and righteous living. (Ephesians 6:14b)

THE BELT OF TRUTH Ephesians 6:14

The belt of truth is another part of the armour. Let it remind you to:

1. Be true to yourself and to God at all times.
2. Hold to the truth. Satan is the father of lies and would like to deceive you.
3. Be in control of your emotions. Your emotions should be guided by truth rather than by the flesh (sinful human nature) or by Satan. Read James 4:3. The belt of truth helps you control your emotions.

SHOES OF READINESS TO ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS Ephesians 6:15

Wearing shoes of readiness means you are prepared and ready for battle. Let the shoes of readiness remind you to:

1. Be prepared. You must get ready before the battle begins. Pray that God will prepare you for any need you will have.
2. Share the gospel. Shoes of readiness mean you must be ready to proclaim the gospel. Ask God to prepare you to witness for him.
3. Intercede for the lost. Be prepared to attack the enemy through prayer or through witness. Pray for lost friends on your prayer list. Read 1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4.

SHIELD OF FAITH Ephesians 6:16

The shield of faith is in your left hand. Let the shield remind you to:

1. Claim the victory. You win the victory over the world by means of your faith. (1 John 5:4)
2. Advance in faith. Faith without actions is useless. (James 2:20)
3. Stop all the burning arrows of the wicked. (Ephesians 6:16)

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT Ephesians 6:17

The five pieces of armour already mentioned are primarily for defense against the enemy. They help to protect the soldier. But, the soldier does not only protect himself from the enemy. He also fights actively, in offense, against the enemy. For the Christian, the most important offensive weapon is the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, THE WORD OF GOD.

The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, is in your right hand. The "Word" here refers to God speaking to you. Let the sword in your hand remind you to:

1. Take hold of the Word. God's Word is the weapon for attack. Use it. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Let the Spirit use the Word. It is his sword.
3. Pray on the basis of the Word. The Spirit will use the Word to reveal God's will to you. He will help you know what you should pray for and do. (John 16:13-15)

Jesus used the Word when he was tempted by Satan. (Matthew 4:1-10)

PRAYER Ephesians 6:18

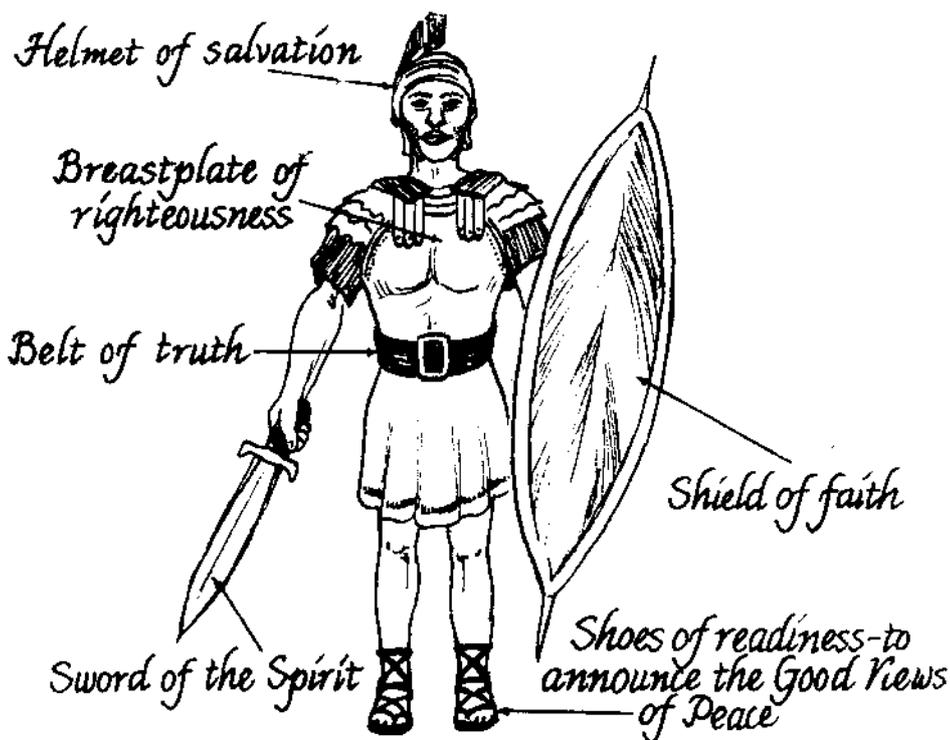
You are clothed with the protective spiritual armour. Your mind is protected by the helmet of salvation. Your heart or will is protected by the breastplate of righteousness and your emotions by the belt of truth. You march with shoes of readiness to announce the Good News. In one hand you have the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. In the other hand you have the shield of faith. There are at least three times when this armour may be used:

1. When you are seeking release from Satan's dominion over some area of your life.
2. When you are attacked by Satan.
3. When you attack Satan. You attack Satan when you claim through intercession or witness those he has captured. "We know that we belong to God even though the whole world is under the rule of the Evil One" (1 John 5:19). The lost and backslidden are under Satan's control, and he fights to keep them.

Now you are prepared to intercede for other believers, the lost and weak Christians who are under Satan's control: "Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people" (Ephesians 6:18).

Every Christian should have special times for prayer warfare in addition to regular times of prayer. You may begin with an hour a week and expand the time to a day of fasting and praying. God intends that every believer pray. God moves people to pray for what he wants to do in this world.

The battle in prayer prepares you for the battle in the world. If you do not pray, you may go into battle without the whole armour of God. Use the spiritual weapons as you stand against the enemy.



UNDERSTANDING MY RELATIONSHIPS

Part 1

Christians are to be good examples in their relationships with others. They should seek to live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:18)

You need to develop right relationships with all people, especially with members of your family and friends with whom you relate daily. Study the following questions, and think seriously about them. Doing this can help you understand your relationships better and improve them.

Read the questions prayerfully and thoughtfully twice before continuing. As you read, think about your relationship with your spouse if you are married. If not, think of another very important relationship. Ignore the seventh question if it does not apply to you.

1. **Sharing:** Do you share your inner feelings and thoughts, or do you keep them to yourself? Does either of you have to guess how the other feels?
2. **Listening:** Do you listen attentively and with understanding to the other person? Do you think of other things while he is talking? Do you respond only out of habit, or do you give your full attention to why your partner says what he says as well as to the words he says?
3. **Supporting:** Do you support, encourage, aid and respect each other? Are you loyal, or does either of you neglect, hinder, leave alone or fail to support the other? Do you know that the other person is actively concerned for your best interests at all times?
4. **Affirming:** Do you affirm each other by praising or speaking well of the other? Does either of you often criticize, shame, blame, scold or condemn the other?
5. **Talking:** Do you talk intimately with each other about your spiritual life? Do you share openly what is happening in your relationship with God? Do you share your struggles, your victories and your hopes? Or does either of you remain distant, closed or silent about your spiritual life?
6. **Developing:** Do you help the other person to develop and to feel free to grow and become all God intended him to be? Does either of you try to control, restrict or maneuver the other person?
7. **Loving:** Are you affectionate? Do you show love and relate properly to the other person in a physical sense? Or does either of you remain unresponsive, uninterested or cold toward the other.

PART 2

The following suggestions and activities will help you answer the questions on page 186 and understand your relationships better.

1. As you discuss your relationship it is important that each of you listen to what the other is saying. Do not defend yourself about what is being said, but try to understand. Do not blame. The other person may be telling you something you need to change in your relationship.
2. With your husband/wife or friend, read the "Relationship and Evaluation Form" on page 188 with the questions on page 186 which will explain the form. The second evaluation form is on page 189.

Tick your form without looking at the other's work. Tick above the line the way you see the relationship to your husband/wife or friend. If you agree with the words on the left, tick near to them. If you are uncertain about this relationship, tick near the centre of the line. If you agree with the words on the right, tick near to them. Tick above the line the way you see your relationship to your husband/wife or friend and below the line the way you see yourself. For example, if you feel that you share with your husband/wife but he/she does not share with you, tick the form like this:

SHARING

The way I see my husband/wife or friend
Does Not Share ✓ _____ | _____ ✓ Shares
The way I see myself

3. When you have finished ticking your evaluations, look at and discuss them together. This exercise should help you realize that your relationship to others can affect your relationship with God. This is especially true of your relationship with a mate, other family members and close friends. Your attitude toward and relationship to these people may affect the type of testimony you have with friends and neighbours.
4. Instructions for using this form: Read each question on page 186 before ticking the form. Read each set of questions listed under each number. The numbers on the form correspond to the numbers for each set of questions. Place the tick near the words with which you strongly agree. If you are uncertain, place the tick in the centre of the line.

Please note: You are to tick above the line the way you see your husband/wife or friend. Tick below the line the way you see yourself in this same relationship. Your husband/wife or friend will use the form on page 189 to tick the way he/she feels about your relationship.

RELATIONSHIP EVALUATION FORM

(Be sure to read each question on page 186 before ticking the form.)

SHARING

The way I see my husband/wife or friend

1. Does Not Share _____ Shares
The way I see myself

LISTENING

she/he

2. Does Not Listen _____ Listens
myself

SUPPORTING

she/he

3. Does Not Support _____ Supports
myself

AFFIRMING

she/he

4. Criticizes _____ Praises
myself

TALKING

she/he

5. Not Intimate _____ Intimate
myself

DEVELOPING

she/he

6. Does Not Allow Growth _____ Allows Growth
myself

LOVING

she/he

7. Does Not Show Love _____ Shows Love
myself

RELATIONSHIP EVALUATION FORM

(Be sure to read each question on page 186 before ticking the form.)

SHARING

The way I see my husband/wife or friend

1. Does Not Share _____ Shares
The way I see myself

LISTENING

she/he

2. Does Not Listen _____ Listens
myself

SUPPORTING

she/he

3. Does Not Support _____ Supports
myself

AFFIRMING

she/he

4. Criticizes _____ Praises
myself

TALKING

she/he

5. Not Intimate _____ Intimate
myself

DEVELOPING

she/he

6. Does Not Allow Growth _____ Allows Growth
myself

LOVING

she/he

7. Does Not Show Love _____ Shows Love
myself

PART 3

Marking the relationship evaluation form will not solve any of your relationship problems. It will only help you identify areas you need to pray about. It will help you talk about these things and begin to find ways to improve. You should desire to develop a better relationship. Now try to complete the following statements.

1. The questions helped me see myself more clearly because I realized that

2. The questions helped me see my husband/wife or friend more clearly because I realized that

3. Our discussion of the questions helped us relate better because

4. As I evaluate our total relationship, my greatest weakness is

5. In our relationship, my husband/wife or friend helps offset my weakness by

6. My strengths help my husband/wife or friend by

Bible Study

MAKING WRONG RELATIONSHIPS RIGHT

Christians live as a loving family. They have misunderstandings, and they hurt just as families do. This study will help you know what to do when a problem arises between Christians.

At the end of this study, you should be able to:

- list three reasons why broken relationships should be corrected quickly.
- explain what to do if you are the offender.
- tell six steps to take if you are offended.
- describe the work of a peacemaker.

Complete the following:

1. Fellowship between Christians is very important. Our relationship to God through Christ binds us together as the body of Christ.

Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty of your sin and put you right with God. (Romans 5:1) Therefore, God's children can be right with each other. John tells us that you show your love for God by how much you love others. (1 John 4:21)

Read 1 John 3:14 and fill in the blanks: "We know that we have left _____ and come over into _____; we know it because we _____ our brothers."

2. You show your love for your fellow Christians by what you say and what you do. (1 John 3:18) However, sin still breaks fellowship between Christians. Underline the sins listed below that have caused problems between you and other Christians.

jealousy

covetousness

bitterness

pride

gossip

impatience

anger

boasting

greed

unforgiveness

3. Even Jesus' disciples found that selfishness damages Christian love and unity.

Read Matthew 20:20-24.

a. With whom were the ten disciples angry? _____

b. Why were they angry? _____

4. You can be reconciled with God and with one another because Christ lives in you. Read 1 John 1:7. What is the source of Christian fellowship?

5. When you become aware of a broken relationship you must try to correct it. There are three reasons you should do this:

a. **First**, wrong relationships with fellow Christians hurt your relationship with God. Write in your own words what is said in the following verses:

1 John 4:20-21 _____

Matthew 6:14-15 _____

b. **Second**, you are commanded to restore relationships. Write what the following verses teach you about restoring relationships:

Matthew 5:23-24 _____

Matthew 18:21-22 _____

c. **Third**, you are to restore broken relationships because relationships affect your witness to lost people.

Read John 13:34-35, and tick the mark of a true believer.

____ (1) Galilean accent

____ (2) love for one another

____ (3) the sign of the fish

How can you tell others of the love of God if you are unloving toward fellow believers? God gave you the work of making others his friends in the same way that he changed his enemies to become his friends through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:18)

6. Seeking out a person to make wrong relationships right requires courage and love. As a Christian you must do it quickly. It is easy to delay and hope the problem will solve itself. Hebrews 12:15 explains what happens when Christians do not solve such problems quickly. What is the danger? Underline the correct answer.
- a. The person may forget about it.
 - b. You may decide not to forgive him.
 - c. It allows bitterness to build up.
7. Read Matthew 5:23-24. These verses command you to put broken relationships right. The person at the altar may be the offender or the one offended.

If you have caused the offense, what does 1 John 1:9 say you should do?

Confession to God brings his forgiveness. You do not have to wonder if God will forgive you. Whenever you have wronged another person you must confess your specific offense and ask for his forgiveness.

8. After you have asked for forgiveness, you may need to restore the relationship. Zacchaeus followed his confession with a promise to give back four times what he had taken unjustly. (Luke 19:8)

Underline the statements below which you think will help to restore relationships?

- a. Tell others involved that you were wrong.
 - b. Publicly take back any statements made that were gossip, slander, untrue or unkind.
 - c. Return stolen property.
 - d. Replace or repair damaged property.
9. If you have been offended by a Christian, you may want to wait for that person to take the first step toward solving the problem. However, in Matthew 18:15-17, Jesus instructs the offended person to take action. Read these verses, and number the following events in their proper order.
- a. If the presence of witnesses does not win your brother back, take the matter to the church.
 - b. Go to the one who offends you and seek reconciliation.

- ___ c. If the two of you can agree, the relationship is restored.
 - ___ d. If the offender refuses to be reconciled, take two or more Christian friends with you and seek reconciliation.
 - ___ e. A Christian brother offends you.
 - ___ f. If the offender fails to accept the advice of the church, consider him as a sinner. Continue to love him and pray for him.
10. When you meet with the person, admit your mistakes or ask if you have done something that has caused the problem. Relationship problems are spiritual. How does prayer help solve these problems?
-
-
11. Matthew 18:15-17 suggests that other persons should witness your attempt at reconciliation. How can a witness (or peacemaker) help in addition to listening to what is said?
-
-
12. A witness, or peacemaker, should be a mature, Spirit-led Christian who listens to both sides fairly. Read Galatians 6:1 and explain the work of a peacemaker?
-
-
13. Your responsibility in reconciliation is as follows:
- a. Try every way you can to bring healing to a relationship.
 - b. Forgive the other person.
 - c. Forgive yourself as God has forgiven you.
 - d. Be open and pray for future opportunity for reconciliation.

Read again Matthew 5:23-24. Where does the Christian end the process of reconciliation?

You end the process where you began—before God in worship.

14. Ask God to show you right now anyone whom you may have offended, or who has offended you to the point that you are unable to worship in peace. What action will you take to restore the relationship?
-
-

**SUMMARY OF SIX STEPS TO TAKE TO RESTORE A BROKEN
RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER BELIEVER**

1. A Christian brother offends you.
2. Go to the one who offends you and seek reconciliation.
3. If the two of you can agree, the relationship is restored.
4. If the offender refuses to be reconciled, take two or more Christian friends with you and seek reconciliation.
5. If the presence of witnesses does not win your brother back, take the matter to the church.
6. If the offender fails to accept the advice of the church, consider him as a sinner. Continue to love him and pray for him.

MY WALK WITH THE MASTER, LESSON 15

SPENDING TIME WITH THE MASTER

- Have a Quiet Time each day. You may choose one or more of the assignments listed under **LIVING IN GOD'S WORD** or **PRAYING IN FAITH** to include in your Quiet Time.

Read "How to Use the Spiritual Armour to Help a Friend." Use it to help you examine yourself before God.

LIVING IN GOD'S WORD

- Read your Bible and record in your "Quiet Time Notes" what you learned.

Complete the Bible study "Spiritual Gifts in the Body."

- Memorize 1 Peter 4:10.

Memorize John 3:16 and Romans 6:23.

- Revise all the Scripture verses in lessons 1-13 once a week. Revise the verses in lesson 14-15 every day.

PRAYING IN FAITH

- Pray every day this week with your husband or wife if at all possible. If you are not married, pray with a friend. Use conversational prayer part of the time.

FELLOWSHIPING WITH BELIEVERS.

- Complete the "Relationship Evaluation Form" (p.188) with other family members or friends. You will need to copy the form for them to use.

- Read "How to Make Peace with Others."

Write the names of those in the "People of Your Concern" list with whom you need to restore fellowship. Begin to restore fellowship with the person you think will be most difficult. Pray

through **THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR** before going to talk to this person.

WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

Share your testimony with someone this week.

SERVING OTHERS

Explain **THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR** to someone whom you think it will help. Get them to listen by saying that you need to practise it for MasterLife. When you finish, ask: "Was my presentation clear? Do you have any questions?"

HOW TO MAKE PEACE WITH OTHERS

An unforgiving spirit damages the work of God and destroys the peace among his children. Being at peace with others is necessary if you are to live a life of victory and lead others to Christ. Sometimes things happen that cause a break in fellowship with others.

The Bible gives clear commands and instructions on how to restore fellowship. Use the following as a guide:

RESPONSIBILITY TO SEEK PEACE

1. Your responsibility is to seek peace. "Try to be at peace with everyone..." (Hebrews 12:14).
 - a. Seek reconciliation with anyone you have offended or have not forgiven.
 - b. Try to be reconciled with anyone who has something against you whether you are wrong or not.
 - c. Try to be reconciled with anyone who has wronged you.
 - d. Try to keep peace among Christians.
2. Your responsibility is to be pure and holy. (Hebrews 12:14-15)
 - a. First, ask the Lord to cleanse you.
 - b. Then try to have right relationships with others.
 - c. Look for opportunities to make peace rather than to gossip or speak evil about others.
3. Your responsibility is to prevent bitterness and resentment. (Hebrews 12:15)
 - a. Unforgiven sin causes bitterness that produces poison and causes much trouble.
 - b. The bitterness from broken relationships continues to grow.

RESOURCES FOR SEEKING PEACE

Below are three necessary resources to help you as you try to be reconciled with another person:

1. Forgiveness of God (Matthew 18:21-35)

- a. God has forgiven you of greater sins than anyone has ever committed against you. Your sins sent his Son to the cross.
 - b. You can forgive others because you have been forgiven. Sometimes others have not experienced the grace, love and joy of forgiving.
2. Fellowship with God (1 John 1:3-7)
- a. Walk openly and honestly with God in the light as Jesus did. Do not try to hide anything from God.
 - b. Walk openly and honestly with others in the light. This means when the Holy Spirit leads, you should confess your sin to other believers as well as to God. (James 5:16)
 - c. God wants you to have complete fellowship with him and with others. Confessing your sins to God opens your relationship with him. Confessing your sins to others opens your relationship with them.
3. The Holy Spirit has shown you a need. He is also at work in the other person. He wants to use you to help the other person become aware of the working of the Holy Spirit.

MAKING PEACE

1. When you try to make peace with another person do not do so in a group. Talk to that person privately.
2. Confess your own faults.
 - a. The right way to confess:

Say: "I've been thinking about our relationship, and the Lord has shown me (my wrong attitude) toward you and (if it applies) the problem I have caused by (name wrong actions)."

Some wrong attitudes are: an unforgiving spirit, bitterness, resentment, pride and a judgemental attitude.

Some wrong actions are: avoiding you, gossiping about you, criticizing you, arguing with you and tempting you.

Do not say, "Perhaps I have..." or, "If I have...." You are confessing a sin the Holy Spirit has shown you. You should not try to get the other person to say your sin is small. The other person may have wronged you; but if you reacted with a bad attitude or action you must confess this sin. Let the Holy Spirit show the other person his sin.

Continue by saying: "I have asked God to forgive me, and I believe he has. Now I would like to ask you to forgive me."

The other person may try to make your sin seem small rather than take the responsibility to forgive you. He may say, "It is nothing," or "I have done the same thing," or "Never mind" or "Forget it."

Then say something such as this: "Well, I don't know how you feel about it, but it is important for me to know you forgive me and to hear you say so. If you can forgive me, please say so." If that person does not want to forgive you, then say, "I'm sorry for what I have done, and I hope someday you can forgive me."

- b. The wrong way to confess is to blame the other person or to excuse your sin by saying: "I just can not seem to get along with you," or "I acted wrongly, but you had done (name the action), and I...." (You are saying that the other person is really at fault.)

Note: You may not be aware of any sin, and you may not know what the problem is. If the Holy Spirit does not show you anything, skip number 2 and move to number 3 as follows.

3. Ask if you have offended the person in any way.

- a. If that person says yes, then ask him to tell you how you have offended him. Be sure to listen and try to understand the other person's point of view.

If what he says is true, ask the person to forgive you. If it is not true, state the truth as clearly as you can. Perhaps the facts are stated correctly, but the other person misunderstood your motive. Tell him you did not intend to leave that impression or had never viewed the situation like that. Promise to be more careful about your actions in the future.

- b. If the person says, "No, you have not offended me," ask why he thinks your relationship has not been the best.

Some hidden problems may be revealed. The person may feel that no problem exists. If so, accept that opinion and agree to love and help each other.

4. If another Christian has sinned against you, express your feelings to that one in a spirit of love. (Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1)

- a. Do not ignore the problem. If you ignore the problem, you keep sin in your life. Read Hebrews 12:15 again. By facing the problem, you may help the other person to seek God's forgiveness. That person may not even be aware of the problem or may not know anyone else is aware of it.
 - b. Read and obey Matthew 18:15. If you do not succeed in being reconciled, ask two or more mature Christians to help you seek peace.
 - c. It may be necessary for you to ask the church congregation to help bring about reconciliation. If this effort fails then you and the church must accept the fact that this person has separated himself from you and from the church.
 - d. You should always keep in mind that you are trying to make peace. You are not trying to prove that you are right. This way of reconciliation will work only if you truly desire peace and unity between you and a Christian brother or sister.
5. Pray together that God will help you both to walk in his light and have right relationships in the future.
 6. Examine prayerfully all your relationships with others.
 - a. Make a list of all the people with whom you need to be reconciled.
 - b. Use this guide to bring about peace beginning with the most difficult situation first. It is usually better to start with the most difficult situation and solve it and then move on to the others.
 - c. Continue to seek reconciliation until you fulfil God's command. "Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody" (Romans 12:18).

HOW TO USE THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR TO HELP A FRIEND

THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR presentation (pp. 181-185) gives you a pattern for prayer and a tool to help struggling believers. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Ask questions like the ones below in order to help a friend who may come to you for advice about a spiritual problem. Use the suggestions in THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR presentation to give this person instructions.

THE HELMET OF SALVATION (John 5:24)

1. Do you know if you are born again?
2. Do you have assurance of your salvation and your relationship with the Lord?
3. When were you born again?
4. How has being born again made a difference in your life?

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Romans 5:19)

1. Are you depending on Christ for your righteousness?
2. As far as you know, have you confessed all your sins? (1 John 1:9)
3. God has forgiven you. Have you forgiven yourself for the sins God has forgiven?
4. Are you living a life that pleases God?

THE BELT OF TRUTH (Ephesians 4:15)

1. Are you living and speaking the truth in all you do and say?
2. Are you always honest?
3. Is what you do true, right, fair and kind?

SHOES OF READINESS TO ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS (Romans 1:16)

1. Are you a good representative of the gospel?
2. Are you willing to take the gospel message to other people?
3. Are you witnessing to others?

SHIELD OF FAITH (2 Timothy 1:7)

1. Are you believing and trusting God to meet all your needs?
2. Do you live with fear or by faith?
3. Have you asked God for courage to live according to his Word?
4. Is your faith based on God's Word?
5. Does doubt keep you from being all God wants you to be?

Now explain to your friend that the five pieces of armour you have discussed are all defensive. They are intended to protect the soldier against the enemy, that is, to protect the Christian against Satan. But God wants you to be active in fighting against Satan, and you need offensive weapons with which to do this. God provides you with the best weapon, the **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD**. Learn to use it.

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (Psalms 119:11)

1. Is the Word of God your most important guide in facing the world, the flesh and the devil?
2. Are you hearing, reading, studying and memorizing God's Word?
3. Are you meditating on and obeying God's Word?
4. Do you use the Scriptures when tempted?
5. Are you using the Scriptures in witnessing?
6. Do you listen for God to speak to you?

Bible Study

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BODY

Jesus' call to discipleship requires all you have and are. The call to salvation is a call to ministry. How can you do the work of ministry?

This study should enable you to:

- explain the meaning of spiritual gifts.
- recognize the difference between spiritual gifts, the fruit of the Spirit and talents.
- explain how spiritual gifts are given to each person.
- explain how spiritual gifts are to be used in the church.

Complete the following.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-14. In verse 4 the word, gifts, means "grace gift." It is a gift which is given because of the love of the giver, not because the one who receives the gift deserves it.

In Romans 12:6 what did Paul say is the basis for our being given spiritual gifts? Underline the right answer.
 - a. God's needs
 - b. God's requirements
 - c. God's grace
2. God has given every Christian spiritual gifts to equip him for service. Spiritual gifts are special abilities given by God to believers to enable them to build up the body of Christ and to do God's work in the world.

How many gifts are mentioned in each of these verses? Write the number in the blank.

- ___ a. Romans 12:6-8
- ___ b. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10
- ___ c. 1 Corinthians 12:28-30
- ___ d. Ephesians 4:11
- ___ e. 1 Peter 4:11

3. Spiritual gifts are different from the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23. No Christian can possess all the gifts of the Spirit, but every Christian should produce all the fruit of the Spirit.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:29-30. What is the main truth about which Paul was writing?

4. You develop the fruit of the Spirit as you yield yourself more and more to the Spirit's control. The Christlike qualities (Galatians 5:22-23) are to become part of your life.

Spiritual gifts enable you to serve God with your life. Spiritual fruit represents the kind of person you are to be. Spiritual gifts emphasize what you are equipped to do.

In the list below underline the spiritual gifts and tick (✓) the fruit of the Spirit.

healing, love, joy, preaching, helping, kindness, teaching, peace

5. Spiritual gifts differ from talents. We have talents from birth, but we receive spiritual gifts when we are born again. Gifts are God-given and only Christians can receive them. Talents are natural abilities and even unbelievers have them. (Singing is an example of a talent.)

Christians are to use their talents for God's service.

Beside the list below, write the word GIFT, TALENT or FRUIT:

- _____ a. spiritual abilities given by God
_____ b. natural abilities
_____ c. Christlike qualities
_____ d. given to believers to enable them to serve God
_____ e. can be had as we yield to the Spirit

6. Every believer has been given at least one spiritual gift. Read 1 Peter 4:10 and 1 Corinthians 12:7. Because these gifts are given by God, you cannot choose what you prefer. Read 1 Corinthians 12:11. How are spiritual gifts given to each person?
-

7. In 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 Paul explained that you are not to covet the gifts of other believers nor despise your own gift. What was Paul saying in verses 17-20?

8. God knows how he wants to use you. He gives you spiritual gifts that enable you to help the body of Christ work well. How would you answer someone who says the gift of preaching is superior to the gift of serving?

9. Do you know which gift or gifts you have been given? Read the verses in question 2 again. Write what you consider to be your spiritual gifts.

If you do not know which spiritual gifts you have been given, pray now for God to show you. At the end of MasterLife, the group will spend several hours trying to help each person discover his gifts.

10. Every believer should know his gift(s) and allow the Holy Spirit to develop it (them). But what is the purpose of spiritual gifts in the church? _____ Are they given as rewards for good works? _____ Are they to be used for personal gain? _____

How does 1 Corinthians 14:12 suggest we are to use our gifts?

Tick (✓) one.

- to rule over others
 to help build up the church
 to gain position

11. Spiritual gifts are for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ and preparing God's people for service. This truth is also stated in Ephesians 4:11-12. In this Scripture who is to serve and build up the Body of Christ?

12. Some Christians have been appointed to enable all believers to serve and build up the Body of Christ. Otherwise, they would be like children who are easily led astray. (Ephesians 4:14) What is the measure of maturity given in Ephesians 4:13?
-

13. Spiritual gifts should be used to care for each member of the body. Read 1 Corinthians 12:25-26. Christians are to be so united with one another that when one member suffers, all suffer. When one member rejoices, all rejoice.

If one member in a family were to have a terrible accident, all members would be deeply concerned. Believers should have such unity. We must be concerned for each member's well-being.

How do our different spiritual gifts affect each other?

14. Different gifts bind believers into one body. In this way every person can minister to someone. What did Paul tell Timothy to do about developing his gift? (2 Timothy 1:6)
-

15. Unfortunately spiritual gifts can be misused. There is a warning in 1 John 4:1 to test the spirits. However, we must not neglect the Holy Spirit and his gifts just because some people misuse or abuse them.

According to 1 Corinthians 14:1, what should be present in the life of a person who uses his spiritual gifts wisely?

16. Believers are to be filled with love and the other fruit of the Spirit. Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians), a church that was arguing over which gifts were best. The great love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, is between two chapters dealing with spiritual gifts. Paul said love was much better than any spiritual gift.

Underline the true test of the Spirit-filled life;

ability to preach

speaking in tongues

fruit of the Spirit

17. Believers who use their spiritual gifts in a loving way will bring unity to the church. (Ephesians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:25) Is your church fellowship united? Based on 1 Corinthians 12:25, tell how you can help bring about this unity in your church.

MY WALK WITH THE MASTER, LESSON 16

SPENDING TIME WITH THE MASTER

- Meet God in your Quiet Time. You may choose one or more of the assignments under **LIVING IN GOD'S WORD** or **PRAYING IN FAITH** to include in your Quiet Time.

LIVING IN GOD'S WORD

- Listen to a sermon. Do not make notes. When you return home write what you remember about it.
- Read your Bible daily according to your plan for reading the Bible through.
- Complete the Bible study, "A Vision of Your Life Purpose and Goals."
- Memorize John 10:10b and Ephesians 3:20-21.
Memorize John 14:3.
- Revise all the verses of **THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS**.
- Revise daily all the verses of the past four lessons.

PRAYING IN FAITH

- Read "How to Pray for Others."
- Read "How to Develop Your Personal Prayer Notebook."

FELLOWSHIPING WITH BELIEVERS

- Continue to seek reconciliation with persons named in your "People of Your Concern" lists. Pray about them until you feel good about every relationship.
- Read "How to Help One Another Be Disciplined." Be ready to discuss the plan you want to choose to help you be disciplined.

WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

- Visit an unsaved person. Witness to that person. If you are not sure about how to witness, ask someone who is more experienced to go with you.

SERVING OTHERS

- Learn well **THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR** presentation using your own words. Use Ephesians 6:10-18 and as many of the other verses as you can. Give the presentation to another member of the group.

Be alert to the opportunity to counsel someone about a spiritual problem. Use "How to Use the Spiritual Armour to Help a Friend" (pp. 202-203).

Bible Study

A VISION OF YOUR LIFE PURPOSE AND GOALS

“Where there is no vision the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18, KJV). People with a vision are those who have changed the world.

This study will help you determine your life purposes and set life goals that are in keeping with God’s plan for your life. At the end of this study, you should be able to:

- explain the relationship between a life purpose and life goals.
- list three parts of the life purpose given in Mark 12:29-31.
- list three characteristics of life goals.
- evaluate your own life purpose and life goals.

Complete the following:

1. One of the blessings of being a Christian is that you have a purpose for living. You have a vision of what your life can be like in Christ.

What was Jesus’ purpose for living as stated in John 4:31-34?

2. A life purpose is the most important purpose (main objective) to be accomplished in your life. Everything else you choose to do should be done in order to accomplish that purpose. A life purpose helps you decide what is important. It gives direction for your daily activities and helps you decide what should come first.

Do you have a life purpose? What is it?

3. Some people spend their lives trying to be successful. Others desire wealth or fame. Still others try to find happiness, love and security through human relationships.

The writer of Ecclesiastes tried to find satisfaction in all these ways. What were his conclusions in Ecclesiastes 12:13?

4. Jesus summarized the commandments to man in Mark 12:29-31. Read these verses.

Jesus called attention to three parts of his purpose for our lives.

- a. Love God with all your being.
- b. Love others.
- c. Love yourself.

When Jesus taught his followers he emphasized the importance of the first commandment. Read Matthew 6:33. Write what Jesus said to put first in life?

5. Does your life purpose involve loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? _____

Write a statement of your life purpose in relation to God. _____

6. If the first part of your life purpose is to please God, the second part should be to love your neighbours as yourself. Read John 13:34-35, and write a statement of your life purpose in relation to others.
-
-

7. The third part of this life purpose is suggested in Jesus' statement in Mark 12:29-31. It is loving yourself. Jesus realized that there is a relationship between your ability to love others and your ability to love yourself as a person created by God.

Write T before the statement that is TRUE.

a. It is right for a person to love himself.

b. Caring for yourself is sinful.

8. Only when you love yourself in the right way will you be what God really wants you to be. Read Romans 8:15-17. Tick (✓) the best reason for you to feel you are worthy and that you should love yourself.

a. The things you possess

b. The work you do

c. The praise you receive from people

d. The fact that you are a child of God

e. The tribe of which you are a part.

9. Mark 12:29-31 illustrates the three parts of the life purpose of a believer.

-If you love God, you want to be like him. You want to achieve his purpose for you.

-If you love your neighbours, you want them to have all God intended for them, including eternal life.

-If you love yourself, you want to be all God intends you to be.

Recall and list the three parts of the life purpose of a believer.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

10. Your life goals will differ from your life purpose. Life goals are convictions about what God would have you do as you move in faith with him to achieve his purpose for your life. These goals are necessary for achieving your life purpose.

Jesus' life purpose was to do the will of God and finish his work which was the redemption of all people. To achieve that purpose his life goals included (a) training his disciples to carry on his work, (b) dying on a cross and (c) rising from the dead on the third day.

Explain the relationship between your life purpose and life goals.

11. The goals Jesus set had these characteristics:

- They were revealed by the Father, not decided by man.
- They were large enough that they could only be accomplished with God's power.
- They made it possible for him to do what God wanted him to do on earth.

a. The first characteristic of your goals is they must be revealed by the Father, not decided by man. Jesus is your example. He did only those things the Father had revealed to him. Read Mark 8:31-33. Which of the following was God's goal, and which was man's goal?

____ (1) Jesus would suffer, die and rise again.

____ (2) Jesus would remain with them as an earthly king.

b. The second characteristic of personal goals reminds you that only God's power working in you can achieve them. (Colossians 1:28-29) In Colossians 1:28 Paul said his goal was to present everyone mature in Christ. In verse 29 he explained how he would do this. He said he would use the strength which Christ gives.

Why do you think God wants to be the source of strength for achieving his purposes? _____

c. The third characteristic is that life goals make it possible for you to achieve your life purpose. They help you know what to put first in your life. Many times as a Christian your choices are not between good and evil, but between what is good and what is best. Satan would always have you choose to do good things rather than the best things.

12. List the three characteristics of life goals.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

13. When you make important choices in life such as what work you will do or whom you will marry, you must ask: Will this choice help me to achieve God's purpose for my life? If so, then the goal is worthy of your efforts to attain it. Beware! If you set life goals without first setting your life purpose, you may substitute your goals for God's purpose.

Tick (✓) the following statements that you think are benefits for setting life goals that please God.

- a. They help you decide if your actions are hindering you or helping you to accomplish God's purposes for you.
- b. They keep you from making wrong choices.
- c. They help you plan for the future.
- d. They bring peace and calm to your life in times of confusion.

14. Listed below are six decisions which a person might make. Write P for PURPOSE beside those that relate to life purpose. Write G for GOAL beside those that are steps to help a person achieve his life purpose.

- a. to choose a good job
- b. to marry a Christian
- c. to live for the glory of God
- d. to love my neighbour
- e. to use my home as a place to serve God
- f. to accept myself as God accepts me

15. Joshua 14:6-14 illustrates the importance of having a vision of a life purpose and life goals. Caleb was a highly respected elder. When the land was being divided among the tribes of Israel, Caleb would have been given the very best land if he had wanted it. Instead, Caleb asked for the rough hill country which he had walked over when he was sent with eleven others to see the land of Canaan and bring back a report. At that time God promised Caleb the land he had visited. Now, as an old man,

Caleb asked for that very land. He believed God would help him conquer it because he had obeyed God fully. Read the story and answer the following questions:

a. What was Caleb's life purpose? (verse 8)

b. What was Caleb's specific life goal? (verse 12)

c. How do you know his goal came from God? (verses 9-10)

d. Was his goal attainable without God? (verse 12)

e. How did his goal fit in with his life purpose? (verse 14)

16. Caleb followed God fully in taking possession of Hebron. What evidence do you have that goals you are presently working toward will help you attain your life purpose?

Ephesians 3:20-21 should encourage you and help you to understand that God's power working in you can enable you to accomplish his purpose for your life.

HOW TO HELP ONE ANOTHER BE DISCIPLINED

Most people need others to help them be disciplined. Different personality types need different kinds of help. One type needs lots of help; another type needs very little help. Most of us fit into one of these types. Which one of the plans below would help you the most? If you do not need help to be disciplined, be ready to help someone who does.

1. Friendship Plan

The Friendship Plan works best for people who do not like to set goals and work toward them. Two or more people agree to help each other reach some goals. They pray for each other. They encourage each other. They agree on a way to check on each other's progress. Some might want to be checked on a weekly basis, some might not. The purpose of the Friendship Plan is to help each other to continue to make progress in reaching their goals.

2. Self-Disciplined Plan

You might feel that you need very little help to reach your goals. Perhaps there is only one area, such as Scripture memory, in which you want a friend to check on your progress. If that is true you might want to choose the Self-Disciplined Plan. The following suggestions will help you as you learn to discipline yourself;

- a. Choose someone to help you who is better than you are in the area in which you are weakest.
- b. Set goals for yourself. Try to do better each month than you did the month before.
- c. Plan in advance. Any goal worth reaching will take time. Commit yourself to a plan for reaching your goals. Then continue to change and improve your goals.
- d. Make an effort to do something you have never done before.

Two people can use the same plan or each can use a different plan. No matter which plan you use, remember that it is Christ who makes it possible for you to reach your goals. He will enable you to do his will and to fulfil the plans he has for you.

HOW TO PRAY FOR OTHERS (Intercession)

THE BIBLE TEACHES US TO PRAY FOR OTHERS.

(1 Timothy 2:1-8)

Paul urges us to pray. In this passage Paul urged Christians to do the following:

1. Make prayer for others your priority. (verse 1) "First of all" speaks of the importance and priority of intercession.
2. Intercede using all kinds of prayer. (verse 1)
 - a. Petitions
 - b. Prayers
 - c. Requests
 - d. Thanksgivings
3. Intercede for the following people: (verses 1-2, 4)
 - a. Everyone (verse 1)
 - b. Kings (verse 2)
 - c. All others in authority (verse 2)
 - d. All the unsaved (verse 4)
4. Intercede for these reasons: (verses 2, 6)
 - a. That we may live a quiet and peaceful life (verse 2)
 - b. That we may live with reverence toward God (verse 2)
 - c. That we may live a life that pleases God (verse 2)
 - d. That all persons might be saved (verse 6)
5. Intercede in each church service. (verse 8)
6. The one who prays must have a pure heart: (verse 8)
 - a. Be dedicated to God
 - b. Be able to lift his hands in prayer without anger or argument

EXAMPLES OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER IN THE BIBLE

1. The Bible teaches you to pray on the basis of who God is, that is, according to his character.
 - a. God's goodness: "They will tell about all your goodness and sing about your kindness" (Psalms 145:7).

- b. God's mercy: "...From one generation to another he shows mercy to those who honour him" (Luke 1:50).
 - c. God's name: "...That all the nations of the world will know that only you, O Lord, are God" (2 Kings 19:19).
 - d. God's promises: "Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Remember the solemn promise you made to them..." (Exodus 32:13).
2. The work of the intercessor is to plead before God on behalf of others.
- a. Moses prayed: "Please forgive their sin; but if you won't, then remove my name from the book in which you have written the names of your people" (Exodus 32:32).
 - b. Paul prayed: "My brothers, how I wish with all my heart that my own people might be saved! How I pray to God for them" (Romans 10:1).
 - c. Jesus prayed: "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those you gave me..." (John 17:9).
3. The intercessor is to be persistent.
- a. Epaphras: Paul wrote to the Colossian Christians about Epaphras "...He always prays fervently for you, asking God to make you stand firm, as mature and fully convinced Christians, in complete obedience to God's will" (Colossians 4:12).
 - b. Parable of the friend who kept on praying. (Luke 11:5-10)
 - c. Abraham pleaded with God to spare Lot, and he did. (Genesis 18:22 to 19:15)
4. The Lord and the Holy Spirit are our partners when we intercede in prayer.
- a. Jesus: "...Christ Jesus, who died, or rather, who was raised to life and is at the right-hand side of God, pleading with him for us!" (Romans 8:34). See also John 17.
 - b. Holy Spirit: "...The Spirit pleads with God on behalf of his people and in accordance with his will" (Romans 8:27).
5. The promise of intercession is sure.
- a. Matthew 7:7: "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you."
 - b. James 5:16: "...The prayer of a good person has a powerful effect."

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER NOTEBOOK

PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER NOTEBOOK

1. To help you organize your personal life, your prayer life and to prepare for long times of prayer.
2. To equip you to minister to your world through prayer.
3. To remind you to pray for persons and things you might forget.
4. To enable you to evaluate your own spiritual growth and walk with the Master.

ORGANIZING YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER NOTEBOOK

Get a notebook or an exercise book. In the front of your book copy the following list of prayer resources with the page numbers:

"The Disciple's Cross" (p. 29-32)

"Guide to Praise" (p. 49)

"My Prayer List" (p. 56)

"The Disciple's Personality"

Part A (p. 83-86)

Part B (p. 88-89)

"Conversational Prayer" (p. 105)

Bible Studies:

"Truth and Faith" (p. 117-120)

"Praying in Faith" (p. 135-138)

"Planning Your Witness" (p. 121-123)

"How to Use the Form For Praying in Faith" (p. 150-152)

"The Spiritual Armour" (p. 181-185)

"How to Use the Spiritual Armour to Help a Friend" (p. 202)

"Guide to Confession and Forgiveness" (p. 242)

"How to Pray for Others" (p. 218)

Divide your notebook into two parts. You will write your prayer lists in the first part and your life purpose and goals in the second part.

1. **Prayer Lists:** Below are suggestions of those you might want to include in your prayer lists. You will pray for some of these every day. Organize your prayer lists to pray for others on a particular day of the week.

Every Day: List on a separate page in your "Personal Prayer Notebook" each one for whom you want to pray every day. These may include family members, disciples and others. The following is an example:

MY SON, STEPHEN

Date	Prayer Request	Date	Answered
Oct. 6	Pass his driving test	Oct. 7	Passed exam
Nov. 4	Be accepted into college	Dec. 9	Accepted for Teacher Training

Weekly: Arrange your lists according to the days of the week. Suggestions of those you may want to include and an example are as follows:

SUNDAY: FAMILY MEMBERS AND RELATIVES

Date	Prayer request	Date	Answered
Jan. 1	My brother, John, to get a job.	Feb. 1	Began working today
Feb. 4	Uncle Joseph to be saved	Nov. 6	Uncle is saved

Monday: Church leaders and disciples

Tuesday: Neighbours and acquaintances

Wednesday: Projects and schedules

Thursday: Missionaries and unsaved

Friday: Government leaders and countries of the world

Saturday: Close friends and fellow workers

2. Personal Guidance

Prepare the following lists in the second part of your "Personal Prayer Notebook." Use a separate page for each one.

My Life Purpose (Example: to live my life in obedience to God)

My Life Goals (Example: to let God's Word be my guide)

My Yearly Goals (Example: to read the Bible through this year)

My Monthly Goals (Example: to study the book of Philippians)

My Weekly Goals (Example: to memorize two Scripture verses)

USING YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER NOTEBOOK

1. Use your Personal Prayer Notebook every day.
 - a. Pray for persons on your daily prayer list.
 - b. Pray for those on the list you have written for each day of the week.
2. Continue to develop the second part of your Personal Prayer Notebook.

If you have not yet written life goals, start where you are in your spiritual growth. Pray about your goals, and plan to write them on the half day of prayer. Let your Personal Prayer Notebook grow as you use it.
3. Plan to spend a half day in prayer once a month in a place where you will not be interrupted.
4. Plan a yearly evaluation time. During this evaluation time think about the progress you have made in the six areas of discipleship:
 - a. Spending Time With the Master
 - b. Living in God's Word
 - c. Praying in Faith
 - d. Fellowshiping with Believers
 - e. Witnessing to the World
 - f. Serving Others

You should be growing in each of the six areas. If you are not, write goals that will help you to do so.
5. Continue to develop your Personal Prayer Notebook to meet your needs. Each person's notebook will differ in size and use. This is your personal project and will only be valuable to you if you use it. Your notebook can show you how well you are following God's leadership in your life. It can give you new insights on what he wants you to do. Also it can be a witness to others as you share your answers to prayer.

MY WALK WITH THE MASTER, LESSON 17

SPENDING TIME WITH THE MASTER

- Have a Quiet Time every day. Choose one or more of the assignments listed under LIVING IN GOD'S WORD or PRAYING IN FAITH to use in your Quiet Time.

Record the time spent each day in your Quiet Time.

_____ Sunday, _____ Monday, _____ Tuesday,
_____ Wednesday, _____ Thursday, _____ Friday,
_____ Saturday

LIVING IN GOD'S WORD

- Read your Bible every day and write down truths you learned. Vary your Bible reading. Each week read some from Psalms and Proverbs as you continue to read through the Bible.
- Complete the Bible study, "Disciples are Servants."
- Memorize 2 Chronicles 16:9a.
- Memorize Romans 3:23.
- Revise the first half of all verses memorized so far in MasterLife.
- Revise the second half of the verses memorized in MasterLife.

PRAYING IN FAITH

- Continue to prepare your "Personal Prayer Notebook" for use during the half day of prayer.
- Ask your prayer partner to pray for you as you seek God's will for your life during the half day of prayer.

FELLOWSHIPING WITH BELIEVERS

- Spend some quality time with a member of your family. Do something this person is interested in doing. If you do not live with your family, choose a friend for this activity.

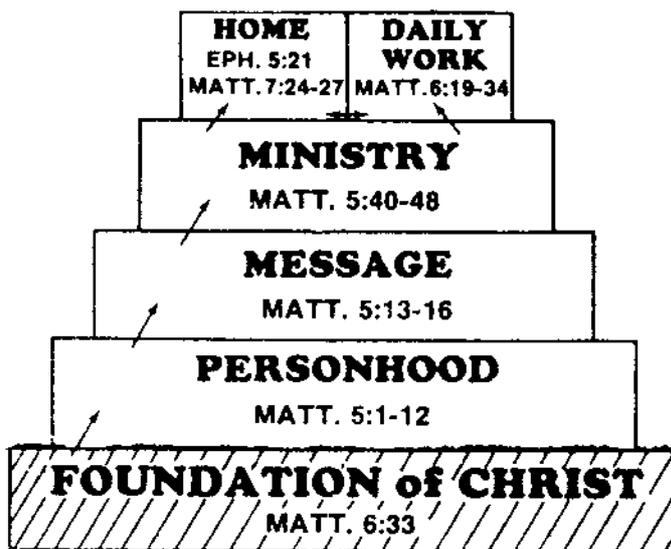
WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

- Relate to an unsaved person on your prayer list. Serve him, share a word of truth with him or give him your testimony.

SERVING OTHERS

- Read "Setting Life Goals." Begin writing your life purposes and goals. Do as many as you can before the half day of prayer.

SETTING LIFE GOALS



After you write your life purpose, commit yourself totally to Christ in carrying out that purpose. Then you will know what should come first in your life. If you are not sure that a specific action helps accomplish your life purpose, think and pray more about it.

A growing disciple has the mind of Christ more and more. (Philippians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 2:16) He knows where he is going in life. Paul tells the Christians at Ephesus: "So be careful how you live. Don't live like ignorant people, but like wise people" (Ephesians 5:15). It is exciting to know where you are going in life.

Your next step is to develop a plan for accomplishing your life purpose. There is so much to do. How do you decide what comes first?

The drawing at the beginning of this lesson shows you how to build a life according to God's plan. It will help you set goals in every area of life. Goals form the framework for building a life on God's plan. When a house is built the roof cannot be put on before the foundation is completed. In the same way, some things must come before others in your life. The first thing to consider in building your life is the foundation.

FOUNDATION OF CHRIST

Read Colossians 2:6-7; Matthew 6:33 and 1 Corinthians 3:11-13. The verses from Corinthians show a picture of building a life on Christ. First, one lays the foundation, then he builds the walls and roof upon the foundation. The builder must choose good materials and build wisely. Upon completion, the building inspector tests the work. (verse 13)

Build every part of your life on Jesus Christ. Ask yourself: Do Christ and his kingdom come first? Write some goals that will help you put Christ first. Examples of such goals are:

- a. My life goal is to abide in Christ.
- b. My life goal is to put Christ above any person.

PERSONHOOD

Read Matthew 5:1-12 and 1 Corinthians 3:11-13. You are the first building block to be placed on the foundation of Christ. In Jesus Christ you have become a new person. God will guide you to become all he wants you to be. The kind of person you are is more important to him than the occupation you choose. Your inner qualities are more important than your outside appearance. Ask yourself: What kind of person am I becoming?

Until God begins to reproduce Jesus' character in you, he cannot use you effectively. Study the following Scriptures, and learn from them about the kind of person God wants you to be. Being that person includes:

- newness in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- genuine assurance (1 John 5:11-13)
- self acceptance (Psalms 139:13-16)
- balanced growth (Luke 2:52)
- Spirit-filled life (Ephesians 5:18)
- gift discovery (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- clear conscience (Acts 24:16)
- fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- inner beauty (1 Peter 3:3-4)
- sexual purity (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)
- moral standards (Colossians 3:5-27)
- putting God first (Matthew 6:33)
- not conforming to the world (Romans 12:1-2)

Write some life goals that will lead you to be the person God wants you to be. Some examples are:

- a. My life goal is to experience fully my new life in Christ.
- b. My life goal is to accept myself as God accepts me.

MESSAGE

Read Matthew 5:13-16. Your life message is the second building block. This answers the questions: What do other people see in my life? What does my life say to them? Your life message grows out of who you are. It is what other people see you to be.

The message is developed by:

- making Christ central in your life. (Philippians 3:10)
- making God's Word part of your life. (Psalms 119:11; 2 Timothy 3:16)
- developing your spiritual gifts. (1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6)

Write some goals that will help you develop your life message. Some examples are:

- a. My life goal is to live the message by being dependable.
- b. My life goal is to live the message by being a witness.
- c. My life goal is to live the message by being a servant.

MINISTRY

Read Matthew 5:40-48 and John 15:13. Ministry flows out of your message and the person you are. When you drink the water Jesus gives, there is a natural overflow. (John 7:37-38)

Ministry answers the question: How can I share my life with other people?

Write some life goals related to ministry that include the following ideas:

- a. Use the gifts God has given you. (1 Peter 4:10)
- b. Share Christ. (1 Thessalonians 2:8; Acts 1:8)
- c. Make disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20; Colossians 1:28-29)
- d. Serve through the church. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- e. Influence the world where you live. (Matthew 5:13)
- f. Meet human need. (Matthew 25:34-40)

God has called you to a life of ministry. Walk with Christ, and become like him. See people through his eyes, and he will give you a ministry that will honour him.

HOME

Read Ephesians 5:21 and Matthew 7:24-27. The home is the most natural place to show Christ through your life. Sometimes it gives a more effective witness than the church. How can you make your home a base for ministry?

Because most people marry, an important question is: Who is the best person I can marry so we can have an effective ministry together? A growing disciple should consider marrying only a person who builds his or her life on Christ. Read Ephesians 5:21-33.

A man and a woman united in their commitment to Christ will find great joy in serving him together. Priscilla and Aquila are a biblical example of a couple whose home was a centre of Christian witness and worship. (Romans 16:3-5)

If you are single ask yourself: "Can my home be a place for ministry to other singles? Does being single allow me more time for ministry?"

Write some life goals related to marriage and your home. Some examples are:

- a. My life goal is to marry a Christian who has similar life goals.
- b. My life goal is to use my home as a base for witness.

DAILY WORK

Read Matthew 6:19-20 and Colossians 3:17, 23-24. God can use you as a witness in your work. Ask yourself the following questions: How can I allow Christ to minister through my life in my work? What kind of work would enable me to minister effectively in the world?

Daily work must be a centre for the Christian's ministry. If believers understood and practised this truth, the world would be changed. Do you work with all your heart, as though to please the Lord only? Or do you only work for money? Do you work as many hours as you are paid for? Do you have good relationships with fellow workers? These things speak a Christian message to the people around you and make them open to the gospel.

Begin to pray something like this: "Lord, as I work, make me aware of what you want me to be and do in order to show Jesus to my fellow workers."

Write some life goals concerning your work. Don't be afraid to consider being a pastor or other full-time church worker if that is what God wants you to do.

Some examples are:

- a. Make my work a place of ministry to others.
- b. Do my work in a way that will glorify God.
- c. Use work as an opportunity to help and encourage others.

Think again about the five building blocks used in building a life on Christ. These five things should have priority in your life.

Personhood - becoming all God wants you to be.

Message - becoming the evidence of God's love to others.

Ministry - allowing God's love to flow through you into the lives of others.

Home - joining your life partner in ministering through your family; or, if you are single, using your home as a base for ministry to the world.

Daily Work - using your job as a place of witness and ministry in the world.

Bible Study

DISCIPLES ARE SERVANTS

Every saved person has a responsibility to other Christians and to those who are lost.

The purpose of this study is to explain what it means for a disciple to be a servant. At the end of the study you should be able to:

- compare the world's measure of greatness with that of Christ.
- list two characteristics of a servant.
- explain the basis on which the lives and ministries of Christians will be judged.
- evaluate your ministry as a servant.

Complete the following learning activities:

WHAT IS GREATNESS?

1. The world thinks of greatness in terms of power and position. Those who are served by others are considered to be great.

Read Mark 10:42. How did Jesus characterize persons whom the world considered great? Tick (✓) the correct answer.

a. They ruled others.

b. They were meek and humble.

2. During this early ministry Jesus gave a new meaning to greatness. He taught his disciples that true greatness is serving others. (Mark 10:43-45)

The disciples knew what it meant to serve someone as a slave. Many of the early Christians were slaves. Jesus told the disciples they should become like servants or slaves.

Does the idea of being someone's servant appeal to you? Why or why not?

3. In the time of Jesus, a lord was a master who ruled over his slave. He owned his slave as property. The lord had the power of life and death over his slave.

Did Jesus accept the title of Lord? Read John 13:13-17 and circle your answer. YES NO

4. Jesus gave his disciples a new meaning of what it means to be a lord. He was Lord, but he placed the needs of his disciples above his own. In fact, he was their servant.

Throughout his ministry Jesus had tried to explain that true greatness is serving others. Match these Scripture references with the statements on the right.

- ___ a. Matthew 10:39 (1) If you want to be first, be the servant of all.
___ b. Mark 9:35 (2) The last will be first and the first will be last.
___ c. Luke 13:30 (3) The humble shall be made great.
___ d. Luke 14:11 (4) He who loses his life for my sake shall gain it.

5. Jesus was not thinking about the master-slave relationship of his time. Instead, he was saying that real discipleship is caring, loving service.

The world thinks of greatness as power and influence. They say if you can demand service from others, you are great.

How did Jesus define a great person? Read Matthew 20:26 and write the answer.

WHO IS A SERVANT?

6. The first characteristic of a servant is love. Love must be the motivation for service.
- a. How much did Jesus love his followers? Find the answer in John 15:12-13.

b. Jesus' whole life was an example of love. After his resurrection, he appeared to Peter by the seashore. Read their conversation in John 21:15-17. Tick (✓) the statement that explains what Jesus was saying to Peter:

- ___ (1) If you love me, you will become my shepherd.
___ (2) If you love me, you will feed the hungry.
___ (3) If you love me, you will take care of the needs of others.

c. Jesus knew that without love, serving others could become a selfish act. Jesus wants our service to be for the benefit of others.

(1) How did Jesus say we are to love each other? Read John 13:34.

(2) How do we show our love for Jesus? Read John 14:15 and write the answer.

7. The second characteristic of a servant is humility. Humility describes the kind of leader a servant should be.

a. In Matthew 23:1-12, Jesus told his disciples not to be like the religious leaders of their time. Do you think these leaders were humble? _____

Why? _____

b. Jesus said, "If you want to lead, be a servant. Be willing to give of yourself." Read Philippians 2:6-8 and explain how Jesus showed humility.

c. The disciples expected Jesus to be an earthly king who would destroy his enemies. Instead he taught them that whoever would be great must be a servant. How did Jesus teach them this truth? Read John 13:3-16.

Washing feet was an act done by a household servant. In the time of Jesus no respected lord would do this task. However Jesus made it clear by his example that a leader in his kingdom is to be a servant.

BY WHAT STANDARD WILL CHRISTIANS BE JUDGED?

8. The Bible tells us that the lives and ministries of all Christians will be judged by how they served others.

a. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Jesus told the story of the final judgment day. He identified the sheep and the goats by their actions toward others. List the things Jesus said the righteous would do on earth.

(1) _____ (4) _____

(2) _____ (5) _____

(3) _____ (6) _____

b. Read Luke 14:12-14. On what basis did Jesus judge?

9. Good plans are not enough. Compassion and concern are not enough. Our faith must be proved by our actions. What does James 2:15-16 tell us to do when we find a sister or a brother in need?

SUMMARY

10. Many of Jesus' teachings showed the believer as a servant. It is clear that he wanted his followers to serve rather than to be served.

a. List two characteristics of a servant:

John 15:12-13

Matthew 23:1-12

_____ and _____

b. On what basis will the lives and ministries of Christians be judged? Read Matthew 25:31-46.

11. Examine your service by answering the following questions:

a. Name some ways you are serving others now.

b. How can you serve others better?

c. What are the reasons for your service?

12. Meditate on this question: How would my church be different if:

a. all members loved others?

b. leaders were servants?

c. all members served others?

MY WALK WITH THE MASTER, LESSON 18

SPENDING TIME WITH THE MASTER

- Have a Quiet Time every day. You may choose one or more of the activities listed under LIVING IN GOD'S WORD or PRAYING IN FAITH to include in your Quiet Time.

Ask Christ to show you what you should pray about during the half day of prayer. Make lists in your "Personal Prayer Notebook."

LIVING IN GOD'S WORD

- Read "How to Lead an Unassigned Bible Study."
 Study Ephesians 5:21 to 6:4 about ministering to your family. Use the study questions on p. 247.

- Read your Bible every day, and write in your "Quiet Time Notes" what God says to you and what you want to say to him.

- Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9.

Memorize John 14:6.

Revise the verses you have memorized during lessons 14-17.

- Continue taking notes on sermons or Bible studies.

PRAYING IN FAITH

- Complete your "Personal Prayer Notebook" for use during the half day of prayer.

Use "Guide to Confession and Forgiveness" during the half day of prayer.

FELLOWSHIPING WITH BELIEVERS

- Visit a member of your church with whom you wish to develop a closer relationship.

WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

Share your faith with an unsaved person. If you are not sure how to witness, take a mature Christian with you.

SERVING OTHERS

- Read "How to Prepare for a Half Day of Prayer."
- Read the instructions for the half day of prayer (pp. 237-241). Put together the things that you will need to take with you (Quiet Time Notes, Bible, paper and pen, "Personal Prayer Notebook," memory verses, MasterLife books.)

Read "How Shall they Hear?" during the half day of prayer. Pray for the world.

Be sure you have completed all the assignments listed on "Master Completion Chart Four."

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A HALF DAY OF PRAYER

JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE

Jesus often went to quiet places to pray. He built his entire life and ministry on prayer. The Bible tells us Jesus prayed:

1. **When he was busy.** Jesus got up “a great while” before daybreak to pray. (Mark 1:35) He knew that time with his Father should come before time with people.
2. **When he was tired.** Once after a full day of work Jesus asked his disciples to go to the other side of the sea. Then he sent the people away and went up on a mountain to pray. (Matthew 14:23) At a time when we might have said we were too tired to pray, Jesus prayed.
3. **When he had a decision to make.** Before he chose his apostles, Jesus spent the whole night in prayer. (Luke 6:12)
4. **When he prepared to start his new ministry.** After his baptism Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to spend forty days fasting and praying. (Luke 4:1-2)
5. **When he faced the cross.** Jesus prayed three hours in Gethsemane before he went to his trial and crucifixion. (Matthew 26:39-44) A long time of prayer can prepare you for facing trials and sacrificial service.

THE LORD WILL TEACH YOU TO PRAY

After listening to Jesus pray, his disciples said, “...Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples” (Luke 11:1). They asked him to teach them to pray.

Jesus told you how to pray in Luke 11:2-4. As you pray the Holy Spirit will continue teaching you. You can never learn to pray unless you begin to pray. Jesus’ words to Peter disturb many people. “...How is it that you three were not able to keep watch with me for even one hour?” (Matthew 26:40).

WHEN SHOULD YOU PRAY?

1. **When you want to glorify God and express your love to him.** Prayers of praise and thanksgiving give glory to God.
2. **When you need fellowship with the Master.** As you spend time with the Master, you will realize that you need to spend more time with him.

3. **When you need guidance.** A longer time of prayer lets you see things from God's view. You can clear your mind and heart to receive his Word and his direction. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
4. **When you need strength.** Times of trial and temptation should cause you to pray. Too often, Christians allow such times to keep them from prayer. When you are weak, he is strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9)
5. **When you have a new opportunity for ministry.** The time of prayer will give you time to understand God's purposes and goals for your life. If you know those goals already, God may make you aware of a new phase of your ministry. He may help you do your present work better.
6. **When you need to be renewed spiritually.** God promised his people that he would forgive their sins and make their land prosperous. (2 Chronicles 7:14) That promise extends to his people today. Personal, national and international revival wait on the prayers of God's people.
7. **When others need your prayers.** If you love people who are in need, you will pray for them. Intercessory prayer is work, but its blessings are great.
8. **When the Lord's will is not being done on earth.** God wants all persons to come to a saving knowledge of the truth. (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4) Christians are to pray that this kingdom will come. (Matthew 6:10)
9. **When workers are needed for the spiritual harvest.** Jesus commanded us to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth workers into his harvest. (Luke 10:2) The spiritual harvest fields wait on Christians to pray.

A long prayer time is not better because it is long. It is better because you have more time to concentrate on prayer. The Bible reveals that Jesus spent much time in prayer. So should you.

You should never brag about your prayer time. Prayer is your private time with God. God rewards and answers your prayers according to his will. In Mark 9:29 Jesus reminded the disciples of the importance of prayer in their ministry. It is important in your ministry too.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT A HALF DAY OF PRAYER

1. Why should you have it?

- to have a long time of unbroken fellowship with God
- to see what God has been doing in your life and what he has been saying to you
- to assure Christ's lordship over all areas of your life
- to receive guidance for future plans and ministries
- to pray for your major concerns
- to intercede for others

2. What should you bring?

- your Bible
- MasterLife books
- your Personal Prayer Notebook
- paper, pen or pencil
- exercise book with your Quiet Time notes
- verses you have memorized
- statements you have written on your life purposes and goals

3. What is the schedule?

announcements.....	10 minutes
individual prayer time.....	3 hours
sharing time.....	15 minutes
affirming time.....	30 minutes
closing prayer.....	5 minutes

4. How can I pray that long?

- Remember that prayer is talking with God and listening to him speak to you. You should spend as much time listening as you do talking.
- Use the following prayer resources to examine your life and to guide you as you pray:
 - "Guide to Praise" (p. 49)
 - "The Disciple's Personality" (p. 83)
 - "Conversational Prayer" (p. 105)
 - "Bible Studies: "Truth and faith" (p. 117) and "Praying in Faith" (p. 135)
 - "How to Use the Form for Praying in Faith" (p. 150)

- (6) "The Spiritual Armour" (p. 181)
 - (7) "How to Use the Spiritual Armour to Help a Friend" (p. 202)
 - (8) "How to Pray for Others" (p. 218)
 - (9) "Guide to Confession and Forgiveness" (p. 242)
- c. Use your prayer lists to pray for your own needs and the needs of others.
 - d. Read through your Quiet Time notes. See if God has spoken to you many times on one subject.
 - e. Write your life purposes and goals. Pray about what you need to do to reach your purposes and goals. If you have already written your purpose and goals, evaluate your progress in reaching them.
 - f. Read your Bible. Listen to God speak to you.
 - g. Revise all your memory verses. Meditate on some of them.
 - h. Revise your Bible studies and sermon notes. Read again the applications you have made in your notes.
- 5. What should I do first?**
- Some suggestions are:
- a. Read God's Word. Listen as he speaks to you through it.
 - b. Pray. Use the word, "ACTS" to guide you.
 - A - Adore and praise God.
 - C - Confess your sins.
 - T - Thank God for all he has done for you.
 - S - Make supplication for others (intercession).
 - c. Revise "The Disciple's Personality," "Guide to Praying in faith" or other studies.
- 6. What can I do if I keep thinking of other things?**
- a. Pray for whatever comes into your mind. Perhaps it was placed there by God, and he wants you to act on it.
 - b. Write on a piece of paper all the things you need to remember to do later.

- c. List things that continue to come to mind. Ask God why. You are communicating with him mind to mind, heart to heart and spirit to Spirit.

7. How can I stay alert and awake?

- a. Pray aloud.
- b. Do different things: praise God, read God's Word, meditate on Scripture verses, pray for yourself and others.
- c. Change your position often: sit, walk, stand, kneel.
- d. Get adequate sleep for two nights preceding your half day of prayer.

8. How can I make the half day of prayer meaningful?

- a. Keep notes on the things you do and the time you spend praying, reading God's Word, revising the Bible studies and in Scripture memory.
- b. Keep your notes for your next half day of prayer. These will keep you from spending too much time in one area.

A half day of prayer is longer than most people pray at one time. However it is not longer than a person in MasterLife training can and should pray. Remember that a long prayer time prepares you for your ministry in God's service. It is an important part of your life as a disciple. Plan now to have a half day of prayer each month.

GUIDE TO CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Do you wonder if your prayers are unanswered because of sin in your life? Are you aware of your sins? God offers forgiveness and fellowship with him through confession. When you feel any barrier between you and God, use this guide to help you discover and confess any sin that may be blocking the way. God wants you to walk in the light and have fellowship with him and with other Christians. (1 John 1:5-10)

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CONVICT YOU OF SIN. (John 16:8-11)

1. Do not try to convict yourself or allow guilt to control you.
2. Ask God to search your heart, thoughts and way. (Psalms 139:23-24)
3. Let the Holy Spirit use God's Word to show you how God views your heart, thoughts and ways. (Hebrews 4:12-13; Romans 8:26-27)
 - a. Read your Bible daily.
 - b. Read special passages as you feel the need.
 - The Ten Commandments
 - The Sermon on the Mount
 - Romans 3:12; Colossians 4:2-6; Ephesians 4:17-32

CONFESS YOUR SIN TO GOD.

1. Agree with God. The word, confess, means to agree with or admit. Do not try to excuse your behaviour or hide anything from God, but accept what God shows you. (1 John 1:8-10)
2. Walk in the light of God's holiness. (1 John 1:7) Do not compare yourself with another Christian.
3. Be honest with God. (1 John 1:8-10) Do not hide anything from God or from yourself.

ACKNOWLEDGE CHRIST AS YOUR ONLY ADVOCATE AND MEANS OF FORGIVENESS.

1. Express your sorrow and repentance to God. (Psalms 51)
2. Ask for forgiveness based on the blood of Christ which cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7; 2:2) Do not base your requests on good deeds which you have done in the past or plan to do in the future. (Titus 3:5)
3. Turn your sins over to your advocate, Christ. (1 John 2:2; Hebrews 4:14, 16; 7:25; 9:24-26; 10:19, 22) Do not consider your sins again.

WALK IN THE LIGHT WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS. (1 John 1:7)

1. Be honest with other Christians about your sins. To walk in the light is to be open and honest. (1 John 1:7)
2. Confess your sins to other understanding Christians. "...Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another..." (James 5:16). Other Christians can help you realize that God has forgiven you. Confession may be expressed during prayer together.
 - a. Confess only to those who can help bear your burden in the spirit of gentleness. (Galatians 6:1) They should be people who will not talk about your sins to others.
 - b. Tell only what is necessary. Sometimes you may confess the sin and not the details. If you feel you need to go into detail, do so with your pastor or another mature Christian.
 - c. Confess only your sin, not the sin of someone else. Do not blame anyone for your sin. Rather, let other persons deal with their responsibility for sin.
3. Make any repayment that is necessary and possible. If you have taken anything from anyone knowingly or unknowingly, return it if possible. It does not pay for your sin, because Christ has already forgiven you. It will help you become a witness to that person.

WALK IN THE LIGHT WITH CHRIST. (1 John 1:7)

1. When you sin again, confess it immediately and ask God to forgive you.
2. Do not give up your struggle to be free from some stronghold of sin. Satan will try to convince you that God will not forgive you for committing the same sin again. Of course, genuine repentance and turning from sin are necessary for you to receive forgiveness. However, sometimes you sin again although you had good intentions. If you ask for forgiveness again in genuine repentance, God will forgive you again. Surely he will do as much as Jesus asked Peter to do when he said, "If he sins against you seven times in one day, and each time he comes to you saying, 'I repent' you must forgive him" (Luke 17:4).
 - a. Be careful that you do not sin because you know you can ask to be forgiven. If you sin wilfully you act as if Christ's sacrifice for you was small.
 - b. If you continually commit the same sin without being freed from it, counsel with your pastor or a mature Christian friend. Christ can overcome any sin.
3. Sin in the life of a Christian does not change his relationship as a child of God. It does create a barrier to fellowship with the Lord.

CONCLUSION

Forgiveness is the gift of God. Confession and repentance are God's way to free us from the penalty, the presence and the power of sin. Although we will never be perfect in this world, we can walk continually in the light with our Holy God through Jesus Christ.

HOW SHALL THEY HEAR?

"If it is really true, why didn't my father and mother ever hear this good news? Why have I never heard it before? When did it happen?" These were the questions of a young mother in Indonesia when she heard the gospel for the first time. She is one of three billion people in the world who are not Christians. Most of these have never heard that God loves them and gave his only Son to die for them. There is no Christian living near them, and there is no church which can tell them this good news.

CONSIDER THESE TRUTHS:

God loves every person. (John 3:16)

Jesus died for every person. (1 John 2:2)

God wants to save every person. (2 Timothy 2:1-4)

Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Jesus gave us power to be his witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

He saved you. (1 John 3:1)

LOOK AT THE TASK

Baptists have committed themselves to taking the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000. The population of the world continues to grow rapidly, and the task seems impossible. But it must have seemed impossible to the first disciples too. Yet Jesus commissioned them to go into all the world and make disciples.

Suppose we could win three thousand persons a day as the disciples did at Pentecost. It would still take more than 5,000 years to win the people living in the world. What can we do?

WHAT IS BEING DONE NOW?

Missionaries are being sent to places where the gospel has not been heard before. Countries which once received missionaries are now sending missionaries. More Christians are becoming involved by giving their money and by praying for mission work. As a result more than 1,000 new churches are being started every week in the world. In many places in Africa, people are turning to Christ. Millions of people in Africa claim to be Christians now. This is encouraging, but there are many people who still have not heard the gospel in Africa.

HOW SHALL THEY HEAR?

God has the purpose, the plan, the power and the people to win the world. Christians must commit themselves to God's purpose and then follow his plan. It is possible for everyone to hear the gospel if every believer will be a witnessing Christian.

1. Every Christian must centre his life purpose in God's purpose. His purpose is that no one be destroyed, but that all turn from their sin. (2 Peter 3:9)
2. Each of us must set life goals in line with God's goal. God's goal is for us to make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19-20) Making disciples is a bigger task than just telling the gospel. It is making disciples who will be able to make more disciples. If two disciples make two disciples, and the four of them make four more, and so on, for 33 times, the world would know Christ. The world was populated by physical multiplication. It can be saved by spiritual multiplication.

Your goals should involve being all God wants you to be and doing all God wants you to do. Your life goals should express God's will for you. God may want you to be a witnessing Christian right where you are. Or, he may want you to be a missionary to another tribal or cultural group. Ask God to show you what his will for you is, then do it.

3. Each of us must adjust his way of life to God's purpose. Our resources and possessions must be under his control. If we really want to win the world it will be necessary for us to share our blessings with the hungry, the sick and the lost.
4. Each of us must pray for the world. We must present the needs of the world to God while we present God's message to the world. Christ urges us to ask God to send labourers into his harvest. (Luke 10:2) Prayer is a means of reaching the lost. It is part of God's plan for saving the world. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

God's plan for reaching the world depends on his power. What is impossible with men is possible with God. Commit your life to God's purpose, claim his power and be a part of winning the world for Christ.

HOW TO LEAD AN UNASSIGNED BIBLE STUDY

1. **Preparation:** The group should sit in a circle. Each person should have a Bible and a list of the study questions below to answer about the Scripture being studied. (See question 4 below.)
2. **The Leader:** The leader should tell the group what Scripture they will study and lead the following activities:
 - a. Give an introduction to the passage, using two or three minutes.
 - b. Have one person read the Scripture passage or request several to read.
 - c. Explain how the group will study the Bible verses.
3. **Procedure:**
 - a. Have each person read the first verse silently, using the questions below to apply to his life.
 - b. The leader should ask several people to tell what truth the verse is teaching. Answers should be brief. Keep the study moving.
 - c. After discussing one verse briefly, the leader should ask the members to read the next verse in the same way and talk about it. Continue in this way until they have finished reading the Scripture passage.
 - d. At the end the leader should summarize the truths found in the Scripture for the conclusion.
 - e. Leave time for the group to pray conversationally.
4. **Study Questions:**
 - a. What is the main truth of this passage?
 - b. What other Scriptures help me understand this verse?
 - c. Is there any word or part of this verse that I do not understand?
 - d. Is there a teaching for me to think about?
 - e. What is God saying to me about sin in my life?
 - f. Is God saying I must change something I am doing? What?
 - g. Is there a command to obey? What?
 - h. Is there a warning to heed? What?
 - i. Is there a promise to claim? What?
 - j. Is there a good example to follow? What?
 - k. How can I apply this verse in my daily life?
 - l. How can I use this verse as a prayer?

MASTER COMPLETION CHART FOUR

SPENDING TIME WITH THE MASTER

Had a regular Quiet Time _____

LIVING IN GOD'S WORD

1. Quoted correctly these verses:

a. Matthew 5:23-24 _____

b. 1 John 5:13 _____

c. 1 Peter 4:10 _____

d. John 3:16 _____

e. Romans 6:23 _____

f. John 10:10b _____

g. Ephesians 3:20-21 _____

h. John 14:3 _____

i. 2 Chronicles 16:9a _____

j. Romans 3:23 _____

k. Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

l. John 14:6 _____

2. Continued to write spiritual truths and lessons learned during my Quiet Time _____

3. Took notes on at least three sermons or Sunday School lessons _____

4. Completed these Bible Studies:

a. "Making Wrong Relationships Right" _____

b. "Spiritual Gifts in the Body" _____

c. "A Vision of Your Life Purpose and Goals" _____

d. "Disciples Are Servants" _____

PRAYING IN FAITH

1. Made prayer lists and organized them into a "Personal Prayer Notebook" _____
2. Spent a half day in prayer _____

FELLOWSHIPING WITH BELIEVERS

Made peace with persons on "People of Your Concern" lists. _____

WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

Used my personal testimony in witnessing. _____

SERVING OTHERS

Presented "The Spiritual Armour" in own words, using Ephesians 6:10-18. _____

Cut out these verse cards for convenient use.
Take them with you and use spare moments to study them.

God's Search For a Servant

"The Lord keeps close watch over the whole world, to give strength to those whose hearts are loyal to him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

God's Purpose: Spend Eternity In Heaven

"And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am" (John 14:3).

God's Ability

"To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of: to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

God's Purpose: Full and Meaningful Life

"...I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness" (John 10:10b).

God's Purpose: Salvation a Free Gift

"For sin pays its wage—death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

God's Purpose: Salvation

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Spiritual Gifts

"Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God" (1 Peter 4:10).

Eternal Life

"I am writing this to you so that you may know that you have eternal life—you that believe in the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).

Making Wrong Relationships Right

"So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God" (Matthew 5:23-24).

Cut out these verse cards for convenient use.
Take them with you and use spare minutes to study them.

God's Provision: Jesus, The Only Way

"Jesus answered him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me'" (John 14:6).

Our Need: Cannot Save Ourselves

"For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Our Need: All Are Sinners

"Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence" (Romans 3:23).

Learn how to share the Good News more effectively, and begin to consider the ministries for which God is preparing you as you study *MasterLife Book Five, The Good News*.