

Life Ministry Discipler's Manual

201**6.12**E Edition

TOTAL LIFE MINISTRIES

5740 East Shea Boulevard
Scottsdale, Arizona, USA 85254
+1(800) 419-2891
[www. mytlm.org](http://www.mytlm.org)

TLM is a nonprofit ministry. By your purchase of materials, you are helping to provide FREE services to hurting people. Thank you for being a part of the team.

TOTAL LIFE MINISTRIES

5740 East Shea Boulevard
Scottsdale, Arizona, USA 85254
+1(800) 419-2891
www.mytlm.org

Diagrams 110-B, 110-C, 110-D are adapted from material published in *The Ins and Out of Rejection*, Copyright C. R. Solomon, 1975. Used by permission of the author.

Diagrams 170-A, 170-B, 170-C, 170-C1, 170-C2, and 170-D are adapted from material published in *Handbook to Happiness*, Copyright C. R. Solomon, 1971, 1989. Used by permission of the author.

This document is Open Content, as described in Open Content License, Version 1.0, July 14, 1998.

This document may be copied, distributed and modified. By doing so, however, you automatically accept the terms and conditions set forth in the Open Content License. The Open Content License may be viewed in its entirety at <http://www.opencontent.org>. Version 1.0 of the Open Content License is included herein for convenience.

Open Publication License (OPL)

Version 1.0, July 14, 1998.

This document outlines the principles underlying the OpenContent (OC) movement and may be redistributed provided it remains unaltered. For legal purposes, this document is the license under which OpenContent is made available for use.

The original version of this document may be found at <http://opencontent.org/opl.shtml>

LICENSE

Terms and Conditions for Copying, Distributing, and Modifying

Items other than copying, distributing, and modifying the Content with which this license was distributed (such as using, etc.) are outside the scope of this license.

1. You may copy and distribute exact replicas of the OpenContent (OC) as you receive it, in any medium, provided that you conspicuously and appropriately publish on each copy an appropriate copyright notice and disclaimer of warranty; keep intact all the notices that refer to this License and to the absence of any warranty; and give any other recipients of the OC a copy of this License along with the OC. You may at your option charge a fee for the media and/or handling involved in creating a unique copy of the OC for use offline, you may at your option offer instructional support for the OC in exchange for a fee, or you may at your option offer warranty in exchange for a fee. You may not charge a fee for the OC itself. You may not charge a fee for the sole service of providing access to and/or use of the OC via a network (e.g. the Internet), whether it be via the world wide web, FTP, or any other method.

2. You may modify your copy or copies of the OpenContent or any portion of it, thus forming works based on the Content, and distribute such modifications or work under the terms of Section 1 above, provided that you also meet all of these conditions:

a) You must cause the modified content to carry prominent notices stating that you changed it, the exact nature and content of the changes, and the date of any change.

b) You must cause any work that you distribute or publish, that in whole or in part contains or is derived from the OC or any part thereof, to be licensed as a whole at no charge to all third parties under the terms of this License, unless otherwise permitted under applicable Fair Use law.

These requirements apply to the modified work as a whole. If identifiable sections of that work are not derived from the OC, and can be reasonably considered independent and separate works in themselves, then this License, and its terms, do not apply to those sections when you distribute them as separate works. But when you distribute the same sections as part of a whole which is a work based on the OC, the distribution of the whole must be on the terms of this License, whose permissions for other licensees extend to the entire whole, and thus to each and every part regardless of who wrote it. Exceptions are made to this requirement to release modified works free of charge under this license only in compliance with Fair Use law where applicable.

3. You are not required to accept this License, since you have not signed it. However, nothing else grants you permission to copy, distribute or modify the OC. These actions are prohibited by law if you do not accept this License. Therefore, by distributing or translating the OC, or by deriving works herefrom, you indicate your acceptance of this License to do so, and all its terms and conditions for copying, distributing or translating the OC.

NO WARRANTY

4. BECAUSE THE OPENCONTENT (OC) IS LICENSED FREE OF CHARGE, THERE IS NO WARRANTY FOR THE OC, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW. EXCEPT WHEN OTHERWISE STATED IN WRITING THE COPYRIGHT HOLDERS AND/OR OTHER PARTIES PROVIDE THE OC "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. THE ENTIRE RISK OF USE OF THE OC IS WITH YOU. SHOULD THE OC PROVE FAULTY, INACCURATE, OR OTHERWISE UNACCEPTABLE YOU ASSUME THE COST OF ALL NECESSARY REPAIR OR CORRECTION.

5. IN NO EVENT UNLESS REQUIRED BY APPLICABLE LAW OR AGREED TO IN WRITING WILL ANY COPYRIGHT HOLDER, OR ANY OTHER PARTY WHO MAY MIRROR AND/OR REDISTRIBUTE THE OC AS PERMITTED ABOVE, BE LIABLE TO YOU FOR DAMAGES, INCLUDING ANY GENERAL, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF THE USE OR INABILITY TO USE THE OC, EVEN IF SUCH HOLDER OR OTHER PARTY HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

Contents Of Life Ministry **Discipler's** Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

- Introduction to Life Ministry Discipler's Manual 5
- Biblical Discipleship Ministry and the Evangelical Church 8
- Never Assume your Disciple is a Christian 12
 - Simple Plan of Salvation 12
 - Expanded Plan of Salvation 13
- The Life Ministry Training Sessions 15
 - Purpose of Ministry Sessions 15
 - Procedure for Ministry Sessions 16
 - Preparing for Your Ministry Sessions 16
- Sample Forms
 - Ministry Session Worksheet 17
 - Matching Test to Uncover Godship 19
 - The Ministry of Biblical Discipleship/Right To Minister 21
 - Sample Husband Permission Form 25
 - Sample Parent or Custodial Guardian Permission For 27
 - Sample Pastor's Permission Form 29
 - Sample Questions 31
 - Life Ministry Training Evaluation 33

2. DISCIPLING

- The Five Points of Biblical Discipleship 1
- Phases of Discipling: Diagram 50-A 2
- Role of the Discipler: Diagram 50-B1 3
- Responsibilities of a Discipler: Diagram 50-B2 4
- The Situation/The Solution: Diagram 50-C 5
- The Place of God's Word: Diagram 50-D 6
- Two Primary Components: Diagram 50-E 7
- Three Things Disciplers Are To Be Looking For: Diagram 50-F 8
- Let's Get Specific: Diagram 50-G 9
- Connections: Diagram 50-H 10
- What Does "Done" Look Like?: Diagram 50-I 11

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN AREAS OF LIFE

4. GODSHIP

5. REJECTION

6. EXTERNAL/INTERNAL

7. PROBLEM, PROBLEMS

8. MY FLESH-GOD'S ENEMY

9. REPENTANCE

10. WHAT'S NEW ABOUT YOU

11. ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

12. EXTENDING FORGIVENESS

13. SEEKING FORGIVENESS

14. LORDSHIP

15. LOVE

Introduction to Life Ministry **Discipler's** Manual

(PLEASE READ BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE CONTENTS PROPER)

The *Life Ministry Discipler's Manual* is designed to provide the disciple with teaching material for use in the discipling process. Diagrams as well as the study guides used in the VCL Conference are included, together with additional material on the ministry process.

The LMDM is also intended as a tool for use in applying God's truth to one's individual life, quite independently of the discipleship ministry to others. The diagrams are graphic expressions of scriptural truths. They illustrate in some instance how man got into his present condition in regard to a given area of life; they picture in other cases what God has done and is doing on man's behalf; they show the progressive steps man must take to be obedient to God. In still other instances, they convey practical truth by depicting definitions of such terms as faith, obedience, love, repentance, forgiveness, etc.

These concepts have come out of the biblical-discipling process. These concepts deal with all areas of life and point out the truth that God's word has instruction for us in every area in which we find ourselves and every condition that we experience.

This "Introduction" section of the *Life Ministry Discipler's Manual* gives the background and overview of the entire training and equipping process.

The second section of the *Life Ministry Discipler's Manual* is devoted to diagrams explaining the ministry of discipleship, under the "Discipleship" tab. These diagrams are in a teaching format to be used by the teacher/trainer and the discipler.

The third section of the *Life Ministry Discipler's Manual* is organized using the designations and bodies of teaching which correspond to those in the VCL conference. These diagrams are in a discipling format to be used by the discipler and disciple in their one-on-one sessions.

The VCL Conference Lessons:

Godship speaks about the #1 problem in all mankind, and how it affects one's attitudes and relationships... spiritual, social, and marital. The problem is "godship", our term for man acting like god in his own life.

Rejection deals with rejection (one of the most prevalent manifestations of godship), its effects in a person's attitudes, and is a universal human experience.

External/External develops the #1 lie in the world: that life and happiness comes from visible and temporal people and things, rather than from the internal and eternal life of God within. And shows how the desires of our flesh brings ruin even to the lives of believers.

Problems, Problems deals with problems in life, why God permits them, and how the Christian can and should view them – allowing them to become one of the most valuable means God uses to mould us into the person He wants us to be.

My Flesh, God's Enemy deals with the flesh (or self-life) and how we try to fulfill and meet our own perceived needs through our personal efforts and resources, and shows how Satan and the world uses these to defeat Christians.

Repentance teaches the clear distinction between the "natural man" and the "spiritual man", and how to make a spiritual U-turn when caught up in carnal, selfish living. This then empowers a believer with a renewed Supernatural life.

What's New About You deals with what it really means to have newness of life in Jesus Christ and focuses on the powerful teaching of Scripture that a Christian has been given EVERYTHING necessary for life and godliness and how this should manifest itself "in our life experiences".

Accepting Your Righteousness develops an awareness and security in the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and righteousness and teaches us how to appropriate that Supernatural Life daily!

Extending and **Seeking Forgiveness** deals with the reconciliation of interpersonal relationships, why it is needed, and the specific steps to accomplish the healing, restoration, and maintenance of healthy human relationships.

Lordship shows us how to live each day allowing the supernatural life of Christ Jesus to be ours, regardless of what is happening in your life.

Love is not a lesson to learn. Love is the automatic result toward God and mankind in the life of every believer who allows Jesus Christ to live through them

The explanation, beneath each diagram, covers the objectives of each diagram and the application gives questions that usually lead a disciple to the truth of the diagram. However, it is recognized that the Holy Spirit may lead one to make applications of truth different from that given. Each diagram has its limitations.

Diagrams are not God-breathed---the Scriptures are.

Our prayer is that God may use this as a vehicle for ministering both to the reader and, through him/her, to those that He may bring into the readers life. (“Bread to the eater and seed to the sower.”) Thus may the body of Christ be strengthened and equipped to stand effectively and walk victoriously in these last days.

Biblical Discipleship Ministry and The Evangelical Church

The Word of God intends that the Church to be the center from which hurting persons receive the help, consolation, guidance, and ministry that they so desperately need. **This manual is designed for use in biblical discipling, the majority of which should be provided in and through the local evangelical Church.**

Biblical Discipleship Ministry is providing the counsel of God's infinite and unchangeable Living Word to those who come seeking help. Thus, what the world calls "counseling or counselor", God calls discipling and discipler. In the world which we live in today, these are no longer interchangeable words or terms!

The world's definition of a counselor is one who has a degree or other credentials and is often licensed by a governmental authority.

The Bible's definition of a discipler is one who is walking daily in an intimate and obedient relationship with the Lord, and who is being used by God to restore relationships, and who is under the authority of a local Church.

Because of the importance that secular psychology has been given in the mindset of present-day evangelical Christians, the almost automatic response regarding a person who is having problems is, *"He/she needs to have professional help."* By "professional" is meant that beyond what the church with its spiritual orientation can provide. A stalwart of one of the strongest evangelical churches in Phoenix, when conversing with one of the Total Life Ministries (TLM) staff members about the biblical ministry that TLM provides said, "At what point do you then refer people to the professionals?" One interesting fact is, that many of those who come to TLM for help have already been to the professionals and found them to be without permanent solutions to their problems!

Actually, although TLM over the years has ministered to persons from over seventy local Churches (in Phoenix alone), the desire is not that churches refer hurting people to TLM, but that the churches minister to their own people by means of biblical discipleship.

One book on biblical counseling states:

“Biblical counseling should be under the authority of the local church body and accountable to the leadership of the church. Each counselor should be in submission to the Lord, the leadership, and the Body of Christ. Counselors should be appointed and designated by the leadership to serve the Lord by ministering to those in the congregation who are suffering from problems of living. Because of heavy reliance on the Holy Spirit and because counseling is a function of the Body of Christ and the expression of the love of God, there should be no fee. Ideally, counseling should be a natural outflow of love and ministry in the fellowship of believers who know and love one another...

“The basic elements for change already exist within the church in which there is an environment of love and in which there is sound teaching of the Word. Biblical counseling in the church is just a more personal and specific form of ministering the mercy and truth of God. Therefore, biblical counseling should not appear foreign. And yet, many ministers and lay people feel totally unequipped because they think that biblical counseling somehow has to emulate psychological counseling.”¹

Another author states: *“One of the key issues in the case [the 1980 lawsuit against Grace Community Church] was the question of whether churches should have the legal right to counsel troubled people from the Bible. Many would argue that giving someone advice from Scripture is a simplistic approach to counseling. The Bible may be fine as an encouragement to the average person, we are told, but people who have real problems need a psychological expert's help...*

“'Christian psychology' as the term is used today is an oxymoron. The word psychology no longer speaks of studying the soul; instead it describes a diverse menagerie of therapies and theories that are fundamentally humanistic. The presuppositions and most of the doctrine of psychology cannot be successfully integrated with Christian truth. Moreover, the infusion of psychology into the teaching of the church has blurred the line between behavior modification and sanctification.”²

As you see, a number of authors are thinking in this direction concerning the needs within the church itself. One writes: *“One of the most desperate needs within the church is for personal and family and marriage counseling—but it must be biblical and not psychological. For this to be supplied, the church must be willing to support biblical counselors who can thereby provide the necessary help without charging for it. Many young people sense a call of God upon their lives to work in this vital area, but their only possibility of support is to charge a fee, which means that they must be licensed by the state and therefore conform to secular standards of education and competency. The church must provide adequate training in biblical counseling, yet at the present almost nothing of this nature is available..*

“It would be unthinkable for the state to license and impose such control over those who preach and teach from Scripture. Yet we consider it normal for those whom we expect to counsel from the Bible to be regulated in this way. Only when the church considers counseling of individuals to be as important as preaching to and teaching congregations will biblical counseling take its rightful place in the church. Until then the best sermons will still leave many practical needs unmet, and hurting people will unfortunately continue to turn to psychologists for lack of real solutions being put into practice by the local church.”³

When one considers the sufficiency of Christ, the authority of God's Word, the never-failing presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, and the Church as God's appointed instrument for communicating His truth to His own, the tendency of Christians to look elsewhere for what they consider to be "real" answers, is astounding.

Note the words of Scripture:

Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge. For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips. That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

Proverbs 22:17-21 (KJV)

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceptions, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the

world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete....

Colossians 2:8-10

If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world do you submit yourself to decrees....

Colossians 2:20

But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

Galatians 4:9

Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

John 6:68-69

We believe that true biblical discipleship ministry, therefore, is the responsibility of the local evangelical Church. Accordingly, those who come to TLM for counsel are asked to obtain a response from the senior minister of their Church indicating in writing that (1) he is aware of the situation regarding this person's need; (2) the Church is unable to provide the necessary discipleship ministry or has exhausted its resources for doing so; and (3) he is giving his permission for the person to seek discipleship ministry at TLM.

Moreover, the biblical discipleship ministry process includes direction toward involvement in the ministry and worship of the local Church, for encouragement, growth, and stability for the individual or couple being ministered to. Many assignments include the Church member's communicating to his/her senior minister what God is doing in the person's life and seeking additional guidance. God Himself is to receive the ultimate thanks and praise for any changes taking place.

¹ How to Counsel from Scripture, by Martin and Deidre Bobgan, Moody Press, 1985

² Our Sufficiency in Christ, by John MacArthur, Word Publishing, 1991

³ Beyond Seduction, by Dave Hunt, Harvest House, 1987

Never Assume Your Disciple is a Christian!

The most important thing you can do as a minister to another person is to lead that person to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Don't allow the immediate pressing problem to cause you to overlook this vital fact: everyone needs to be born again by faith in Christ. You could help someone put his/her marriage back together, raise nice children, get his/her finances in order, and spend eternity in hell! **Never assume your disciple is a Christian!**

During your data-gathering time ask the questions found in the application section of Diagram 160-A (Repentance). Be a spiritual detective. If a person says he/she got saved at a summer camp ask, "So what happened at the camp that summer?" You can't know for sure, but you can ask some leading questions. If the disciple's salvation is not clear ask the clinching question, "If I were to ask you how to become a Christian, what would you tell me to do? If the person says, "You need to go church, try to keep the ten-commandments, and pay your tithes to the church." You could answer, "Those are things a Christian does, but how does a person become a Christian?" If he/she is not clear then ask permission to share this plan of salvation. (If you have a favorite tract like the "Four Spiritual Laws" feel free to use it, this is a plan if you don't have one.

Simple Plan of Salvation

This is a **simple plan of salvation** as referred to in the application section of Diagram 160-A (Repentance) in the *Life Ministry Manual*.

1. Your disciple needs to see his/her true condition is that he/she is lost.
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**)
2. Show that death is the consequence of sin.
"The wages of sin is death" (**Romans 6:23**)
3. Point out why Jesus came.
"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross (**1 Peter 2:24**)
4. Invite your disciple to accept Christ as Savior and Lord.
"He who has the Son has life" (**1 John 5:12**)
"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (**John 1:12**)
"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him" (**Revelation 3:20**)
5. Give your disciple an opportunity to thank Jesus for giving him/her life.

An Expanded Plan of Salvation

1. Current sinful condition—lost
 Use **Romans 3:20** to see that the purpose of the Law was to show us our sinfulness. Use **Romans 3:23** to show that everyone is born a sinner. God is outside the life. Diagram 160-A (Repentance), “Natural Man” shows this clearly. Ask if your disciple has sinned. How many sins do you need to commit to break the Law of God (**James 2:10**)? Once sin is seen and admitted move onto step #2.

2. Consequences of sin—lake of fire
Romans 6:23a says the payment for our sin is death—eternal death. Ask where that death would be spent—**Revelations 21:8**. Notice one of the people thrown into the lake of fire is the “unbelieving”—**John 3:36**. Sin is serious in God’s view and the result is death. Adam sinned, died spiritually, and was removed from God’s presence—**Romans 5:12**. Use “In Adam” Diagram 170-C (What’s New About You) to show this truth.

3. Christ died for sin—the Lamb
 Show that Jesus came for the purpose of dying for our sins **Romans 5:8** and **1 Peter 2:24**. For a clear explanation of this truth study **Romans 5:18-19** with your disciple. Tell about what Jesus said when hanging on the cross: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (**Matthew 27:46**). We should pay the price of death for our sins, but Jesus paid it for us (**John 3:16**). Use Diagram 170-C1 (What’s New About You), “It’s Your Choice,” to show the place of the cross.

4. Come to Christ—life
 Many people know the first three steps but have not applied the death of Christ to their life. Use **John 1:12** to show we become His children by receiving Him. Receiving seems stronger to people than believing. Use a glass of water as an illustration. We can believe the water will quench our thirst, but it will not until we drink it. Drinking is receiving. Use Diagram 170-C2 (What’s New About You), “Life in Christ,” to show a person who has looked back at the cross and received Christ. Now he is taken out of Adam and placed into Christ. He has been transferred from death to life. Another way to look at this is to consider taking a gift. **Romans 6:23** says we get the gift of eternal life. **Revelation 3:20** is a good verse to move your disciple to come to Christ. Explain that Jesus is knocking at the door of this

person's heart or life and wants entrance. Why? Because He wants to cleanse the person's sin. He wants to come in as Savior to cleanse away the sin. He also wants to come in as Lord to rule their life. He is a gentleman and will wait until invited. Give your disciple an opportunity to pray and open the door of his/her life and receive Christ. It is best if the person prays in his/her own words to open the door and receive Christ as Savior and Lord, but if the person just can't do it then lead in a prayer and have the person repeat after you.

5. Confidence of Salvation

After your disciple prays, ask these five questions to help him/her see the assurance of his/her salvation:

1. Did you ask Jesus to come into your life?
2. Did He say He would come in?
3. Does He keep His promises?
4. Did He come in?
5. How do you know?

The answer you want to hear is, "Yes, He did come in because He said He would and He always keeps His promises." Read **1 John 5:11-13**

Use **Hebrews 13:5** to show that Jesus says to your brother/sister in Christ, "I will never desert you nor will I ever forsake you." God has done a wonderful thing in giving new life to this person. Ask, "Has God done something great for you?" "When someone does a good thing do you want to thank that person?" Just say, "Why don't you thank the Lord for what He did?" Listen to this prayer and see why the person is thanking God. Now you can show the disciple Diagram 160-A1 (Repentance), "Spiritual Man," and say, "This is now a picture of you!"

The Life Ministry Training Sessions

I. Purpose of Ministry Sessions

- A. To practice applying truth to another person's life while it is still fresh.
1. The heart of Life Ministry Training—the ministry sessions.
 2. Consider the title: Life Ministry Training.
 3. There are two purposes:
 - i. First—a time of ministry to your ministry partner. This could be as you explain one of the 12 Victorious Christian Living lessons to your partner. It could happen as you pray for your partner.
 - ii. Second—a time of training. You are becoming familiar with your tools—God's Word and the diagrams from the *Life Ministry Discippler's Manual*.
 4. If you focus on seeing ministry sessions as a training time you will be set free to participate. You are learning a new skill. If you focus on these times as primarily a ministry time and feel responsibility to help you partner you will feel frustrated. Your partner's response to you would determine your success. Only God is the One to accomplish ministry. If it happens—great! If it doesn't, it is still great because you are learning to use the tools.
- B. To become familiar with the tools and maximize learning by hands-on-experience. You have to learn to use any new tool—car, piano, or Life Ministry Training materials. There are four stages in learning.
1. The **initial learning stage**. You are busy learning terms, ideas, and methods that are new to you. You are learning things like god ship and identity.
 2. The **awkward use stage**. This is what you feel in the ministry sessions. You are using the diagrams, but don't feel at all comfortable.
 3. The **conscious application stage**. When you share with someone after Life Ministry Training is over, you will not feel so awkward but will still be very conscious of what you are sharing.
 4. The **natural use stage**. After about a year of ministry to others you will look forward with ease to sharing a series of diagrams but still depending on the Lord.

II. Procedure for Ministry Sessions

A. Sessions

- i. Each session will last one hour, divided into two 30-minute segments.
- ii. There will be 12 sessions.
- iii. Staff members will visit your session.

B. Participants

- i. Two people of the same sex who share time equally.
- ii. Stay on the assigned subject for the ministry session.
- iii. Take turns as the one ministering and the one being ministered to.
- iv. Don't take time visiting—start the ministry session.
- v. Be open to your partner.
- vi. Don't have the same person start each time.

III. Preparing for Your Ministry Sessions

A. Study the *Life Ministry Discippler's Manual* for that lesson.

B. As you study diagrams in that lesson, read the explanation and application columns carefully.

- i. As you prayerfully consider the needs of your ministry partner, select the parts you will want to explain.
- ii. Also select the parts of the application you want to use.
- iii. Don't read everything to your partner. Be ready to say, "As you look at this diagram, let me point out a few things." Those "things" would come from the explanation column.
- iv. Then you could say, "Now I would like us to study this passage together." Also, "Here are a few questions for you to consider." You can gather these studies and questions from the application column.
- v. Watch the live demonstration of the lesson and take any notes you want to on the explanation/application pages.

Ministry Session Worksheet

Disciple Name _____ Date _____

- Do you have all permission sheets signed?
- Have you prayed for your disciple?
 - **(Ephesians 3:14-19, Philippians 1:9-11)**
- What didn't you finish last session?
- What homework was assigned? Ask about it.
- What Bible verses will you share today?
- Study the diagrams from your *Life Ministry Discipler's Manual*. Don't use too many. Teach the truth, don't just teach the diagrams.
- Which of the 12 lessons from the Victorious Christian Living Conference will you focus on today? Don't just do your favorite ones, share the complete teachings of all these lessons:
 - Godship;
 - Rejection;
 - External/Internal;
 - Problems;
 - My Flesh-God's Enemy;
 - Repentance;
 - What's New About You;
 - Accepting Your Righteousness;
 - Extending or Seeking Forgiveness;
 - Rest, Abide, Walk;
 - Love.
- Remember, this is not an ordinary conversation.
- Is your disciple stuck in the past?
 - **(Isaiah 43:18, Philippians 3:13)?**
- What attribute of Jesus Christ does your disciple need to examine and apply?
- Remember to take notes.
- Keep pointing your disciple back to God.
 - **(Jeremiah 2:13, Luke 14:26).**
- Pray together.

- Evaluate your disciple. Which is true now: Saviorship, Lordship or Servanthship?
- What else needs to happen before you can send your disciple off to disciple someone else?
- How is your disciple spending time with God?
- What homework or study sheet would you like to prepare?
- What action will you encourage your disciple to take as a result of the session today?
 - Repentance,
 - Extending forgiveness,
 - Seeking forgiveness,
 - Thanking God for something or someone,
 - Praising God for who He is or what He has done.
- Are you entering this session completely dependent upon the Lord?
Encourage your disciple not just to perform, but to depend on Christ even in the ministry sessions (**John 15:4-5**).

Matching Test to Uncover Godship

Godship is seen in the following ways:

1. Determining standards of conduct for self and others.
2. Demanding absolute obedience to those standards.
3. Judging the lives, actions, and attitudes of self and others by those standards.
4. Seeking revenge.
5. Endeavoring to control all of life.
6. Exercising “sovereign” independence, doing whatever one pleases.
7. Seeking attention, appreciation, and affection from others.
8. Asking help and guidance from no one.

Now match the numbers above with the following statements. You can have more than one number per statement.

- _____ “I’m like my mother, I don’t take risks.”
- _____ “I guess I’m a procrastinator.”
- _____ “In my marriage, I try very hard not to make waves.”
- _____ “At the age of 12, I had a lot of self-hatred.”
- _____ “I hated to do it, but I did initiate the divorce.”
- _____ “I would love to go back to college, but I don’t deserve it.”
- _____ “Growing up I always expressed myself as my parents wanted me to.
- _____ “She never could do anything right.”
- _____ “In college I got into a lot of drinking.”
- _____ “My folks didn’t really parent me correctly.”
- _____ “When things go badly, I often go out and spend money.”
- _____ “My plan was to help him change after our marriage.”
- _____ “I seem to work best alone. I can’t stand anyone wanting to interfere in what I am doing.”
- _____ “At the age of fifteen, I ran away from home.”
- _____ “In fact, I wanted to see him hurt because of the hurt he caused in my life.”

This page left blank by design.

The Ministry of Biblical Discipleship

We perceive effective ministry as “life overflowing from one person to another.” The position is not taken that all problems are strictly “spiritual problems,” but it is believed that the vast majority of problems do have a basic spiritual factor.

This discipler has been trained in the application of scriptural truth to daily living and does not necessarily hold a degree in secular psychology.

You have come to him/her for help. It is not considered that he/she has the “right” to minister to you unless you give that right. Giving this right involves responsibility on the part of both the discipler and the disciple.

The following statements lead to a point of commitment between you as the disciple and your discipler as to how the ministry process may move forward.

THE RIGHT TO MINISTER

1. AREAS OF LIFE

We see human life consisting in seven general areas: SPIRITUAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, FINANCIAL, MARITAL and PARENTAL. Recognizing that human needs often overlap several of these areas, the discipler asks your permission to go into any or all of these areas, to the degree necessary for addressing personal problems.

2. DIRECTIVE MINISTRY

While careful listening and empathy are a definite part of the ministering process, the help given will be directive in nature. This means that direction and assignments will be given, based on the definite teachings and principals of Scripture.

3. NO DECISIONS

No decisions will be made for you as the disciple(s). You are the one(s) who will decide what you will do with the advice given you. If there is a persistence in ignoring the help given, or a refusal to complete assignments, then the question may be raised as to the advisability of continuing this ministry process.

4. AUTHORITY

Because your discipler is committed to biblical principles of authority and responsibility, he/she may need the permission of those in authority over you before proceeding. This may involve a husband, parent, and/or pastor. (See forms for husband/custodial guardian’s permission and pastor’s permission if applicable.)

5. TIME FACTOR

Each helping session lasts from 60 to 90 minutes. There is not a definite minimum or maximum number of sessions required, but you will not be kept coming beyond a reasonable time. If further help is needed in areas where those in other ministries have special expertise, you will be referred to one of those.

6. APPARENT REGRESSION

It frequently happens (though not always), that a person begins to follow biblical counsel, the life experience may actually get worse. This is no reason to quit. Further, it is no reason to think that you as the discipler are not making progress. On the contrary, it may be a strong indication that you *ARE* making progress.

When a person's life situation is unmanageable, there usually is the need for unlearning and undoing certain things, in order that progress can be made in a new direction. This initially can be painful and discouraging. We mention this so that you may not be surprised and disheartened.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

Your discipler is committed to a rule of confidentiality regarding what is discussed in the ministry process. Certain qualifications, however, apply. When further insight or guidance is needed, he/she may consult with pastoral leadership. Secondly, where a crime has been or is being committed against a minor, it is required by law to be reported by the discipler. Further, knowledge of a threatened act of violence against someone may also be reported.

8. MUTUAL TERMINATION

Your discipler asks that you seriously consider the direction given, and that if you decide not to follow it, that you will say so, in order that mutual agreement may be reached about further help. We also ask for your commitment to continue meeting, to the point where both discipler and the disciple agree together that this ministry process is no longer necessary or feasible.

IF YOU GIVE YOUR DISCIPLER THE RIGHT TO MINISTER TO YOU ACCORDING TO THIS OUTLINE, you are perceived to be saying...that all of the above criteria are understood by you, and accepted freely by you, as pertinent to the process that you and the discipler are undertaking together.

Signed:

_____ Date _____
(Disciple)

_____ Discipler _____
(Disciple)

The Ministry of Biblical Discipleship

We perceive effective ministry as “life overflowing from one person to another.” The position is not taken that all problems are strictly “spiritual problems,” but it is believed that the vast majority of problems do have a basic spiritual factor.

This discipler has been trained in the application of scriptural truth to daily living and does not necessarily hold a degree in secular psychology.

You have come to him/her for help. It is not considered that he/she has the “right” to minister to you unless you give that right. Giving this right involves responsibility on the part of both the discipler and the disciple.

The following statements lead to a point of commitment between you as the disciple and your discipler as to how the ministry process may move forward.

THE RIGHT TO MINISTER

1. AREAS OF LIFE

We see human life consisting in seven general areas: SPIRITUAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, FINANCIAL, MARITAL and PARENTAL. Recognizing that human needs often overlap several of these areas, the discipler asks your permission to go into any or all of these areas, to the degree necessary for addressing personal problems.

2. DIRECTIVE MINISTRY

While careful listening and empathy are a definite part of the ministering process, the help given will be directive in nature. This means that direction and assignments will be given, based on the definite teachings and principals of Scripture.

3. NO DECISIONS

No decisions will be made for you as the disciple(s). You are the one(s) who will decide what you will do with the advice given you. If there is a persistence in ignoring the help given, or a refusal to complete assignments, then the question may be raised as to the advisability of continuing this ministry process.

4. AUTHORITY

Because your discipler is committed to biblical principles of authority and responsibility, he/she may need the permission of those in authority over you before proceeding. This may involve a husband, parent, and/or pastor. (See forms for husband/custodial guardian’s permission and pastor’s permission if applicable.)

5. TIME FACTOR

Each helping session lasts from 60 to 90 minutes. There is not a definite minimum or maximum number of sessions required, but you will not be kept coming beyond a reasonable time. If further help is needed in areas where those in other ministries have special expertise, you will be referred to one of those.

6. APPARENT REGRESSION

It frequently happens (though not always), that a person begins to follow biblical counsel, the life experience may actually get worse. This is no reason to quit. Further, it is no reason to think that you as the discipler are not making progress. On the contrary, it may be a strong indication that you *ARE* making progress.

When a person's life situation is unmanageable, there usually is the need for unlearning and undoing certain things, in order that progress can be made in a new direction. This initially can be painful and discouraging. We mention this so that you may not be surprised and disheartened.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

Your discipler is committed to a rule of confidentiality regarding what is discussed in the ministry process. Certain qualifications, however, apply. When further insight or guidance is needed, he/she may consult with pastoral leadership. Secondly, where a crime has been or is being committed against a minor, it is required by law to be reported by the discipler. Further, knowledge of a threatened act of violence against someone may also be reported.

8. MUTUAL TERMINATION

Your discipler asks that you seriously consider the direction given, and that if you decide not to follow it, that you will say so, in order that mutual agreement may be reached about further help. We also ask for your commitment to continue meeting, to the point where both discipler and the disciple agree together that this ministry process is no longer necessary or feasible.

IF YOU GIVE YOUR DISCIPLER THE RIGHT TO MINISTER TO YOU ACCORDING TO THIS OUTLINE, you are perceived to be saying...that all of the above criteria are understood by you, and accepted freely by you, as pertinent to the process that you and the discipler are undertaking together.

Signed:

_____ Date _____
(Disciple)

_____ Discipler _____
(Disciple)

(CHURCH NAME)
(Church Address)

Dear Husband:

Your wife has come to (church name) for biblical discipleship. We appreciate the confidence this person has expressed by coming. Because we are a biblical discipleship ministry and desire to honor the principles set forth in God's Word, it is our policy not to proceed with ministry to a married lady without permission from the husband. The Bible gives certain spiritual responsibilities to the husband for his wife, and we will not usurp those. Therefore, we ask that you read the attached form that we call THE RIGHT TO MINISTER. If you are in agreement with its statements and are willing to give your permission for us to minister to your wife, please fill out and sign the section below and return it to our office.

If you have any questions about THE RIGHT TO MINISTER, please do not hesitate to call our office at (center phone number). If there is anything we can do to assist you or your family at anytime, please let us know.

(Name of Center Director)
Director

(Please print)

I, _____, am in agreement with your statements in THE RIGHT TO MINISTER. I therefore give my permission to (church name) to provide biblical discipleship to my wife (name below).

Wife

Signature—Husband

Date

This page left blank by design.

This page left blank by design.

(CHURCH NAME)
(Church Address and phone number)

Dear Pastor:

It is both the policy of (church name) and the desire of each staff person to honor the authority of the local church. Accordingly, we believe that it is right and consistent with biblical teaching for us to notify the pastor of each person who comes to us for biblical discipleship and is a member of another local church to obtain your permission before any ministry is given. The person(s) below have come to (church name) seeking biblical discipleship. We seek permission to offer this ministry. If you desire additional information, please call. We desire to work with other churches and would welcome the opportunity to share with you.

We need to know that you:

1. Are aware of the need for biblical discipleship.
2. Release the person(s) to (church name) for biblical discipleship ministry.

By signing this form, you are giving permission to (church name) to minister to the person(s) below who are members or regular attendants at your church; and you, or someone appointed by you, will be available if there is need for dialog during the discipleship process or at its conclusion. If you have any questions, please call (center phone number).

Our sincere thanks for your help,

(Name of Center Director)
 Director

Name of disciple(s): _____

Name of discipler: _____

Pastors signature: _____ Phone _____

This page left blank by design.

Sample Questions

(Used primarily in first ministry session but helpful throughout the entire ministry process)

These questions are to be asked in love. Ask them casually without making the person uncomfortable and without causing any rejection to the person. You will be constantly developing your relationship with this person through questions such as these. Remember you don't have to cover all these questions.

A. Ask initial questions.

1. Why have you come for help? (Shows presenting problem)
2. What would you like to see happen? (Reveals goals)
3. What would you like to see God do in you and for you? (Makes it personal and spiritually based)
4. How did you feel about coming to see me today?
5. What have you done in the past regarding this issue?

B. Ask questions to uncover godship.

1. What have been some important events and people in your life that have shaped you? How did you deal with these events and people?
2. Is it important to you that other people like you?
3. How do you feel when people don't do things right?
4. Are you uncomfortable when you are not in control?
5. Is being independent important to you? Explain.

C. Ask questions to reveal relationships

1. How long have you been a Christian? How did you become one? What has been the greatest help and hindrance in your relationship with God?
2. Who has hurt or disappointed you in your life?
3. Who have you hurt in your life?
4. Tell me about your father & mother. What three words would describe each parent to me?
5. Who has been the most important influence in your life for good and who has been a bad influence?

D. Ask questions to uncover identity issues

1. What are your three greatest strengths and weaknesses?
2. How have people identified you? Nicknames?
3. How would you identify yourself?
4. What have you done to give yourself an identity?
5. What titles, skills, or abilities have you achieved?

This page left blank by design.

Life Ministry Training Evaluation

Life Ministry Training Dates

From _____
To _____
Submitted by: _____

1. Why did you take Life Ministry Training?
2. What part(s) were most helpful to you?
3. What truths of the Victorious Christian Living Conference were made more usable in your ministry to other people?
4. What have you learned that has affected your life?
5. Please list your suggestions for improving Life Ministry Training.
6. Are there specific actions you see you need to take as a result of taking Life Ministry Training? What actions will you take?
7. Please give your observations, comments, and suggestions regarding each of the instructors.

TLM is a nonprofit ministry. By your purchase of materials, you are helping to provide FREE services to hurting people. Thank you for being a part of the team.

TOTAL LIFE MINISTRIES

5740 East Shea Boulevard
Scottsdale, Arizona, USA 85254
+1(800) 419-2891
[www. mytlm.org](http://www.mytlm.org)

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 50

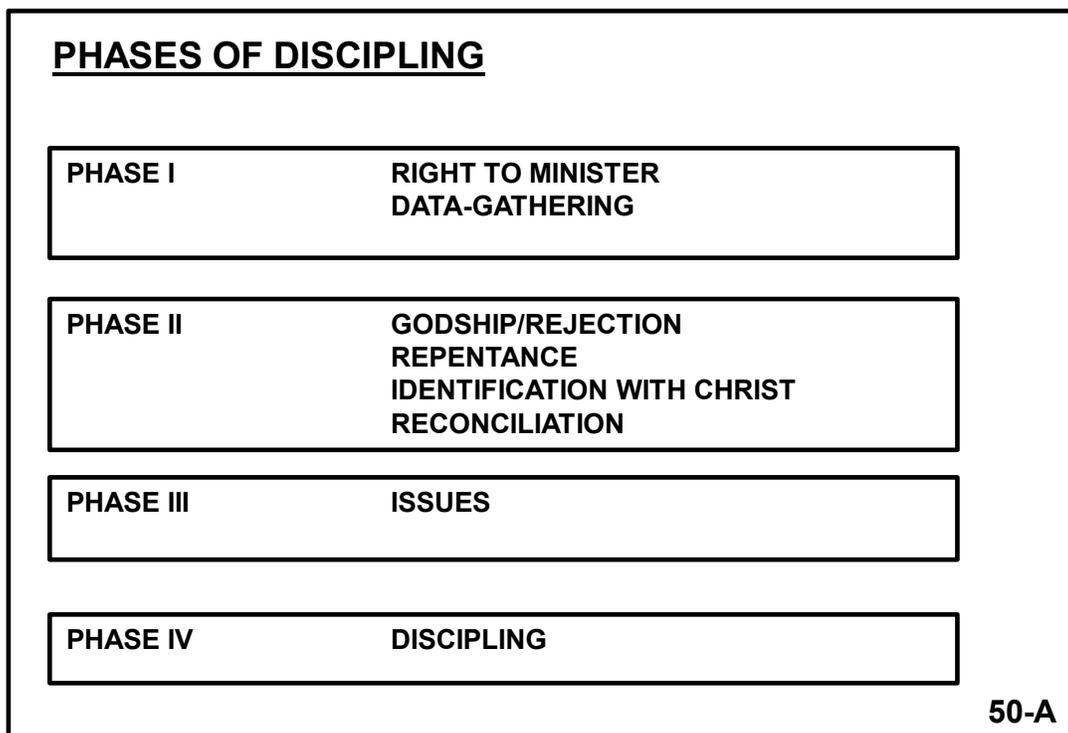
DISCIPLING

50-A	PHASES OF DISCIPLING
50-B1	ROLE OF THE DISCIPLER
50-B2	RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DISCIPLER
50-C	THE SITUATION/THE SOLUTION
50-D	THE PLACE OF GOD'S WORD
50-E	TWO PRIMARY COMPONENTS
50-F	THREE THINGS A DISCIPLER IS LOOKING FOR
50-G	LET'S GET SPECIFIC
50-H	CONNECTIONS
50-I	WHAT DOES "DONE" LOOK LIKE?

The FIVE POINTS of BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

Isaiah 61:1-6

- 1. It is a work of God**
 - The Spirit is upon us
 - The Lord anoints us
 - In and of ourselves we can't do the work
- 2. It is a message of good news**
 - Gives liberty
 - Gives freedom
 - Gives comfort
 - Gives gladness
 - Gives praise
- 3. It is a ministry to the hurting**
 - The afflicted
 - The brokenhearted
 - The captive
 - The prisoner
 - Those who mourn
- 4. It produces mature believers**
 - People who live victorious lives
 - People who are able to weather the storms of life
- 5. It produces workers**
 - People who rebuild what has been torn down and raise up what was formerly devastated.
 - The people who were once brokenhearted are now priests of the Lord—known as the ministers of the Lord.



Purpose: To communicate the VCL Process of Biblical discipling, its rationale and objectives.

•**PHASE I The Right to Minister**-- We believe permission must be given before ministry can begin.

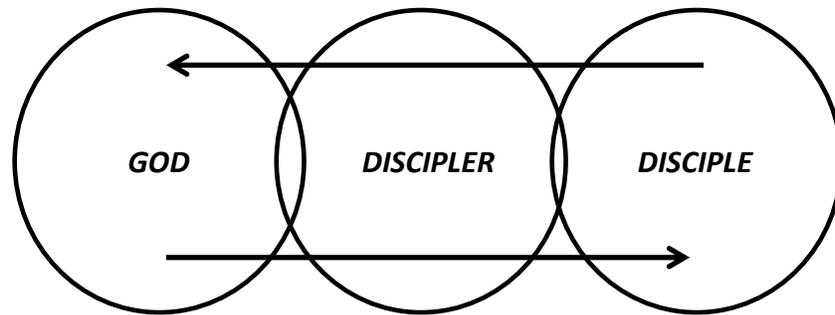
Data Gathering--- Information from the disciple needs to be gathered for understanding in how to aid the disciple in the application of the next phase.

•**PHASE II Godship/Rejection, Repentance, Identification With Christ, and Reconciliation**--All of the areas under this phase of discipling are fundamental in understanding what the Bible has to say about how to live.

•**PHASE III Issues**---After the foundation is laid in Phase II, now specific issues can be addressed.

•**PHASE IV Discipling**---This refers to the long-term “building” which needs to take place if the disciple is to become stable, secure, and complete as one who challenges and encourages others to walk with God.

ROLE OF THE DISCIPLER



50-B1

Purpose: To show the significance and sacredness of the responsibility that a discipler undertakes.

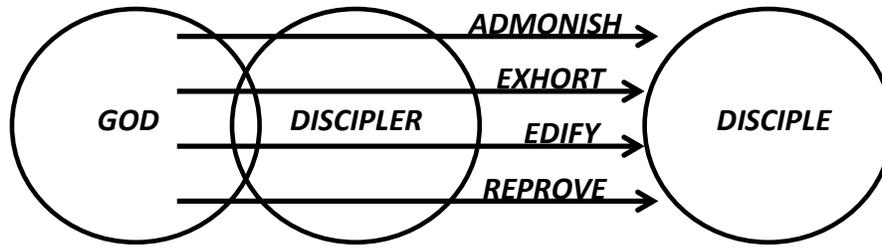
A. A Temporary Mediator.

1. This person, the disciple, because of sin, has become insensitive to God (Isaiah 59:2)
2. The discipler has the responsibility to be right with God so he/she can hear God's voice and the needs of the disciple.
3. The discipler does not do the transformation, but acts as a temporary mediator between God and man, just as John the Baptist did for Jesus (John 1:6-8; 3:27-30)
4. It is like administering CPR. For a time the discipler needs to breathe for the disciple until he/she can breathe on his/her own.
5. Because this is a temporary role the discipler always needs to be thinking about what else the disciple needs so the process can be stopped.
6. The goal is to bring the disciple into the loving hands of God and then move on to the next person God brings to you. (2 Timothy 2:2)

B. A Sheep Dog.

1. You are not the shepherd!
2. Keep driving the sheep back to the Shepherd (Psalm 95:7; Isaiah 53:6).
3. You "drive" by talking about how wonderful the Shepherd is. Also you see where your sheep (disciple) has strayed from the Good Shepherd. Repentance is the way back to the Shepherd. (Psalm 119:16; Romans 2:4)
4. You are a loving sheep dog (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

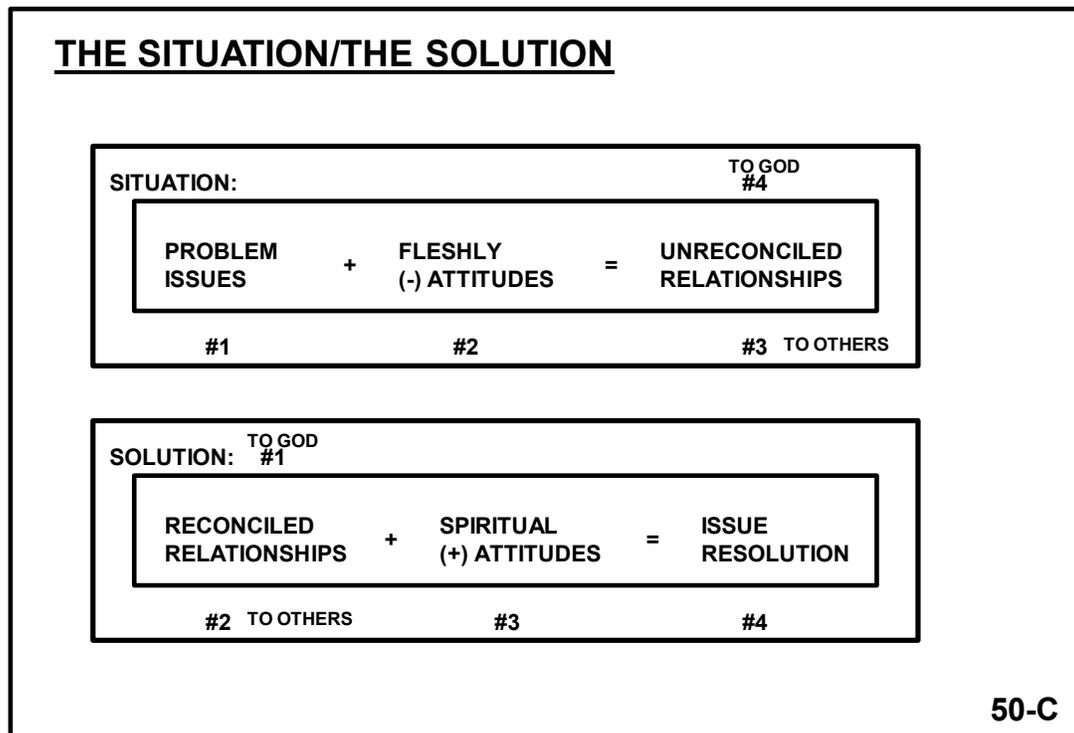
RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DISCIPLER



50-B2

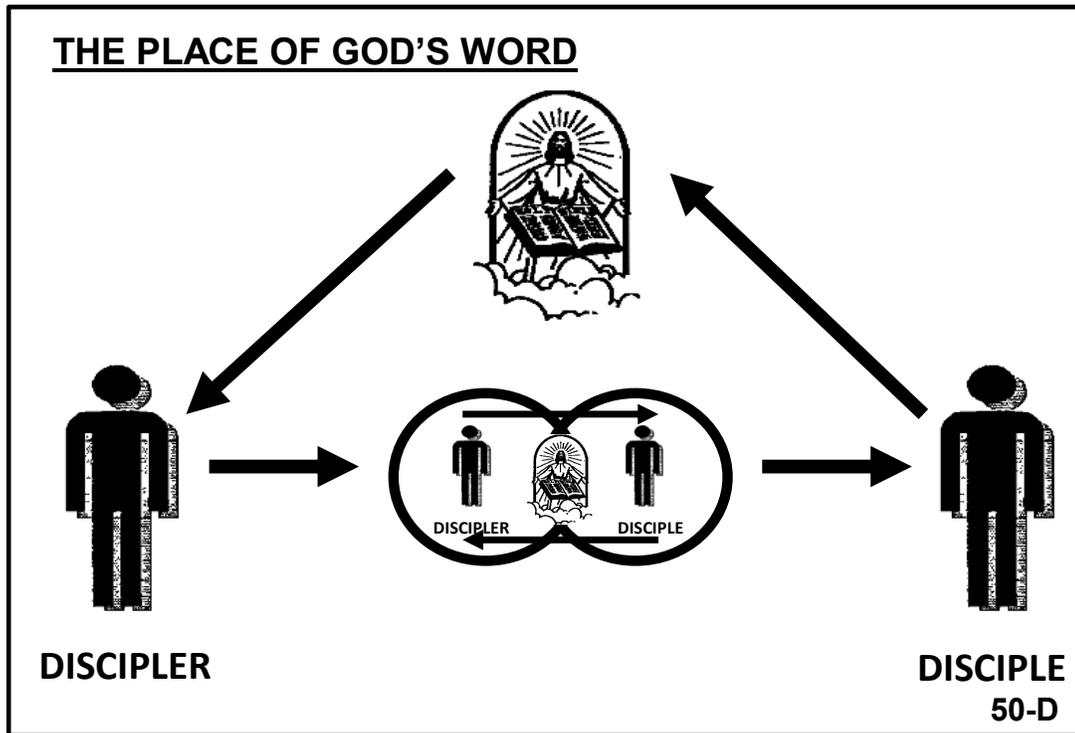
Purpose: To show the four major responsibilities of a discipler as empowered by God.

1. **Admonish**---warn in advance.
Colossians 3:16
1 Thessalonians 5:14
2 Thessalonians 3:14-15
2. **Exhort**---challenge, urge, or advise strongly.
1 Timothy 4:12-13
Hebrews 3:13
Hebrews 10:24-25
3. **Edify**---encourage or build up.
1 Corinthians 14:12
2 Corinthians 10:8
Ephesians 4:12, 16, 29
4. **Reprove**---reprimand afterward, convict, refute, bring to light, expose, find fault with, correct, chide, show one his fault.
John 3:20
1 Timothy 5:20
Titus 1:9, 13; 2:15



Purpose: To show the things a disciple needs to remember so that the focus shifts from the situation to the solution.

- A. Remind your disciple that their problem issues plus fleshly attitudes have equaled unreconciled relationships with both God and people.
1. Your disciple will want to start working on the issue or the presenting problem. This is the **situation** your disciple wants fixed, and fixed fast.
 2. Show why you will not start by solving the issue or the problem.
 3. Your disciple wants to put God off and just deal with the issue that prompted seeking help.
- B. Remind your disciple that a walk with God is THE primary issue. Now you're starting on the **solution** with your disciple.
1. The issue is not the issue, God is THE issue! (Matthew 6:33; Acts 24:16)
 2. Your disciple needs God to deal with the issues.
 3. Part of the problem is that your disciple has been living independently from God (John 15:5)
- C. Remind your disciple that relationships with people can't be ignored.
1. Next to God we need to walk in harmony with people (1 John 4:20-21)
 2. This could involve both extending and seeking forgiveness.
 3. Your disciple may need to make restitution.
- D. Remind your disciple that our attitudes can be Christlike (Philippians 2:5)
1. Wrong attitudes are those that are of the flesh. We cannot clearly deal with the issues when we have rotten attitudes (Galatians 5:19-21)
 2. Show your disciple the lesson, "My Flesh--God's Enemy."
 3. "Repentance" is the action needed for all self-centered, fleshly attitudes.
 4. Worry and fear are dealt with using the "Rest, Abide, Walk" lesson.
- E. Remind your disciple that when the first three steps are completed, then it's time to deal with the presenting problem or issue.
1. Often by this time the issue has been resolved.
 2. Now your disciple has God to depend on as the issue is resolved.
 3. As the issue is put on the table now your disciple will have the proper attitude to deal with it.



Purpose: To show the vital place God's Word must have in the life of the discipler.

- A. You must **know it's purpose** to be able to share it.
1. God's Word is the vehicle to the destination. The Lord is the destination.
 2. We can know all about the Bible and not know Him (John 5:39-40)
 3. Many people have studied the Bible and even know where to find all the books of the Bible but miss Him.
 4. We can know Him through His Word (Jeremiah 9:24)
 5. Do you know about the various translations and the paraphrases of God's Word? Which ones would you recommend to a disciple?
 - a. Translations:
 - King James Version (KJV)* 1611--It has stood the test of time and persecution, a classic.
 - The New King James Version (NKJV)* 1985 -- Keeps the richness of the King James but removes words like "Thee and Thou."
 - New American Standard Bible (NASB)* 1971 -- It is one of the most accurate English translations.
 - The New International Version (NIV)* 1978 -- It is one of the more readable translations and the most popular one today.
 - New Living Translation (NLT)* 1996 -- Taken from the Living Bible, but is now a translation worth examining.
 - The Amplified Bible* 1965 -- gives synonyms so various shades of meaning can be seen.
 - b. Paraphrases:
 - The Living Bible* 1971 -- An excellent and popular paraphrase. It is good for overview and repeated reading.
 - The Message* 1993 By Eugene Peterson. It is a fresh rendering of the New Testament and is enjoyed by people who are familiar with the Bible.
 - Phillips New Testament in Modern English* 1972 -- It has a British flare, by an English vicar, and appeals to College students.
 - Today's English Version (TEV)* 1976 -- American Bible Society. Good for young people and for those for whom English is a second language.
- B. You must obey it and practice it (Ezra 7:10; Hebrews 13:7)
1. Is there any clear command of God's Word you are violating?
 2. Do you make excuses or rationalize why you can't obey now?
 3. Your obedience demonstrates your love for the Lord (John 14:15)
- C. You must use it as you disciple someone.
1. God promises to bless His Word, not our good ideas. (Isaiah 55:10-11)
 2. God's Word contains God's message which people need to hear. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

TWO PRIMARY COMPONENTS

1. Dying to our self life so as to allow Christ's Life to become our living experience.
2. Knowing how the Word of God works, allows the Holy Spirit full reign to cause supernatural transformation in the life of another person.

50-E

Purpose: To show the two primary components to Biblical Discipling.

EXPLANATION

1. Dying to our self life so as to allow Christ's Life to become our living experience.
 - a) There are millions of decisions of 'dying to the self life' that we each will make throughout our lives until we meet Christ face-to-face.
 - b) Multiples of these decisions are taking place every single day.
 - c) A Biblical Discipler can not help someone else mature if they themselves don't understand this process for themselves.
2. Knowing how the Word of God works, allows the Holy Spirit full reign to cause supernatural transformation in the life of another person.
 - a) God still uses people even if they don't understand this process - but when you know what it is, and how it works, you are more effective at it!

APPLICATION

This then means that the best process for transformation is the 'context of life' (in which the greatest process of the two above issues takes place) - not in the sterile environment of teaching or counseling in an office.

Therefore, the dying of the self-life and the experience of the Christ-life is best learned in real life situations.

THREE THINGS DISCIPLERS ARE TO BE LOOKING FOR:

1. Heavenly Relationship Issues:

- Because your disciple has been ignoring or playing God (again), he/she needs to repent and reconcile with God.
- Key VCL Lessons to address these issues: Repentance
- See diagrams 50-A Phase III and 50-C

2. Earthly Relationship Issues:

- Wounds and hurts involving others that need to be dealt with, regardless of “who started it”
- Key VCL Lessons to address these issues:
 - A. Extending Forgiveness
 - B. Seeking Forgiveness
 - C. Rebuild the relationship, i.e. mature love
- See diagrams 50-A Phase III and 50-C

3. Personal Maturity Issues:

- Planting, cultivating, watering and strengthening the New Man (or Woman) is needed.
- Key VCL Lessons to address these issues:
 - A. What's New About You
 - B. Accepting Your Righteousness
 - C. Rest, Abide, Walk
- See diagrams 50-A Phase IV and 50-C

50-F

**Purpose: To mature your disciple and not just solve their presenting problem
(which then becomes a well meaning detour)**

EXPLANATION

1. During data gathering or while teaching or discipling , three distinctly separate, but related areas of issues will often be present.
2. Without an intimate, dynamic relationship with Jesus, a person will continue to make the same mistakes in their lives. This Heavenly relationship is always the foundation of mature discipleship.
3. Helping a disciple to identify and resolve relationship issues is only one important step in this process. Don't get caught in the well meaning detour of just fixing a relationship problem and raising the victory flag.
4. Helping your disciple understand their true identity, meaning and purpose in life and releasing a mature worker for God's kingdom is your ultimate goal.

APPLICATION

1. These are general guidelines based upon experience, these are not absolutes.
2. Keep good notes and records of what is uncovered in each of these three areas to guide you in your discipleship process.
3. It is vital that you address issues and solutions in all three areas with your disciple.
4. Biblical Discipleship is a work of the Holy Spirit. Allow Him to guide you in the selection of specific lessons, diagrams, timing and sequences.

LET'S GET SPECIFIC**Step 1: Identify Causes and Symptoms**

- A. Identify Godship
- B. Clarify using lessons 1-5

Step 2: Prescribe Cures and Solutions

- A. Repentance lesson 6
- B. Work through specific issues using lessons 7-10

Step 3: Maturing a Worker

- A. Using lesson 11

50-G

Purpose: To show the need to gather specific data using the first 5 VCL lessons before trying to resolve a cause or symptom in your disciples life.

EXPLANATION

1. The 12 VCL lessons all have specific, and interconnected purposes and roles in the discipling process.
2. You will uncover general patterns in your disciples life and habits, but you must get down to specifics in order to help them.
3. You must gather sufficient specific information in Step 1 before you can effectively move on to Step 2. Don't get in a hurry.
4. Your disciple should be continuously maturing as they cycle between Steps 1, 2 and 3.

APPLICATION**Step 1: Identify Causes and Symptoms**

- A. Identify Godship in your disciples life
- B. Clarify Godship patterns using lessons 1-5

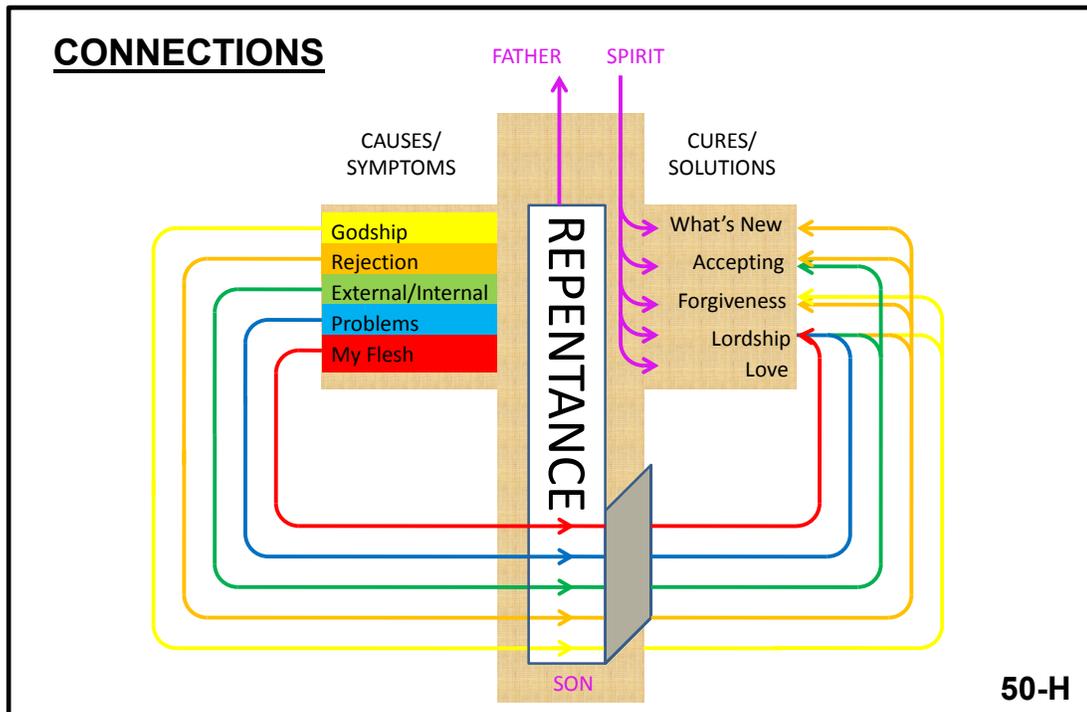
Uncover Specifics of:

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- How?
- Why?

Step 2: Prescribe Cures and Solutions:

- A. First step is Repentance
- B. Work on Specific Issues using:
 - What's New About You?
 - Accepting Your Righteousness
 - Extending Forgiveness
 - Seeking Forgiveness

Step 3: Mature the disciple with the goal of releasing a worker.



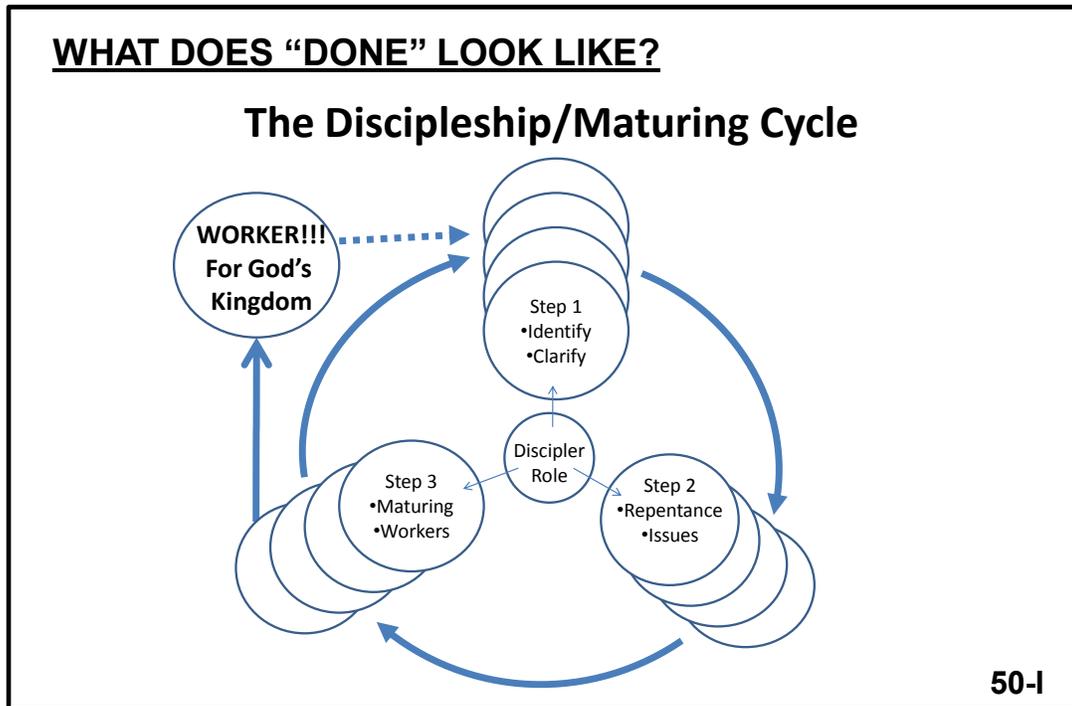
Purpose: To show the connections between the VCL lessons and the place of the Trinity in the process of reconciliation, healing and transformation.

EXPLANATION

1. This diagram shows, in general, what the basic connections are between the causes and symptoms uncovered in the first 5 lessons, the place of repentance and on to the next 5 lessons to find the cures and solutions.
2. The diagram also shows the place of the Trinity in this process.
 - A. God the Son gave up His life so we could be reconciled with God the Father.
 - B. We repent to God the Father for our godship patterns and sinful reactions.
 - C. The Holy Spirit provides us His power to resolve our issues and transform our life.

APPLICATION

1. Resist the urge to take a short cut by skipping repentance . This is essential in order to release the Spirit in the life of your disciple.
 - A. Healing and transformation is a work of the Spirit.
Isaiah 61:1-6
2. Continuously remind your disciple of the central truth that Jesus sacrificed His Life for them to make it possible for them to be reconciled with Father God and receive the His very life by the Spirit in order to have life that is pleasing to God.
3. The lesson on Love is both the test of, and result of , a transformed life.



Purpose: To show the discipleship cycle. As each new issue is uncovered, you will take your disciple through the discipleship/maturing cycle.

EXPLANATION

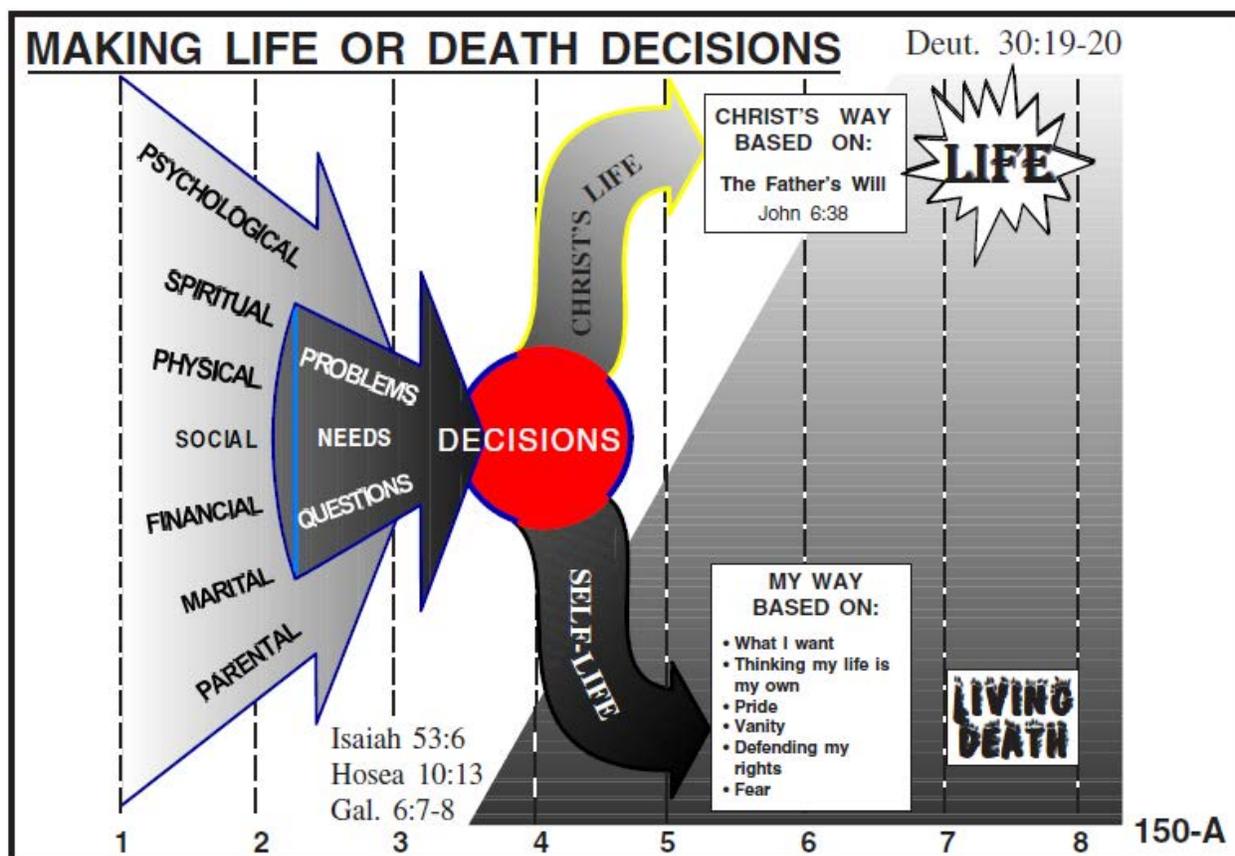
1. Discipling is not a “once around the lessons” process.
2. You will take many laps around the discipleship cycle with your disciple.
3. Every time around the cycle, your disciple will mature.
4. This cycle will become second nature to you as you gain familiarity and confidence in using all 12 VCL lessons.
5. Your ultimate goal is to release a mature worker for God’s kingdom.
6. It is to be expected that your disciple may occasionally need to come back into the discipleship cycle to work through new issues as the Spirit or circumstances reveal the need for further maturing.

APPLICATION

1. Encourage your disciple to begin “working” as soon as possible.
2. This could be as simple as sharing what they are learning with another person.
3. As they mature, give them deeper assignments such as “take another person through the 12 VCL lessons”
4. Remember that discipling is not just about “fixing” your disciples problem or issues.
5. Discipling is about releasing them to be productive workers and witness’s for God. Diagram 50-A Phase IV
6. Their fixed problem or issue becomes a part of their personal testimony about the power of the life of Jesus to heal and transform anybody. Isaiah 61:4-6

This page left blank by design.

Introduction to the Seven Areas of Life



SALT

- A. Scripture speaks to how we should live in all areas of life.
- B. We have identified seven general areas of life.
- C. These seven areas are listed in diagram 150-A (My Flesh)
- D. The seven areas of life are:
 1. Spiritual _____ our relationship with God.
 2. Psychological _____ our relationship with mind, will and emotions.
 3. Physical _____ our relationship with our bodies.
 4. Social _____ our relationship with other people.
 5. Financial _____ our relationship with money and work.
 6. Marital _____ our relationship with our spouse.
 7. Parental _____ our relationship with our children.
- E. As part of Life Ministry Training we will look at one facet of these areas of life by examining the godly model for each of the seven areas.
- F. Complete Seven Areas of Life are covered in a separate seminar.

*The **SPIRITUAL** Area of Life*

I. Definition

The spiritual are of life is not just going to church, reading the Bible, or Christian service. The spiritual area of life is one thing – a person’s relationship with God. Isaiah 43:10-11

II. Importance

A. This is the most important relationship in a person’s life. Jeremiah 9:23-24

B. It is the only relationship that gives life. John 17:3

III. Godly Model

A. Relationship with God is the priority of a disciple’s life. Matthew 22:37-38

1. A disciple desires to know God and seeks His presence
 - a. God desires that we seek Him and a disciple responds. Psalm 27:8
 - b. A disciple grows in his knowledge of God even in suffering. Philippians 3:10
 - c. What happens when a person stops seeking God? Romans 1:28
2. A disciple meditates on the Word of God.
 - a. A disciple goes to the Word, not to the world. Psalm 1:1-2
 - b. A disciple remembers God’s Word. Psalm 119:11
 - c. What happens when a person reads the Bible and does not apply it?
James 1:23-24
3. A disciple acknowledges God in all his ways.
Dictionary definition of “acknowledge”: “To admit the claims or authority of someone.”
 - a. A disciple acknowledges that everything belongs to God, including his own life. Romans 14:7-8
 - b. A disciple knows how to apply what God gives him because he first acknowledges God. Proverbs 3:5-6
 - c. What happens when a person fails to acknowledge that God owns his life?
Matthew 16:25
4. A disciple loves God and obeys His Word.
 - a. A disciple loves God as a reflection of God’s love for him. 1 John 4:19
 - b. A disciple obeys His commands. John 14:23
 - c. What happens when a person loves self rather than God? 2 Timothy 3:2-4
5. A disciple hears God’s voice!
 - a. Jesus didn’t die and only leave us the Bible. He is a living and speaking Savior. John 10:27
 - b. A disciple knows the difference between God’s voice and his own desires. He already is willing to do what God says before God speaks. John 5:30
 - c. What happens when you set your mind on doing your own will?
2 Timothy 4:3-4

B. Relationship with God affects a disciple's character

1. A disciple has overflowing joy as the fruit of the Spirit
 - a. Joy comes from God, not circumstances. Psalm 16:11
 - b. A disciple has peace with God because he has been justified by God. Romans 5:1
 - c. What if a person is not experiencing joy and peace? Romans 8:6
2. A disciple has a humble view of self.
 - a. A disciple understands his position before God. Micah 6:8
 - b. A disciple considers others as more important than himself. Philippians 2:3
 - c. What happens when a person loses a humble view of self? 1 Peter 5:5
3. A disciple has wisdom.
 - a. Jesus is the source of all wisdom. Colossians 2:3
 - b. A disciple doesn't trust in his/her knowledge, but in Christ's wisdom. 1 Corinthians 1:27, 30-31
 - c. What if a person does not make wise choices? Proverbs 12:15
4. A disciple lives by faith.
 - a. A disciple believes what God says in spite of what he sees. Hebrews 11:7
 - b. A disciple believes that the real is the unseen. 2 Corinthians 4:18
 - c. What happens when a person focus on the seen? Matthew 14:28-31
5. A disciple lives as an epistle of God.
 - a. God wants to reveal Himself through His children. Matthew 5:16
 - b. People see Jesus in a disciple in times of stress. 2 Corinthians 4:8-11
 - c. What happens when a person's life doesn't reveal Christ? 1 Corinthians 3:3

SEEING CHRIST AS MY VERY LIFE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SPIRITUAL AREA OF LIFE.

Colossians 3:4

*The **PSYCHOLOGICAL** Area of Life*

I. Definition

- A. The psychological area of life deals with a person's soul: the mind, will and emotions.
- B. When Christ rules over us, all three parts of the psychological area will be in order, functioning as God intended.

II. Importance

- A. Most people are seeking life and peace in their soul—their mind, will and emotions. Instead of experiencing life they experience death and loss. Scripture teaches that the mind is either set on the Spirit or on the flesh. Romans 8:6
- B. A mind set on the flesh is trying to gain life from self. Romans 1:25
- C. As we set our mind on the Spirit (Lord) He gives us peace. Isaiah 26:3

III. Godly Model

- A. A disciple's thinking is transformed. Romans 12:2
 - 1. A disciple has right thinking about God
 - a. A disciple thinks of Him as Lord. 1 Corinthians 8:6
 - b. A disciple thinks of Him as good. Matthew 19:17
 - c. What is the result of wrong thinking about God? Romans 1:21 (See II.A)
 - 2. A disciple has right thinking about self.
 - a. A disciple believes who God says he is. Romans 8:16
 - b. A disciple believes he can do nothing apart from Christ. John 15:5
 - c. What happens when a person is preoccupied with self? Galatians 6:3
 - 3. A disciple has right thinking towards others.
 - a. A disciple thinks of others as more important than himself. Philippians 2:3-4
 - b. A disciple does not seek the approval of others. John 12:43
 - c. What happens to a person who thinks he is more important than others? 1 Corinthians 12:21

B. A disciple's will is transformed.

1. A disciple submits his/her will to God.
 - a. A disciple chooses as Christ chose. John 6:38
 - b. A disciple acknowledges Jesus as Lord and allows Him to direct his choices. Acts 9:11,17
 - c. What happens when a person says, "No, Lord!"? Luke 6:46
2. A disciple lays down his life for others.
 - a. A disciple is willing to be a servant. Mark 10:43-45
 - b. A disciple chooses to please others rather than himself. Romans 15:1-3
 - c. What happens to a person who chooses not to care for others?
1 John 3:16-17
3. A disciple denies himself.
 - a. A disciple does not seek his/her own will. John 5:30
 - b. A disciple submits his desires to God and allows Him to decide.
Luke 22:42
 - c. What happens when a person doesn't submit his will to Christ?
Colossians 3:24-25

C. A disciple's emotions are transformed.

Emotions follow thoughts. They are like a thermometer which tells us what we are thinking, not like a thermostat which controls our thinking.

1. A disciple has right emotions toward God.
 - a. A disciple thinks of God as trustworthy and feels peaceful. Isaiah 26:3
 - b. A disciple doesn't feel guilty, fearful, or condemned before God because he knows God as his Father. Romans 8:15
 - c. What kind of wrong feelings do wrong thoughts toward God produce?
Matthew 6:31-32
2. A disciple has right emotions towards others.
 - a. A disciple feels compassion towards others when he knows about their needs. Colossians 3:12
 - b. A disciple doesn't feel jealous or selfish because he has God's wisdom.
James 3:16-17
 - c. What if a person feels hatred toward another person? 1 John 4:20-21
3. A disciple has right emotions towards self.
 - a. A disciple feels content and secure because he believes what God says about him. Psalm 65:4
 - b. A disciple doesn't feel worthless or depressed since he knows his value is from Christ. Matthew 10:29-31
 - c. What happens when a person allows his/her feelings to blot out God's truth? Genesis 4:6-7

GOD'S TRUTH MUST RULE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AREA OF LIFE.

2 Corinthians 10:5

*The **PHYSICAL** Area of Life*

I. Definition

The physical area of life is our body and how it relates to the physical world around us.

II. Importance

- A. The physical area of life is important because the body was created by God and for God.
- B. We need to believe that our body is not who we are, so we do not try to gain significance by what our body looks like or what it can achieve.
- C. We need to see our body as a tool given to us by God to accomplish His will. His will is that we know Him and make Him known. Revelation 4:11

III. Godly Model

- A. A disciple maintains his body for the Lord's use. 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - 1. A disciple is not controlled by his body but keeps it under control for the Lord. 1 Corinthians 9:27
 - 2. What happens when a person is mastered by the desires of his/her body? Proverbs 23:21
- B. A disciple believes that God's purposes for his body are best. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4
 - 1. A disciple chooses to remain pure. 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - 2. What happens when a person chooses immorality? Proverbs 6:26-27
- C. A disciple acknowledges that God made him/her. Psalm 139:14
 - 1. A disciple thanks God for his/her body. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 - 2. What happens when a person is dissatisfied with his/her body? Romans 9:20-21
- D. A disciple seeks the Lord when not physically well. James 5:14
 - 1. A disciple receives God's strength while suffering. 2 Corinthians 12:9
 - 2. What happens when a person is making bad choices with his body? Galatians 6:7-8
- E. A disciple knows his/her body is God's temple. 1 Corinthians 6:19
 - 1. A disciple yields his/her body to God. Romans 12:1
 - 2. What happens when a person does not yield to God? Romans 6:12-14

F. A disciple sees his/her body as an instrument to bring glory to God—not to bring glory to himself/herself. 1 Corinthians 6:20

1. A disciple wants to bring glory to the Creator, not the creature. Romans 1:23,25
2. What happens when a person tries to bring glory to himself? Isaiah 1:13-14

SALT

KNOWING MY BODY IS THE LORD'S BODY RULES THE PHYSICAL AREA OF LIFE.

Philippians 1:20b

*The **SOCIAL** Area of Life*

I. Definition

This area of life deals with a person's relationship with other people.

II. Importance

God created us to live with one another. Even in heaven we will live with one another. Because of our spiritual identity in the body of Christ, we need to live together in love and harmony. 1 John 4:7

III. Godly Model

A. Attitudes towards others

1. A disciple sees others as important and essential.
 - a. A disciple sees himself as part of Christ's body. Romans 12:5
 - b. A disciple sees others as part of his/her own life. 1 Corinthians 12:18
 - c. What if a person says he has no need for anyone? 1 Corinthians 12:19-21
2. A disciple thinks of others as more important than himself. Philippians 2:3-4
 - a. A disciple sees himself as a servant to others. Mark 10:43-45
 - b. A disciple loves other people. John 13:34-35
 - c. What happens when a person loves himself more than others? Matthew 16:25
3. A disciple does not judge others.
 - a. A disciple does not judge others because of their beliefs or actions. Romans 14:4
 - b. A disciple has an attitude of humility and is not judgmental when he sees a brother fall. Galatians 6:1
 - c. What happens when a person judges others? Matthew 7:1-2
4. A disciple enters into relationships to give, not to take.
 - a. A disciple is complete in Christ and therefore does not try to get his or her value from others. Colossians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 13:5
 - b. A disciple gives life to others he or she has relationships with. John 15:13
 - c. What happens when a person uses relationships to get personal fulfillment? John 12:25

B. Actions towards others

1. A disciple cares for the needy.
 - a. A disciple is willing to give money to meet the needs of others.
Romans 12:13
 - b. A disciple is not just aware of the needs of others, but takes action to help them. James 1:27
 - c. What happens when a person ignores the needs of others?
James 2:15-16

2. A disciple forgives others.
 - a. A disciple does not hold grudges but is quick to forgive. Ephesians 4:32
 - b. What happens when a person chooses not to forgive? Hebrews 12:15

3. A disciple respects all authority.
 - a. A disciple recognizes all authority comes from God and submits to it for the Lord's sake. 1 Peter 2:13
 - b. A disciple knows God uses authority to protect us. Hebrews 13:17
 - c. What happens when a person does not respect authority? Proverbs 28:4

4. A disciple does not forsake the gathering of believers. Hebrews 12:10
 - a. A disciple is devoted to his brothers and sisters in Christ. Romans 12:10
 - b. A disciple shows hospitality to others. 1 Peter 4:8-9
 - c. What happens when a person does not want to be with other believers?
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12

LOVING OTHERS MUST RULE THE SOCIAL AREA OF LIFE.

Galatians 5:14

*The **FINANCIAL** Area of Life*

I. Definition

The financial area of life deals with a person's relationship with money. This includes a job or vocation.

II. Importance

- A. Since everything in the world belongs to God, it is important to know how He wants us to deal with our money, job and possessions. Abundance of, or the lack of money can turn a person away from God. Proverbs 30:8-9
- B. God's Word reveals His principals on how to manage what He gives us.

III. Godly Model

- A. Attitudes about money.
 - 1. A disciple knows who the Source is. 1 Chronicles 29:12
 - a. A disciple does not trust in the supply but in the Supplier. Deuteronomy 8:18
 - b. A disciple is content with little or much. Philippians 4:11-13
 - c. What happens when a person worries about the supply? Matthew 6:31-34
 - 2. A disciple knows who the owner is. Psalm 24:1
 - a. A disciple knows that what he has, God gave him to steward. Matthew 25:14-15
 - b. A disciple believes the ultimate goal of the supply given to him is to bring glory to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10, 13a
 - c. What happens when I have the attitude that my money is my money? Luke 12:20-21

B. Actions regarding money.

A disciple considers what God says about spending money

These are suggested priorities.

1. A disciple spends money for necessities. 1 Timothy 5:8; 6:8
 - a. This is considered first because God wants us to take care of our families.
 - b. Most money is not spent on necessities, we have more than we need.
 - c. Suggested priority order: Matthew 6:30-34
 1. Food
 2. Clothes
 3. Housing (Utilities and maybe a phone)
 4. Transportation (a car or a bike, it can be a tool of one's trade)
2. A disciple spends money for taxes, but only what is due. Matthew 22:17-21
We should have no fear of the government, but obey the law. Romans 13:1
3. A disciple spends money for tithes and giving. Malachi 3:8-9
 - a. A disciple gives to people who minister for God. Galatians 6:6
 - b. A disciple gives to those in need. Ephesians 4:28
4. A disciple sets aside for emergencies
 - a. This could include health insurance
 - b. This could include savings. Proverbs 21:20; Proverbs 30:24-25
 - c. Extra money could be spent on necessities such as fixing the car, buying extra food for an emergency, and fixing the house—doing preventative maintenance.
5. A disciple invests excess money to bring an increase. Generating increase brings glory to God. Matthew 25:16-17
 - a. Just putting money in the bank is not praised in the Bible.
 - b. Risk is praised. Matthew 25:21
 - c. Our dependence should be on God, not money. When we need to liquidate an investment we need to trust God to do it.
6. A disciple leaves an inheritance. Proverbs 13:22
 - a. Leaving an inheritance to grandchildren can bless multiple generations.
 - b. Children expect to get money when a parent dies and they can become greedy.
 - c. Grandchildren do not expect to receive money and are thankful.
 - d. Leaving an inheritance to grandchildren promotes financial stability.
7. A disciple is not in debt. If a person is in debt, getting out of debt becomes a priority. Romans 13:8
 - a. If a person is disobedient in spending money in the previous six ways, then getting out of debt is an additional way to spend money.
 - b. Getting out of debt actually now becomes part of number one and is a necessity.

MONEY IS A BLESSING GOD GIVES ME AND IS TO BE USED AS GOD DIRECTS.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

*The **MARITAL** Area of Life*

I. Definition

A person's relationship to his/her spouse

II. Importance

- A. Marriage illustrates the relationship between Christ and us, the bride of Christ.
Ephesians 5:21-29, 33
- B. God uses marriage to show us how selfish we are and how much we need Him to live with another person. A godly marriage allows two people to be complete as they serve God.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- C. Marriage is the most common issue which causes people to seek counsel.

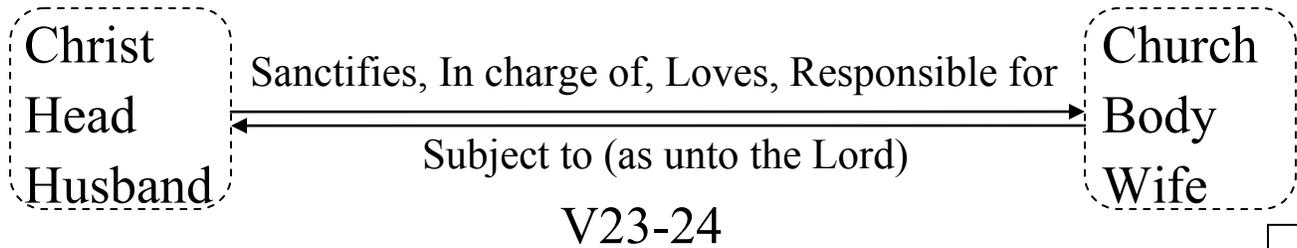
III. Godly Model

- A. A godly husband loves his wife. Colossians 3:19
 - 1. A godly husband loves his wife by laying down his life for his wife.
Ephesians 5:25
 - 2. A godly husband models Christ's and loves his wife even when she acts like his enemy.
Romans 5:8
 - 3. What happens to a man who does not love his wife by listening to her? 1 Peter 3:7
- B. A godly husband leads his wife. Ephesians 5:23
 - 1. He leads by being a servant. Mark 10:45
 - 2. He leads all the time but never forces her to follow. Mark 10:42-43
 - 3. What happens when a man does not lead his wife? Genesis 3:17
- C. A godly wife helps her husband. Genesis 2:20
 - 1. A godly wife helps her husband prosper. Proverbs 31:11-12
 - 2. A godly wife values and protects her husbands' reputation. Proverbs 31:23
 - 3. What happens when a wife does not help her husband? Proverbs 14:1
- D. A godly wife follows her husband's leadership. Ephesians 5:22
 - 1. A godly wife brings honor to God by following her husband as she would follow Christ.
Colossians 3:18
 - 2. Because a godly wife's trust is in the Lord, she follows and doesn't resist her husband's leadership. 1 Peter 2:23, 3:1
 - 3. What if a wife does not follow her husband? Titus 2:5
- E. A godly wife loves her husband. Titus 2:4
 - 1. A godly wife loves her husband by respecting him. Ephesians 5:33
 - 2. A godly wife loves her husband as an act of obedience to God. Ephesians 5:23
 - 3. What happens if a woman does not love her husband? Proverbs 14:1

THINKING OF YOUR SPOUSE AS MORE IMPORANT THAN YOURSELF MUST RULE MARRIAGE.

Philippians 2:3

Ephesians 5:21-29, 33 & Gen 2:20



SALT

V21 Be subject to one another

V22 Wives, be subject to your husband

V25 Love your wife by giving up your life for her

V26 Sanctify her
Cleanse her by the washing with God's Word

V27 Her Holiness (ministry) is your goal

V28 Love her as yourself

V29 Nourish and cherish her

V33 Wife is to respect her husband

Gen 2:20 Wife is to be a suitable helper to
her husband in his work and ministry

*The **PARENTAL** Area of Life*

I. Definition

The parental area of life deals with the relationship of parents to their children.

II. Importance

A. Children are a gift from the Lord. Psalm 127:3

B. They can be wonderful mirrors of our relationship with God.

1. Parents are to raise children up to be Godly offspring.
2. It is vital to teach children how to have a relationship with their Heavenly Father.

C. Parenting is primarily discipleship.

III. Godly Model

Scripture reveals seven principals a parent should follow to disciple a child. To leave out a principal due to personal experience or society's influence will most likely cause you and your children to suffer.

A. A godly parent will **TEACH** a child. Deuteronomy 4:10

To **TEACH** is to give *verbal instruction*.

1. A godly parent discipled a child by teaching how life works and how to live. Deuteronomy 6:6-7
2. What happens when a parent doesn't teach a child? Proverbs 29:18

B. A godly parent will **TRAIN** a child. Proverbs 22:6

To **TRAIN** is to allow a child *to do* what is taught.

1. A godly parent discipled a child by training him/her to apply what has been taught. Luke 9:2, 6 (Jesus sent His men and let them proclaim His message)
2. What happens when a parent doesn't train a child? James 1:23-24

C. A godly parent will **CORRECT** a child. Proverbs 29:17

To **CORRECT** is to *adjust the inappropriate actions* of a child being trained.

1. A godly parent discipled a child by correcting wrong behavior with further teaching or training. Matthew 17:19-20
2. What happens when a parent is unwilling to correct a child? 1 Samuel 3:12-13

D. A godly parent will NURTURE a child. Ephesians 6:4b

To NURTURE is to *nourish emotionally*.

1. A godly parent disciplines a child by touching and speaking in such a way to build a warm relationship. Matthew 19:13-15
2. What happens when a parent doesn't provide emotional nourishment for a child? Colossians 3:21

E. A godly parent will DISCIPLINE a child. Proverbs 19:18

To DISCIPLINE a child is to *impose negative consequences* in response to a child's wrong choices.

1. A godly parent is motivated by love to discipline a child who is acting foolishly. This discipline comes immediately, without anger, in private, as God's representative and to rescue a child from rebellious behavior. Proverbs 22:15
2. What happens when a parent fails to discipline a child? Proverbs 13:24

SALT

F. A godly parent PROVIDES for a child.

To PROVIDE for a child is to *meet the child's physical needs*.

1. A godly parent disciplines a child by seeing that the child's physical needs are met. Matthew 7:9-10
2. What happens if a parent fails to meet the physical needs of a child? 1 Timothy 5:8

G. A godly parent LOVES a child.

To LOVE a child is to *give yourself up* to meet all the needs of a child.

1. A godly parent disciplines a child by unselfish patience and kindness. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5
2. What happens when a parent fails to love a child? 2 Timothy 3:2-4

**IN THE PARENTAL AREA OF LIFE, OUR MODEL AND POWER TO PARENT IS
GOD THE FATHER!**

Matthew 7:11

TLM is a nonprofit ministry. By your purchase of materials, you are helping to provide FREE services to hurting people. Thank you for being a part of the team.

TOTAL LIFE MINISTRIES

5740 East Shea Boulevard
Scottsdale, Arizona, USA 85254
+1(800) 419-2891
www.mytln.org

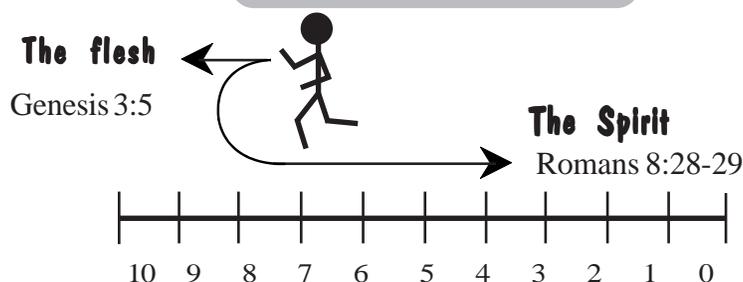
Self-Evaluation

Circle “yes” or “no” for each of the following questions. (If your answer is “yes” and “no,” circle both.)

- | | | |
|------------|--|-----------|
| YES | 1. Are you uncomfortable when you are not in control? | NO |
| YES | 2. Is it difficult for you to say to God, “I’ll give up anything you ask”? | NO |
| YES | 3. Do you tend to become impatient when people don’t do things right? | NO |
| YES | 4. Do you reject or avoid those who mistreat you? | NO |
| YES | 5. Does it bother you when others don’t approve of you? | NO |
| YES | 6. Do you try to be independent? | NO |
| YES | 7. Does it bother you when someone treats you like a “doormat”? | NO |
| YES | 8. Does it bother you when you do not get good service? | NO |
| YES | 9. Do you worry about being physically attractive? | NO |
| YES | 10. Does it bother you when you don’t have the money to buy something? | NO |

REAL LIFE Challenge

The Father	You	The Son of Man
Controls all of life Psalm 135:5-7	YES 1. Are you uncomfortable when you are not in control? NO	Trusted God's control 1 Peter 2:23
Does His own will Daniel 4:34-35	YES 2. Is it difficult for you to say to God "I'll give up anything you ask"? NO	Did only the Father's will John 6:38
Lawgiver and Judge James 4:12	YES 3. Do you get impatient when people don't do things right? NO	Came not to judge John 12:47
Exercises vengeance Romans 12:19	YES 4. Do you reject or avoid those who mistreat you? NO	Forgave and interceded Luke 23:34
Seeks worshipers John 4:23	YES 5. Does it bother you when others don't approve of you? NO	Became of no reputation Philippians 2:7 (KJV)
Is independent Isaiah 40:13-14	YES 6. Do you try to be independent? NO	Was dependent upon the Father John 5:19
Exalts Himself above all 1 Chronicles 29:11	YES 7. Does it bother you when someone treats you like a "doormat"? NO	Humbled Himself Philippians 2:8
Is to be served Deuteronomy 10:12	YES 8. Does it bother you when you don't get good service? NO	Came not to be served Matthew 20:28
Is too glorious to behold Exodus 33:22-23	YES 9. Do you worry about being physically attractive? NO	Was not physically attractive Isaiah 53:2-3
Owens everything Psalm 50:10-12	YES 10. Does it bother you when you don't have the money to buy something? NO	Had no place to lay His head Matthew 8:20



GODSHIP 

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD'S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S NEW

ACCEPT RIGHT

EXTEND FORGIVE

SEEK FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 100 **GODSHIP**

100-A	EXERCISING GODSHIP
100-B	GOD BEING GOD
100-C	JUDGING GOOD AND EVIL
100-D	THREE KINGDOMS
100-E	“GOOD” TAKEN BEYOND THE BOUNDS—IS SIN
100-E1	GOD’S WAY

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. After you have asked the questions in data-gathering about the subject of godship.
2. This should be used early in the discipleship process, don't wait too long.
3. Use this lesson anytime you see your disciple exercising godship.
4. When a disciple says, “I’m feeling so frustrated!” Frustration is often a sign of godship. People are frustrated when they are trying to control something or someone.
5. When you see sinful patterns in your disciple and you want to show their root.
6. As you observe your disciple trying to protect him or herself from rejection.

Key Truths to Stress -----

Godship is seeking to be god in one’s own life or in the life of another person. Godship is the basic problem in the lives of people. Everyone wants to be god but won’t admit it. We all have underlying sinful patterns of godship that need to be uncovered and broken by God’s power and love.

Key Verses -----

Genesis 3:5 *“For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

To uncover areas of godship in your disciple’s life. See what patterns of godship your disciple has that occur repeatedly. Lead to repentance as the Holy Spirit brings conviction.

GODSHIP

*... your eyes will
be opened, and you
will be like God ...*

Genesis 3:5

This lesson pinpoints the beginning of man's original rebellion against God and the results. Ever since Eve's conversation with Satan, man has sought to be like God. We coined the term "godship" for this basic problem of mankind. Godship (sin) is the term used to identify: **(1) claiming the right to myself, (2) the self-life or walking after the flesh, (3) an individual living without considering what God has to say in His Word, or (4) allowing feelings, and circumstances, from my 5 senses to rule instead of God.**

This lesson has often been used by God to change people's lives. Ask the Lord to open your heart to His truth.

EXERCISING GODSHIP

- Determining standards of conduct for myself, others, and God.**
- Demanding absolute obedience to those standards.**
- Judging God, others, and my life, attitudes, and actions by those standards.**
- Seeking revenge.**
- Selfishly endeavoring to control circumstances and people.**
- Exercising “sovereign” independence, doing whatever I please.**
- Seeking praise, approval, & acceptance from others and not from God.**
- Asking no help or guidance from anyone, not even God.**

100-A

Purpose: To show how people try to be like God.

EXPLANATION

- How it looks to try and be like God by:
 1. **Setting Standards**—“I wish (I, you, God) would do things right.” Right according to whom? Me! I set the standard. I am God.
 2. **Demanding obedience**—“I just want everyone to do it my way.”
 3. **Judging**—“I can’t believe (I, you, God) did that—that was wrong!” (The above three go together.)
 4. **Seeking revenge**—“You hurt me, so I will hurt you.”
 5. **Trying to control**—“If I don’t trust God, I will trust myself.”
 6. **Exercising independence**—“It’s my time, my money, my life—OK?”
 7. **Seeking praise**—“God’s love isn’t enough, I need this person’s approval.”
 8. **Asking for no help**—“I am smart enough to do this alone.”
- Satan’s fall began when he tried to be like God.
- These actions are always sin.

APPLICATION

-  What is godship?
-  Study Genesis 3:1-7
-  Whose idea was it to be like God?
-  What actions of godship do you see in verses 6-7?
-  Which of these eight expressions of godship are most common in your life?
-  Have you said, “I wish people would just do things right!” Right according to whom—you? Who made you the standard setter for others to follow?
-  Have you judged yourself and condemned yourself recently? Why? Whose standards did you break?
-  Have you ever tried to control people by silence, yelling, intimidation, or kindness? Do you see your use of alcohol, drugs, food, or sleep as an attempt to control your life?
-  Do you try hard to please people?
-  Do you see these actions as sin?

Godship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **100-A**:

To show how people try to be like God.

? 1. What is godship? _____

 2. Study Genesis 3:1-7.

? 3. Whose idea was it to be like God? _____

? 4. What actions of godship do you see in verses 6-7? _____

? 5. Which of these eight expressions of godship are most common in your life?

*... your eyes will be opened,
and you will be like God*

Gen. 3:5

? 6. Have you said, "I wish people would just do things right!" Right according to whom— you? Who made you the standard setter for others to follow? _____

? 7. Have you judged yourself and condemned yourself recently? Why? Whose standards did you break? _____

? 8. Have you ever tried to control people by silence, yelling, intimidation, or kindness? Do you see your use of alcohol, drugs, food, or sleep as an attempt to control your life? _____

? 9. Do you try hard to please people? _____

? 10. Do you see these actions as sin? _____

*"It will wear me out to try to be like God.
I am not equipped to be God."*

GOD BEING GOD:

- **Determines standards of conduct for mankind**—*Ex. 20:1-17*
- **Demands absolute obedience to those standards**—*Gen. 22:1-12*
- **Judges the lives, actions, and attitudes of man**—*Gen. 18:25; Acts 17:31*
- **Takes vengeance**—*Ps. 94:1; Rom. 12:17-19*
- **Controls all of life**—*Job 12:13-25; Acts 17:24-28a*
- **Exercises sovereign independence, doing whatever He pleases**—*Ps. 135:5-6; Dan. 4:35*
- **Seeks the praise, worship, and acceptance of mankind**—*Isa. 42:8; John 4:23*
- **Asks help and guidance from no one**—*Isa. 40:13-14; Rom. 11:33-34*

100-B

Purpose: To illustrate the “rights” of God.

EXPLANATION

- Contrast this diagram with 100-A
- Trying to exercise godship will wear you out! Why? Because you don't have the ability and power to be God.
- This problem of godship is man's primary problem in relation to others and in relation to God Himself.
- A person can live a life exercising godship in his/her own life, other people's lives, and even try to tell God how to act.

APPLICATION

- ? Why is it God's right to perform all these actions?
 Study Job 12:13-25
- ? How much of life does God control?
- ? Why is it foolish for us to try and play god in our lives or someone else's life?
 Study Isaiah 42:8
- ? What is God's attitude toward someone who would usurp His place?
- ? How do you know when you are exercising godship?

Godship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **100-B**:

To illustrate the “rights” of God.

? 1. Why is it God’s right to perform all these actions? _____

 2. Study Job 12:13-25.

? 3. How much of life does God control? _____

? 4. Why is it foolish for us to try to play god in our lives or someone else’s life? _____

I am the Lord, and there is no other Isa. 45:5

 5. Study Isaiah 42:8.

? 6. What is God’s attitude toward someone who would usurp His place? _____

? 7. How do you know when you are exercising godship? _____

God is God and I am not!

JUDGING		GOOD	AND	EVIL
GOD'S LAWS <i>(Absolute)</i>	<i>Whatever God, out of His infinite goodness, justice, and love, states to be ultimately for man's blessing and God's own glory</i>	GOD		<i>Whatever God rejects as being inconsistent with His perfect righteousness and therefore against His good purposes in the world</i>
MAN'S LAWS <i>(Relative)</i>	<i>Whatever is personally thought at present to be beneficial to the greatest number of persons or to the persons of greatest importance</i>	SELF		<i>Whatever is rejected by the present consensus and therefore is perceived as being bad for society</i>
Judges 21:25				100-C

Purpose: To distinguish between God's absolute law and man's relative law.

EXPLANATION

- Psalm 119:89: "Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven."
- God's laws are based on God's character. He doesn't change and neither do His laws.
- Isaiah 5:20: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil...."
- This is a picture of what has happened when man becomes the standard instead of God.
- Only God has the right to judge what is good and evil.

APPLICATION

- ? What things have society decided are good based on the believes of the majority of the people?
- ? What things have you decided are good based on your own benefit without considering what God says?
-  Study John 7:24.
- ? What determines good or evil?
- ? How do God's values differ from society's values?
-  Study Proverbs 16:25.
- ? How does this apply to you?
-  Study the last verse in the book of Judges. How does that apply to today?

Godship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **100-C**:

To distinguish between God's absolute law and man's relative law.

? 1. What things have society decided are good based on the beliefs of the majority of the people? _____

? 2. What things have you decided are good based on your own benefit without considering what God says? _____

 3. Study John 7:24

? 4. What determines good or evil? _____

? 5. How do God's values differ from society's values? _____

 6. Study Proverbs 16:25.

? 7. How does that passage apply to you?

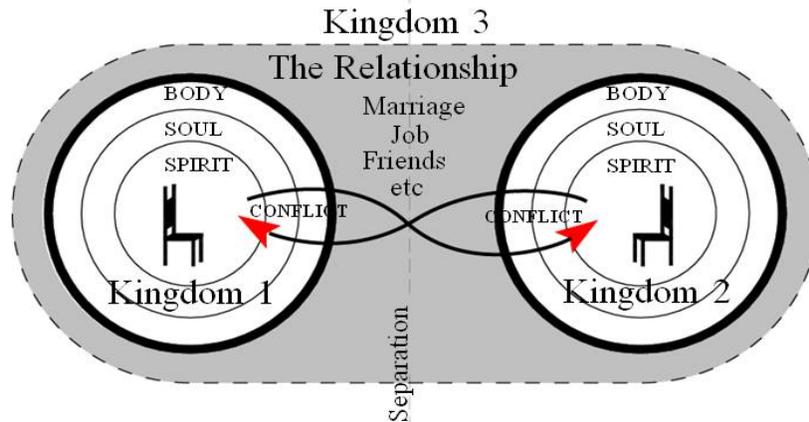
*There is a way which
seems right to a man,
But its end is the way
of death.* Prov. 16:25
(NKJV)

? 8. Study the last verse in the book of Judges. How does that apply to today?

"Everybody could be wrong."

THREE KINGDOMS

James 4:1-3



100-D

Purpose: To illustrate conflict between two parties when either or both are functioning in godship.

EXPLANATION

- People in their two inner kingdoms try to rule each other by their own ideas, strategies, and standards. They are desiring to control the third kingdom—the relationship.
- Whoever rules the third kingdom rules the other two kingdoms inside.
- Each person needs to give up his/her own godship so God can rule the third kingdom.
- A line is drawn between the two kingdoms to show how we attempt to divide or end the relationship by divorce, death, or dissolution.

APPLICATION

- ? Are you in a relationship where there is a conflict?
-  Study Matthew 7:1-5.
- ? Have you been judging another person?
- ? Have you been trying to change the person in the other kingdom?
- ? How's it going? Do you find yourself feeling frustrated or angry?
- ? What areas of godship (Diagram 100-A) does your frustration or anger reveal?
- ? Have you thought about or talked about ending the relationship?
- ? Are you ready to yield yourself to the Lord to rule your kingdom?

Godship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 100-D:

*To illustrate conflict between two parties
when either or both are functioning in godship.*

? 1. Are you in a relationship where there is a conflict? _____

 2. Study Matthew 7:1-5.

? 3. Have you been judging another person?

? 4. Have you been trying to change the
person in the other kingdom?

*For where you have
. . . selfish ambition,
there you find
disorder James 3:16
(NIV)*

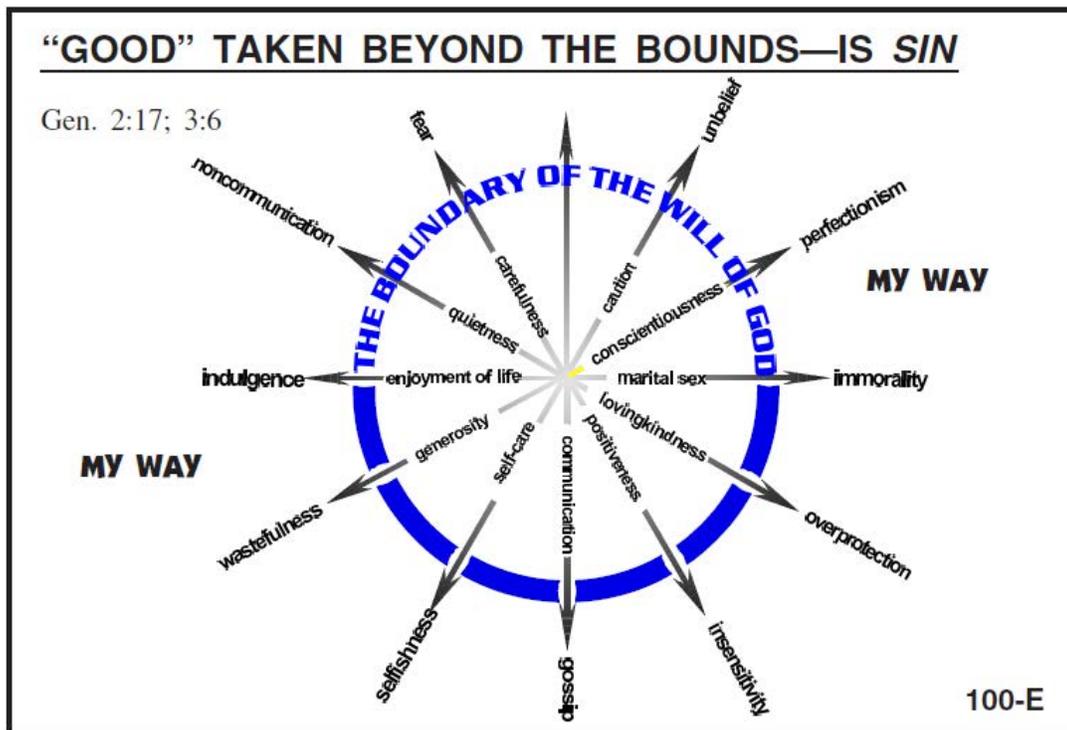
? 5. How's it going? Do you find yourself feeling frustrated or angry?

? 6. What areas of godship (Diagram 100-A) does your frustration or anger
reveal? _____

? 7. Have you thought about or talked about ending the relationship?

? 8. Are you ready to yield yourself to the Lord to rule your kingdom?

*If I play god of my own kingdom,
I shouldn't expect another person to
be my subject.*



Purpose: To illustrate what God created as good can be pushed beyond the boundaries of His will.

EXPLANATION

- Satan is not a creator, he is a perverter.
- All sin is a perversion of something God created. For example: being careful is good, but living in fear is not trusting God which is sin.
- When someone pushes normal actions beyond the bounds of God’s ways then godship results.
- Godship is doing things “My Way.”
- Pushing beyond God’s will pushes God away.
- My true needs will always be met within the boundaries of God’s will.
- It’s acting like God to try to meet my needs my way.

APPLICATION

- ? In the Garden of Eden, did God make fruit of the trees for Adam and Eve’s enjoyment?
YES NO
- ? In Genesis 2:17, what did God say would happen if Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?
- ? Did God put a boundary on what was good?
YES NO
-  Study Genesis 3:6. Is sin often appealing to us as humans?
- ? Which of those attributes in Diagram 100-E cross over the boundary of God’s will in your life?
- ? How did that boundary get crossed?
- ? Do you agree that crossing these boundaries is deciding for yourself what is good and evil?
YES NO (If yes, that is godship)

Godship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **100-E**:

*To illustrate that what God created as good
can be pushed beyond the boundaries of His will.*

1. In the Garden of Eden, did God make fruit of the trees for Adam and Eve's enjoyment? YES NO
2. In Genesis 2:17, what did God say would happen if Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? _____

3. Did God put a boundary on what was good? YES NO

*. . . do not turn your freedom into
an opportunity for the flesh*

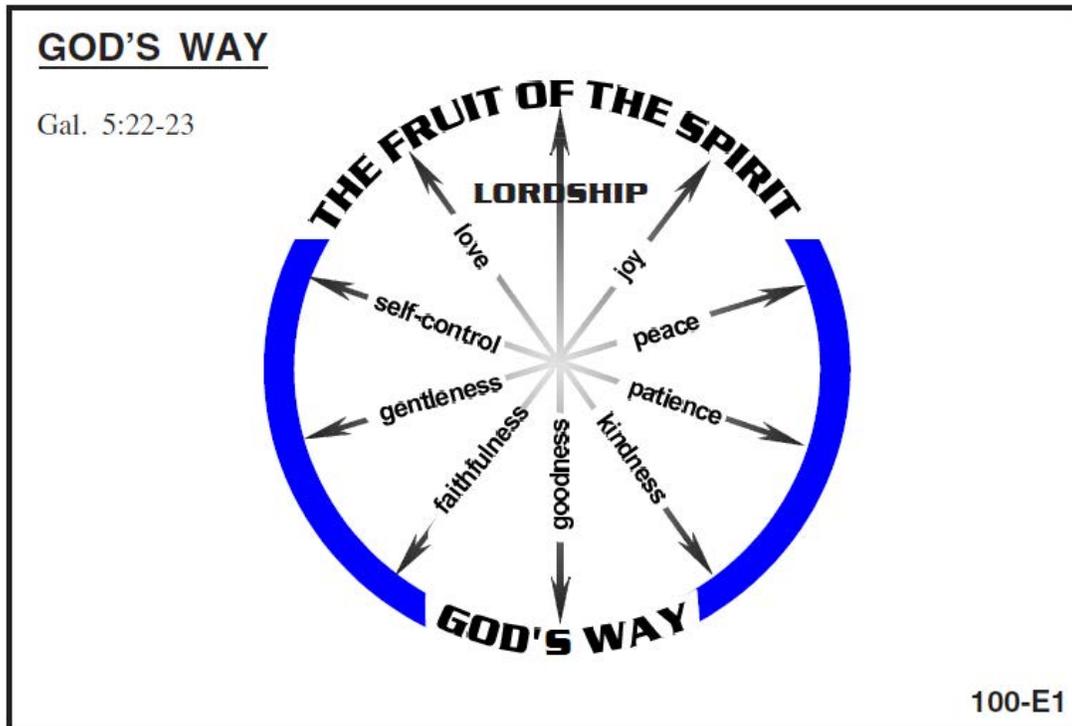
Gal. 5:13a

-  4. Read Genesis 3:6. Is sin often appealing to us as humans?

5. Which of those attributes in Diagram 100-E cross over the boundary of God's will in your life? _____
6. How did the boundary get crossed? _____

7. Do you agree that crossing these boundaries is deciding for yourself what is good and evil? YES NO (If yes, that is godship.)

My way is not God's will.



Purpose: To demonstrate that the fruit of the Spirit will be evident in our lives when we abstain from walking in godship

EXPLANATION

- Jesus wants to be our Lord and Master (Jude 4)
- Godship is my attempt to be Lord.
- He wants to be Lord over what you consider to be: “my body, my time, my thought, my feelings, my money, my career, my marriage, my choices, my family, and my friends.”
- If the Holy Spirit reigns in us, we have these nine expressions of the Spirit.

APPLICATION

- ? What is the difference between godship and Lordship?
- ? Where do you see yourself—in godship or Lordship?
-  Study Galatians 5:16-23.
- ? What do you see in your life—the fruit of the Spirit or the deeds of the flesh?
-  Study Romans 10:9.
- ? What position is Jesus to have in our lives?
- ? Are you ready to admit exercising godship in your life?
-  Admit your sin of trying to be god.
-  Receive His forgiveness and cleansing.
-  Reject the actions of godship in your life!
-  Yield yourself to Christ and let Jesus reign as Lord!

Godship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **100-E1**:

*To demonstrate that the fruit of the Spirit will be evident
in our lives when we abstain from walking in godship.*

? 1. What is the difference between godship and Lordship? _____

? 2. Where do you see yourself—in godship
or Lordship? _____

*against such things
there is no law.*

Gal. 5:23b

 3. Study Galatians 5:16-23.

? 4. What do you see in your life—the fruit of the Spirit or the deeds of the
flesh? _____

 5. Study Romans 10:9.

? 6. What position is Jesus to have in our lives? _____

? 7. Are you ready to admit exercising godship in your life? _____

 8. Admit your sin of trying to be god.

 9. Receive His forgiveness and cleansing.

 10. Reject the actions of godship in your life!

 11. Yield yourself to Christ and let Jesus reign as LORD!

Jesus—Lord of all or not Lord at all.

REVIEW

- God is God and I am not.
- God is God and only He has the right to set standards, judge, and demand absolute obedience of people.
- There is something within me that desires to be like God.
- Godship is sin and leads to withdrawal from God and others and doubting instead of trusting.
- Only when God rules over our relationships with others will we experience relationships that bring glory to His kingdom.
- Good taken beyond God's boundaries leads to sin.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION 

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

EXTEND
FORGIVE

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 110

REJECTION

110-A	THE REJECTION CYCLE
110-B	FEELING REJECTED....
110-C	REACTING TOWARDS OTHERS...
110-D	REACTING TOWARDS GOD...
110-E	STOPPING THE REJECTION CYCLE

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. To uncover godship in your disciples life.
2. When your disciple's thoughts or feelings are in control.
3. To show your disciple how he/she has been rejected and by whom.
4. To make a list of people who have hurt your disciple. These are people your disciple will forgive as you come to extending forgiveness.
5. To show your disciple his/her pattern of reacting to rejection.
6. To move your disciple out of the rejection cycle.

Key Truths to Stress -----

Rejection is inevitable. When we react to being rejected, it causes many negative consequences in our lives.

Key Verses -----

Ephesians 1:3-8, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us.”*

Romans 15:7, *“Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

Have your disciple identify someone who has rejected him/her and evaluate the results of that rejection. Help your disciple see how he/she reacted in godship. Ask your disciple to trust God to break the rejection cycle by choosing to believe what God says is true. Pray with your disciple that God will fill him/her with His love for the rejecter.

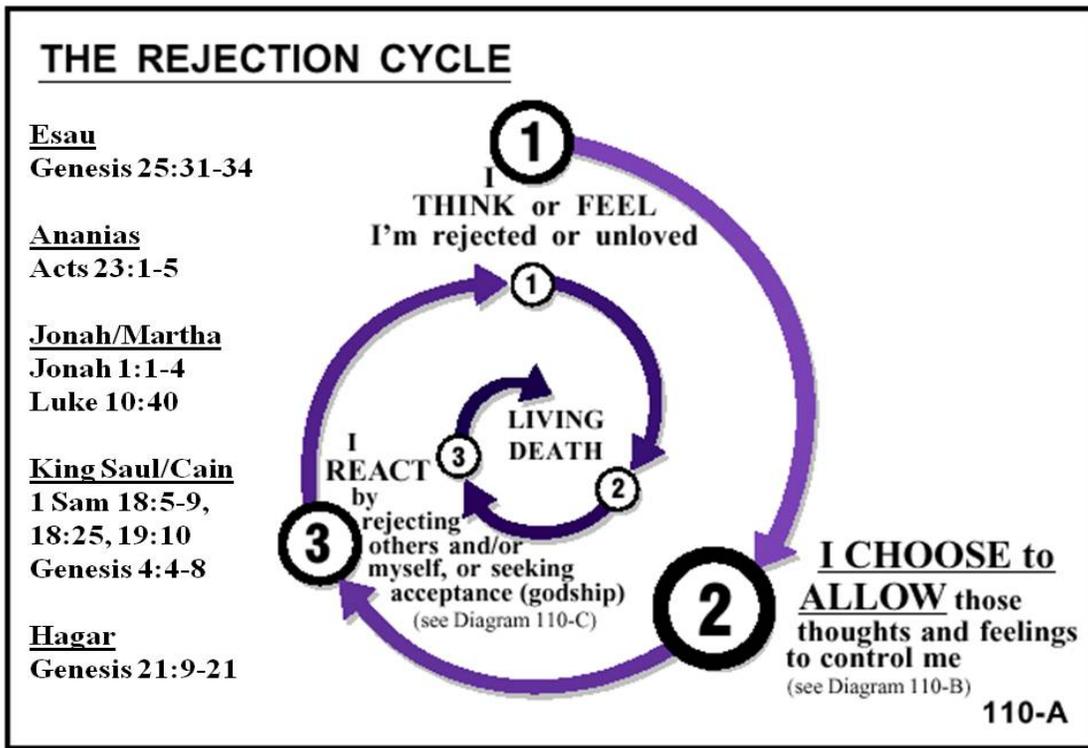
REJECTION

*There is therefore now
no condemnation for those
who are in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:1

Rejection is one of the most common reactions when another person does something that doesn't please you or you do something that doesn't please some other person. If your parents didn't reject you, your peers, or the public probably did. You may have even rejected yourself.

Those who feel rejection tend to reject the "rejecter" setting up a cycle of hurt and retaliation. This lesson shows the trauma of rejection in a person's life, its transferal from the rejected person to others, even God, and how the rejection cycle can be broken. We believe that rejection is a consequence of man playing god in his own life or the lives of others—what we call godship.



Purpose: To show the three steps of the rejection cycle and how they are repeated.

EXPLANATION

- Everyone gets rejected in life! How we handle it is the issue.
 - Overt rejection is obvious.
 - Covert rejection is more subtle
- Rejection is knowingly or unknowingly withholding love.
- Rejection is also the result of someone exercising godship. Rejection follows godship.
- Notice the three steps of this cycle.
 1. It starts when I or someone else exercises godship and as a result I feel rejected. Cain is an example. He expected God to receive his offering (Genesis 4:5a)
 2. I **choose** to allow the rejection to control me (Genesis 4:5b)
 3. As a result, I reject others or become a people-pleaser instead of a God-pleaser.
- A person cannot control step 1, but they can control step 2 and avoid step 3 (See 110-E)

APPLICATION

- Study Genesis 4:1-16
- ? When was a time you were rejected?
- ? Who overtly rejected you? Who covertly rejected you? How?
- ? How did you feel?
- ? What did you think?
- ? How did you choose to allow those thoughts and feelings to control you?
- ? What did you do: reject others, reject yourself, seek acceptance from others? Circle those that apply.
- ? Do you see your reaction was godship?
YES NO

Rejection STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **110-A**:

To show the three steps of the rejection cycle and how they are repeated.



1. Study Genesis 4:1-16.



2. When was a time you were rejected? _____



3. Who overtly rejected you? _____ Who covertly rejected you? _____ How? _____



4. How did you feel? _____



5. What did you think? _____



6. How did you choose to allow those thoughts and feelings to control you?

So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. Gen. 4:5b



7. What did you do: reject others, reject yourself, seek acceptance from others? Circle those that apply.



8. Do you see your reaction was godship? Yes No

*I own my feelings.
My feelings don't own me!*

FEELING REJECTED . . .

John 12:25

- 1. I am self occupied
- 2. I am filled with worries doubts and fears
- 3. I am focused on my feelings
- 4. I am continually examining myself
- 5. I am easily depressed
- 6. I am irresponsible
- 7. I am lacking in self discipline
- 8. I feel guilty
- 9. I am perfectionistic
- 10. I insulate myself emotionally
- 11. I am self-condemning
- 12. I answer only what I think others want to hear
- 13. I try too hard to please
- 14. I am unable to express my feelings
- 15. I feel every conversation relates to me and take it personally
- 16. I cling like a leech to anyone who finally accepts me
- 17. I am filled with self pity
- 18. I feel that life "isn't worth it."

110-B

Purpose: To illustrate how a rejected person's thoughts and feelings control the person. (See step two of the rejection diagram 110-A.)

EXPLANATION

- A person who is rejected usually has inward and outward reactions. This diagram lists inward reactions.
- Notice the numerous references to "self" in these sentences. All these statements are expressions of self-love.
- Read John 12:25. The more you love your life, the more rejection and loss of life you will experience.
- Refer to 100-C. What is the standard for good and evil? When "self" becomes the standard, all judgments are corrupt and relative.
- Godship is the root problem in the rejection cycle. It's either my godship, or that of someone else.
- You are responsible for your actions and reactions. No one "makes you feel....." It is a choice.

APPLICATION

-  Look down the list and check the numbers that apply to you.
-  Are you being controlled by your thoughts or feelings of rejection?
-  Study John 12:25. If you love your life, are you more or less likely to experience rejection? How?
-  Who or what is responsible for you feeling this way?
 - a. Others
 - b. Myself
 - c. Circumstances

You can't blame others for your thoughts and feelings.
-  If you are controlled by those thoughts and feelings, is it because you love your life?

Rejection

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **110-B**:

*To illustrate how a rejected person's thoughts and feelings control the person.
(See step two of the rejection Diagram 110-A.)*

- ✓ 1. Look down the list and check the numbers that apply to you.
- ? 2. Are you being controlled by your thoughts or feelings of rejection?

- 📖 3. Study John 12:25. If you love your life, are you more or less likely to experience rejection? How? _____

- ? 4. Who or what is responsible for you feeling this way?
 - a. others
 - b. myself
 - c. circumstances

You can't blame others for your thoughts and feelings.
- ? 5. If you are controlled by those thoughts and feelings, is it because you love your life? Yes No

*He who loves his life
loses it John 12:25*

Loving myself is destructive!

REACTING TOWARD OTHERS...

1 Thessalonians 5:15

- 1. I AM RESENTFUL.
- 2. I AM BITTER.
- 3. I REBEL AGAINST AUTHORITY.
- 4. I HAVE CONFLICTING FEELINGS OF LOVE AND HATE.
- 5. I AM DISTRUSTFUL.
- 6. I AM UNABLE TO ACCEPT OR EXPRESS LOVE.
- 7. I HAVE DIFFICULTY TOLERATING OTHERS.
- 8. I SPEND LITTLE TIME WITH THEM.
- 9. I VENT HOSTILITY IN PUNITIVE WAYS.
- 10. I MAKE OPEN STATEMENTS OF REJECTION.
- 11. I GIVE VERBAL ACCEPTANCE WITH EMOTIONAL REJECTION.
- 12. I MAKE TOO MANY DECISIONS FOR THEM.
- 13. I GIVE TOO LITTLE GUIDANCE.
- 14. I MAY ABUSE THEM PHYSICALLY.
- 15. I REFUSE TO COMMUNICATE.
- 16. I GIVE MORE IMPORTANCE TO OTHER PEOPLE OR THINGS.
- 17. I INTENSELY REJECT ANYONE WHO REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE WHO HAS REJECTED ME.

SUMMARY: "You reject me; I'll reject you!"

110-C

Purpose: To show the reactions (step three of the rejection cycle) towards others when a person is being controlled by thoughts and feelings of rejection.

EXPLANATION

- Notice that each of these 17 reactions is an attempt to reject others.
- This list will give insight on how a person is relating to those who have rejected him/her.
- People living in rejection may even reject those who have not rejected them.
- All of these reactions are a form of revenge. That is godship.
- Hebrews 12:15 tells us not to allow a root of bitterness to spring up in us because it will defile us.

APPLICATION

-  Go through the list asking, "Am I resentful? Am I bitter? Do I rebel against authority?" Check those that apply.
-  Who are you currently rejecting or who feels rejected by you?
-  Has that person rejected you?
-  How have your reactions brought about more rejection?
-  Study Matthew 5:11-12, 39-42.
-  What is to be our attitude toward someone who rejects us?
-  This is impossible apart for Christ!!
2 Corinthians 3:5

Rejection

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 110-C:

To show the reactions (step three of the rejection cycle) toward others when a person is being controlled by thoughts and feelings of rejection.

- ✓ 1. Go through this list asking, “Am I resentful? Am I bitter? Do I rebel against authority?” Check those that apply.

See to it . . . that no root of bitterness springing up . . . defiles; Heb. 12:15

- ? 2. Who are you currently rejecting or who feels rejected by you? _____

- ? 3. Has that person rejected you? _____

- ? 4. How have your reactions brought about more rejection? _____

- 📖 5. Study Matthew 5:11-12, 39-42.

- ? 6. What is to be our attitude toward someone who rejects us? _____

This is impossible apart from Christ!!
2 Corinthians 3:5

*Reacting by rejecting is revenge.
“You hurt me, I’ll hurt you!”*

REACTING TOWARD GOD...

- 1. I RESIST GOD'S AUTHORITY.
- 2. I AM UNABLE TO TRUST GOD.
- 3. I THINK GOD IS UNFAIR.
- 4. I AM ANGRY AT GOD.
- 5. I REJECT GOD.
- 6. I HAVE LITTLE REAL FELLOWSHIP OR COMMUNION WITH GOD.
- 7. I AM UNABLE TO RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE.

Job 40:1, 4-8
Romans 9:20-21

110-D

Purpose: To show how a person's reaction to rejection affects the person's relationship with God.

EXPLANATION

- God loves us and proved it by sending Jesus. He is not rejecting us, yet at times we think He is rejecting us.
- People actually reject God when He doesn't measure up to their standards. That is the ultimate act of godship.
- Rejecting God comes from setting "myself" as the standard. See 100-C.
- Read Lamentations 3:17-33.
- Can we reject the One Person who gives us hope?
- Other evidence of rejecting God might look like no desire to spent time with Him or His people.

APPLICATION

- Check any of the statements that relate to you.
- ? Why have you rejected God?
- ? Do you see how being "stuck" in the rejection cycle affects your walk with God? Explain.
-  Study 1 John 4:20-21.
- ? How has your relationship with God been affected by your negative feelings toward another person who has rejected you?
-  Study Isaiah 65:2.
- ? What is preventing you from receiving God's love?
- ? Would you like to admit to God the statements you checked and receive both His forgiveness and His love?

Rejection

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 110-D:

To show how a person's reaction to rejection affects the person's relationship with God.

✓ 1. Check any of the statements that apply to you.

? 2. Why have you rejected God? _____

***You shall not
curse God***

Ex. 22:28

? 3. Do you see how being “stuck” in the rejection cycle affects your walk with God? Explain. _____

📖 4. Study 1 John 4:20-21.

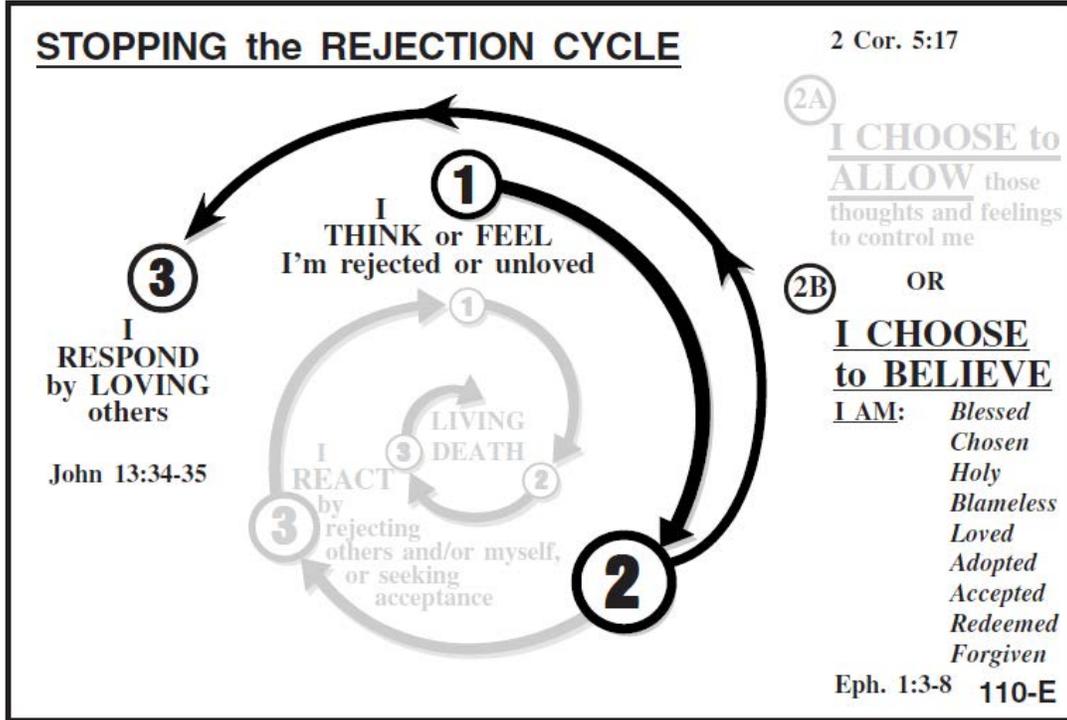
? 5. How has your relationship with God been affected by your negative feelings toward another person who has rejected you? _____

📖 6. Study Isaiah 65:2.

? 7. What is preventing you from receiving God's love? _____

? 8. Would you like to admit to God the statements you checked and receive both His forgiveness and His love? _____

Being angry at God is judging God!



Purpose: To explain how to break the rejection cycle by choosing to believe our true identity in Christ.

EXPLANATION

- When we are rejected we have a choice. We can choose to allow the rejection to control us or choose to believe what God says about us.
- The truest things about us are what God says about us.
- No one can change who we are in Christ no matter what anyone says about us.
- Consider 1 Peter 2:23. While being rejected Jesus “kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.” His focus was the Father, and He loved the people who reviled Him.
- The reactions in the past three diagrams are from believing what other people say. If they can have that much power of us, how much more can God have in our lives if we believe Him?

APPLICATION

- ? When you last experienced rejection, which choice did you make—2A or 2B?
-  Study Ephesians 1:3-8.
- ? Do you believe all these statements are really true about you, even if you don’t feel all these things?
-  Study 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- ? How does God see you?
- ? What speaks louder to you, the voice of your rejecter or what God says?
-  Study Acts 7:54-60. Stephen was being rejected—unto death.
- ? Where was Stephen’s focus (verses 55-56)?
- ? When you choose to allow rejection to control you, where is your focus? Where should your focus be?
-  Can you pray and ask God to fill your heart with love for your rejecter? Will you do that now?

Rejection

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **110-E**:

To explain how to break the rejection cycle by choosing to believe our true identity in Christ.

-  1. When you last experienced rejection, which choice did you make—2A or 2B? _____
-  2. Study Ephesians 1:3-8.
-  3. Do you believe all these statements are really true about you, even if you don't feel all these things? _____

-  4. Study 2 Corinthians. 5:17.
-  5. How does God see you? _____

-  6. What speaks louder to you, the voice of your rejecter or what God says? _____
-  7. Study Acts 7:54-60. Stephen was being rejected—unto death.
-  8. Where was Stephen's focus (verses 55-56)? _____
-  9. When you choose to allow rejection to control you, where is your focus? _____ Where should you focus be? _____
-  10. Can you pray and ask God to fill your heart with love for your rejecter? Will you do that now? _____

*Bless those who
curse you*
Luke 6:28

Choose truth!

REVIEW

- Rejection happens to everyone.
- A rejection cycle begins when we allow thoughts and feelings of rejection to control us.
- The person who believes he or she is rejectable and unlovable makes a number of decisions that reinforce his or her view of being rejectable. These decisions create a lifestyle consistent with that point of view, bringing more rejection upon the person.
- People who live in a rejection cycle react by becoming self-centered. They also react by rejecting others, even God.
- Choosing to believe who I am in Christ will stop the rejection cycle.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL 

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

EXTEND
FORGIVE

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 130

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL

130-A	THE DECEPTION OF EXTERNAL FULFILLMENT
130-A1	THE CHRSTIAN'S DECEPTION OF EXTERNAL FULFILLMENT
130-B	EVERYTHING BUT GOD
130-C	LOOKING INTERNALLY TO CHRIST FOR EVERYTHING

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. To show your disciple he/she is seeking to find life in things or people.
2. When your disciple is so earthly minded he/she is no heavenly good.
3. When your disciple is very busy serving the Lord to find fulfillment.
4. After your disciple has achieved some external goal and found life is still not satisfying.
5. If your disciple goes to God last.

Key Truths to Stress -----

Christians need to be delivered from the deception that life is found externally in things or people or in Christian service.

Key Verses -----

2 Corinthians 4:17-18, “ *For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen ; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

Have your disciple identify an idol in his/her life that needs to be confessed. Invite your disciple to admit to God that his/her focus has been in the wrong direction. Ask if the person would like to ask Him to sit on the throne of his/her life.

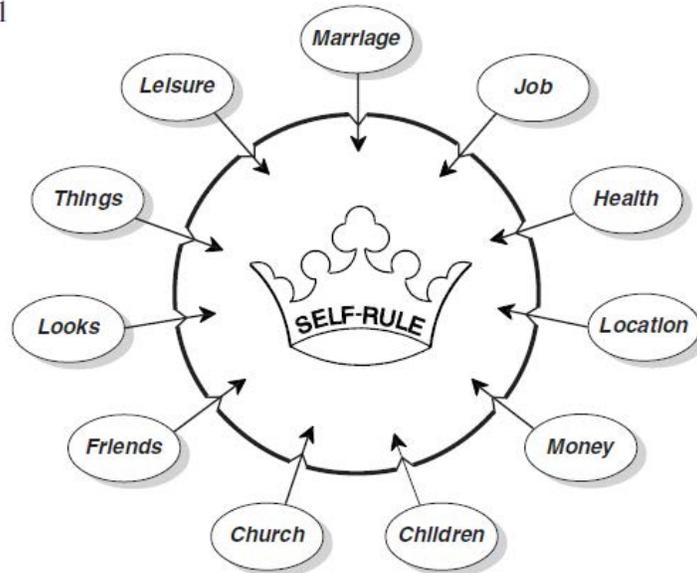
EXTERNAL/INTERNAL

We look not at the things
which are seen, but at
the things which are not
seen . . . 2 Corinthians 4:18

How have you been pursuing happiness? Jesus said that life does not consist in the abundance of the things that man possesses (Luke 12:15). Rather, life is to be found INternally, not EXternally. Yet we are tremendously influenced by what the world tells us is important. Most Christians easily stand against the idea that fulfillment is found in drugs or alcohol or illicit sex—and yet, more often succumb to the seductive idea that education determines success or that financial security assures happiness or that psychological understanding provides satisfying answers to life’s problems. This lesson will uncover the deceptions of the world. Where is *life*? Could Jesus say of us that we are unwilling to come to Him to have *life*? (John 5:40).

THE DECEPTION OF EXTERNAL FULFILLMENT

Eccl. 2:1-11



130-A

Purpose: To show that happiness and fulfillment cannot be attained through external things.

EXPLANATION

- The circle is a picture of a person's life. Central to this life is a crown showing self-rule. Life cannot be found in people or things.
- The arrows show the attempt to draw life from the outside. We can be deceived that fulfillment can be found in any of these external things.
- For example: Men often try to find fulfillment in a job; women often try to seek fulfillment in their children.
- Self-rule is an attempt to make the external things positive (+) to overcome a big negative (-) on the inside.
- If failure or disappointment occur in any of these areas, a person's happiness is threatened.

APPLICATION

- ? Have you tried to find happiness in any of these areas? Describe.
- ? Which of these areas would you consider to be a negative in your life?
- ? Have you pursued fulfillment through turning the negatives into positives? How?
- ? Which ones are you currently pursuing to change into a positive?
-  Study Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. Note how many times the pronouns "I", "my", or "myself" are used.
- ? Did the positives in Solomon's life bring contentment?
-  Study Luke 12:15. Where does Jesus say life is not found?
- ? Do you see how you have been deceived into believing that life is found in any of these areas?

External/Internal STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **130-A**:

*To show that happiness and fulfillment
cannot be attained through external things.*

EXT/INT

- ? 1. Have you tried to find happiness in any of these areas? Describe.

- ? 2. Which of these areas would you consider to be a negative in your life?

- ? 3. Have you pursued fulfillment through turning the negatives into positives?
How? _____

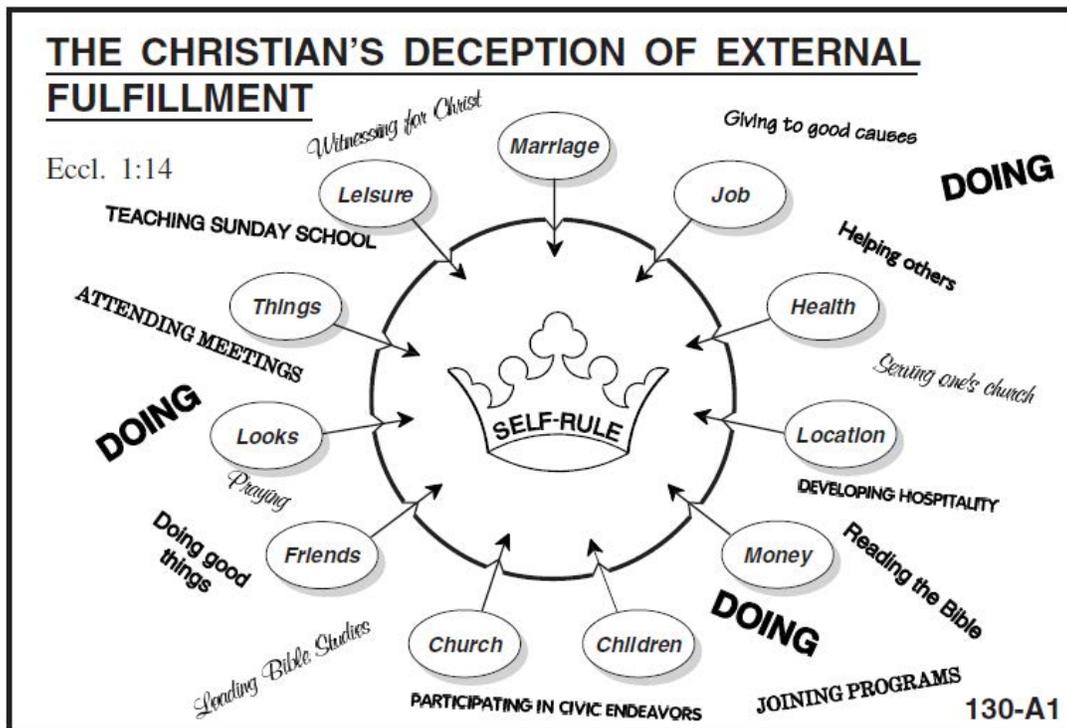
- ? 4. Which ones are you currently pursuing to change into a positive?

-  5. Study Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. Notice how many times the pronouns “I”, “my”, or “myself” are used.
- ? 6. Did the positives in Solomon’s life bring contentment? Yes No
-  7. Study Luke 12:15. Where does Jesus say life is not found?

- ? 8. Do you see how you have been deceived into believing that life is found in any of these areas? _____

*... everything is
futility Eccl. 2:17*

External fulfillment is a lie!



Purpose: To reveal the futility of a Christian trying to find fulfillment and meaning in DOING good things.

EXPLANATION

- All of these activities can be worthwhile.
- Notice that the focus is still on external fulfillment and self is still ruling.
- Notice how busy this diagram looks. It shows how being busy can overtake a person's life.
- Many Christians are encouraged to get busy serving the Lord and can experience burnout.
- Satan wants us to focus on the externals. God wants us to focus on the internal relationship we have with Him.
- Legalism promotes DOING.
- Grace promotes BEING (See 130-C).

APPLICATION

- ? Which of these activities are you doing now?
- ? Why?
- ? Have you been deceived into thinking that God wants you to do things?
- ? Do you believe doing good things will gain God's favor?
-  Study Luke 10:38-42
- ? Do you see that Martha's focus was activity FOR Christ while Mary's focus WAS Christ and knowing him?
- ? Can Christian service become an idol?
- ? Is it possible that your Christian service for God is an attempt to find fulfillment in external activities?

External/Internal STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **130-A1**:

*To reveal the futility of a Christian trying to find fulfillment
and meaning in DOING good things.*

EXT/INT

? 1. Which of these activities are you doing now? _____

? 2. Why? _____

? 3. Have you been deceived into thinking that God wants you to do things? _____

? 4. Do you believe doing good things will gain God's favor? _____

*... our righteousnesses
are as filthy rags.* Isa. 64:6
(KJV)

 5. Study Luke 10:38-42.

? 6. Do you see that Martha's focus was activity FOR Christ while Mary's focus WAS Christ and knowing Him? _____

? 7. Can Christian service become an idol? _____

? 8. Is it possible that your Christian service for God is an attempt to find fulfillment in external activities? _____

I wasn't created to be a human doing.

EVERYTHING BUT GOD

Jeremiah 2:13

- ◆ Call a friend for advice.
- ◆ Eat food to fill the vacuum.
- ◆ Use uppers, downers, or alcohol to relieve anxiety or depression.
- ◆ Try to figure it out with your mind.
- ◆ Buy something to distract you from the pain.
- ◆ Get educated to solve problems.
- ◆ Get angry to get results.
- ◆ Work harder to overcome.
- ◆ Get overly busy to forget.
- ◆ Give money to soothe your conscience.
- ◆ Get divorced or get a new spouse.
- ◆ Spend time sleeping to escape overwhelming life situations.

Lastly, call on God!

130-B

Purpose: To illustrate how believers act like nonbelievers and turn to worldly ways of coping, rather than turning to God..

EXPLANATION

- One way man plays god (godship) is to try to solve problems without God.
- People want to be god of their own lives and live independently of God.
- Satan will provide fascinating diversions to keep a person from coming to God.
- Even Christians do not often think of coming to God first to seek His direction and comfort.
- Write out John 5:30.
- Jesus looked to the Father for everything.

APPLICATION



Look at this diagram and note which actions apply to you.



Why isn't God considered first?



Study Jeremiah 2:13. What are the two sins you see?



What pots and cisterns are you going to for life?



Are they really satisfying?



What are some of the consequences you are suffering because of your worldly choices?

External/Internal STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 130-B:

To illustrate how believers act like nonbelievers and turn to worldly ways of coping, rather than turning to God.

- ? 1. Look at this diagram and note which actions apply to you.

- ? 2. Why isn't God considered first? _____

*... come to Me, that
you may have life. John 5:40*

-  3. Study Jeremiah 2:13. What are the two sins you see? _____

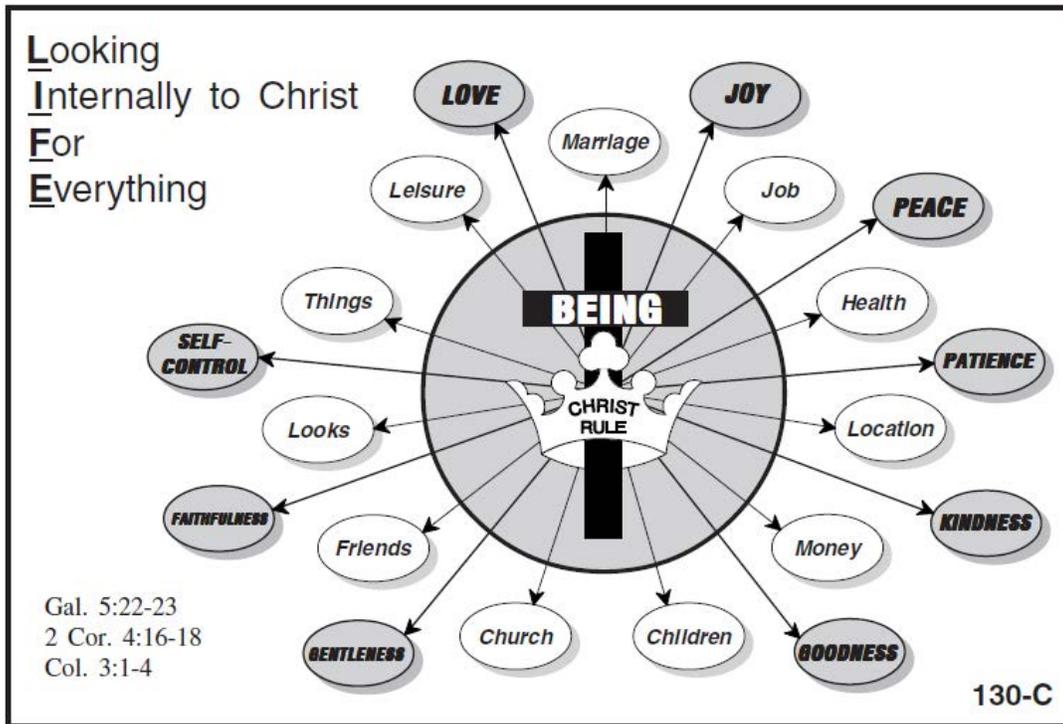
- ? 4. What pots or cisterns are you going to for life? _____

- ? 5. Are they really satisfying? _____

- ? 6. What are some of the consequences you are suffering because of your worldly choices? _____

Nothing but God will work.

EXT/INT



Purpose: To illustrate that a Christians fulfillment is based internally on being one with Christ.

EXPLANATION

- The fruit of the Spirit has completely surrounded all elements of life. As the Lord rules, every aspect of life is an outlet for the world to see the risen Christ being reflected in the marriage, job, church, etc.
- Doing has been replaced with BEING. Now this person is a human being, not a human doing.
- “Being” is resting in God and precedes doing. Philippians 4:13 gives the order. “I can DO all things through Him who strengthens me.” He gives strength as I draw my life from Him. As I abide He produces the fruit—the action.
- Now our focus is giving instead of getting. We want to meet needs of others at church, job, and home instead of looking to those people to meet our needs.
- If Christ rules on the inside of a person then he/she may live in victory while experiencing negatives in the external areas of life.

APPLICATION

- Study Matthew 6:33
- ? Why have the direction of the arrows changed?
- ? What is your main focus—God’s kingdom or external fulfillment?
- Study Colossians 3:1-4. Where is your life?
- ? Are you allowing Christ to rule your life? How is it demonstrated?
- ? Are you allowing Christ to meet your needs or are you looking to externals for your needs?
- ? Will you admit to God your focus has been in the wrong direction? Will you invite Him to sit on the throne of your life and rule it now?

External/Internal STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **130-C**:

To illustrate that a Christian's fulfillment is based internally on being one with Christ.

EXT/INT



1. Study Matthew 6:33.



2. Why has the direction of the arrows changed? _____



3. What is your main focus—God's kingdom or external fulfillment?

... Christ in whom are hidden all treasures ...

Col. 2:2-3



4. Study Colossians 3:1-4.

Where is your life? _____



5. Are you allowing Christ to rule your life? How is it demonstrated?



6. Are you allowing Christ to meet your needs or are you looking to externals to meet your needs? _____



7. Will you admit to God your focus has been in the wrong direction? Will you invite Him to sit on the throne of your life and rule it now?

Jesus is Life!

REVIEW

- Happiness is not found in things or people.
- Fulfillment comes from God being my focus.
- Joy comes from **Looking Internally to Christ For Everything.**
- I must repent of all external idols such as relationships, possessions, accomplishments, job, and even Christian work.
- Real life comes from Jesus Christ.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? 

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

EXTEND
FORGIVE

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 140 **PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS?**

140-A	DEATH TO LIFE
140-B	GOD USES EVERYTHING
140-C	WELL-MEANING DETOURS
140-D	DEAD TO THE SELF-LIFE AND ALIVE TO CHRIST'S LIFE

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. To help your disciple understand God's purposes in problems.
2. When your disciple is overwhelmed by problems and not looking to God.
3. When your disciple needs to die to the self-life.
4. When your disciple has a problem he/she wants to discuss.
5. When someone is trying to prevent your disciple from coming to the end of the self-life.
6. As you sense your disciple is not thankful about something.

Key Truths to Stress -----

God allows problems or trials in our lives to bring us to the end of our self-life.

Key Verses -----

Romans 8:28, *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

Ephesians 5:20, *“Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:18, *“In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

James 1:2-4, *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

To help your disciple identify an area in his/her life that is stealing his/her rest and die to it, thanking God for the trial, issue, or person.

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS?

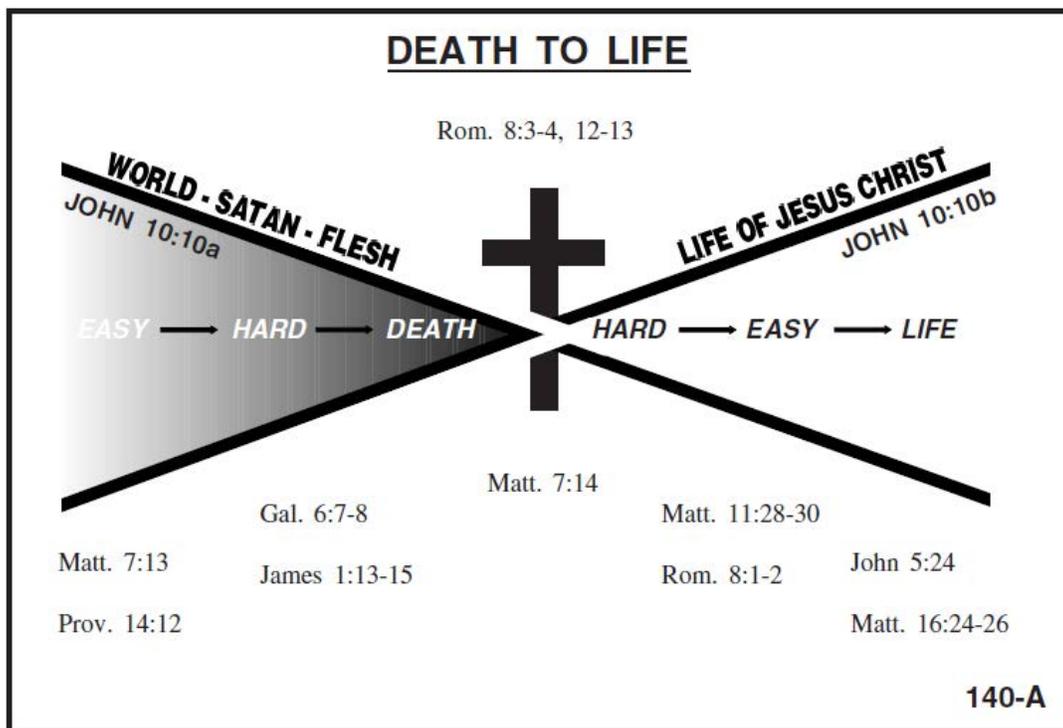
... God causes all
things to work together
 for good

Romans 8:28

Scripture says that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Is this true in your experience as well as in your theological belief? If so, do you become aware of the process only after the good has been worked out? Do you know God’s heart and walk with Him, so that you can rejoice in the completion of God’s good purpose while actually *in the pressures* of the moment?

Seek to understand the experiences of your life from God’s perspective. Victorious Christian living is rooted in victorious Christian thinking—especially in regard to the problems of life. There are four kinds of problems in life:

- 1) **problems that are the result of our own wrong choices (90%),**
- 2) **problems due to the wrong choices of others (5%),**
- 3) **problems God allows because He loves us and wants to bring us to maturity (4%), and**
- 4) **problems God allows for His glory (1%).**



Purpose: To show how the world's ways start out easy, but lead to death and to show how God's ways start out hard, but lead to life.

EXPLANATION

- The left wedge shows the world's way. It is a wide gate (Matthew 7:13) and is easy to open and get on the path to destruction.
- The right wedge has a narrow gate (Matthew 7:14) and few enter into the way of life.
- Central is the cross. Through it we move from the wide gate to the narrow gate. How? By death to the self-life. The self-life is thinking my life is my own to serve my purposes and desires.

APPLICATION

-  Study all verses on diagram 140-A
-  Study Luke 15:11-32
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?
-  Study John 10:10. In which part are you living?
- ?
- ?

Problems, Problems, Why Problems?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 140-A:

To show how the world's ways start out easy, but lead to death and to show how God's ways start out hard, but lead to life.



1. Study Luke 15:11-32. What appealed to the son that started out easy? _____ How did it get hard and lead to death? _____ What hard thing did the son have to do that led to life? _____



2. What problem have you had that started appealing or easy and ended in misery or death? _____



3. What is the most pressing problem you face today? Describe. _____



4. Where are you on this diagram? _____

Enter by the narrow gate.

Matt. 7:13a



5. Study John 10:10. In which part are you living? _____

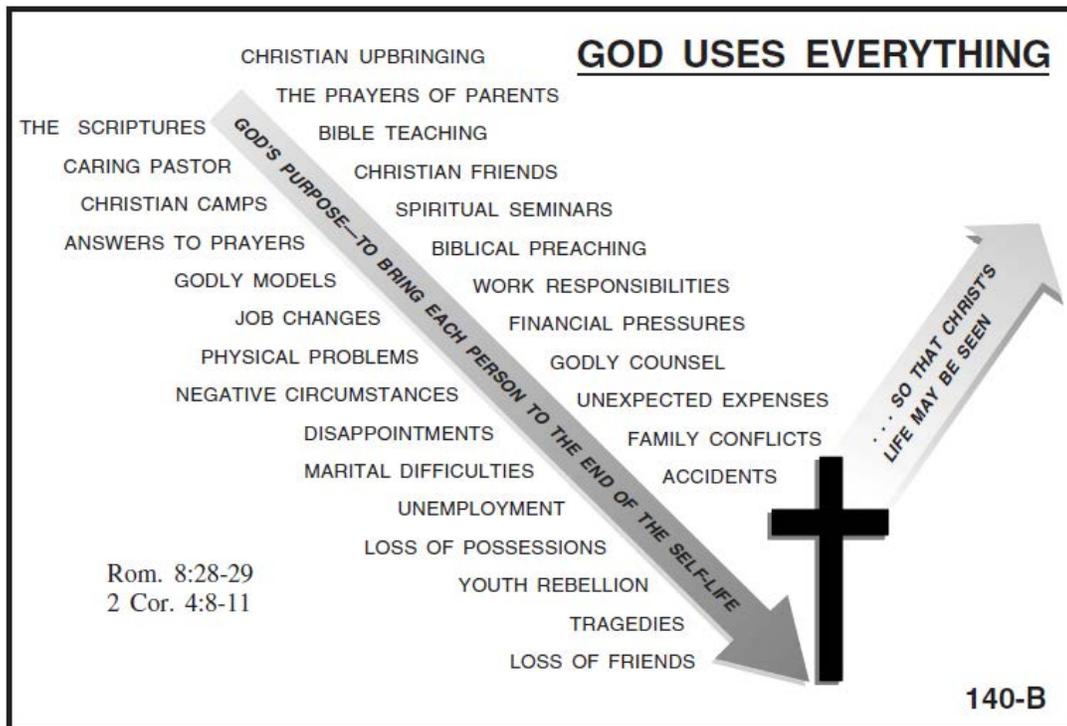


6. Do you want to stay where you are? _____



7. What would entering the narrow gate look like for you? _____

*Give it up!
My way isn't working anyway.*



Purpose: To show that God uses all that happens to us to bring about His eternal purposes.

EXPLANATION

- God uses both desirable things and difficult things to bring us to the end of the self-life.
- Christ's life seen in us is the wonderful result of us dying to our self-life.
- “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren” (Romans 8:28-29)
- God uses everything to conform us to the image of His Son.

APPLICATION

-  Study Romans 8:28-29
- ? What does God say is the good that He predestined for us? How have you defined what would be good for you? Whose good is guaranteed?
- ? How do you see God conforming you to the image of His Son by the problems you are now facing?
-  Study Corinthians 4:8-11.
- ? How is this problem being used to bring you to death? How can Christ's life be seen in you as you walk through your problem?
- ? What area of your self-life (godship) does God want to bring to death?

Problems, Problems, Why Problems?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **140-B**:

*To show that God uses all that happens to us
to bring about His eternal purposes.*



1. Study Romans 8:28-29.



2. What does God say is the good that He predestined for us? _____

How have you defined what would be good for you? _____

Whose good is guaranteed? _____



3. How do you see God conforming you to the image of His Son by the problems you are now facing? _____



4. Study 2 Corinthians 4:8-11. How is this problem being used to bring you to death? How can Christ's life be seen in you as you walk through your problem? _____

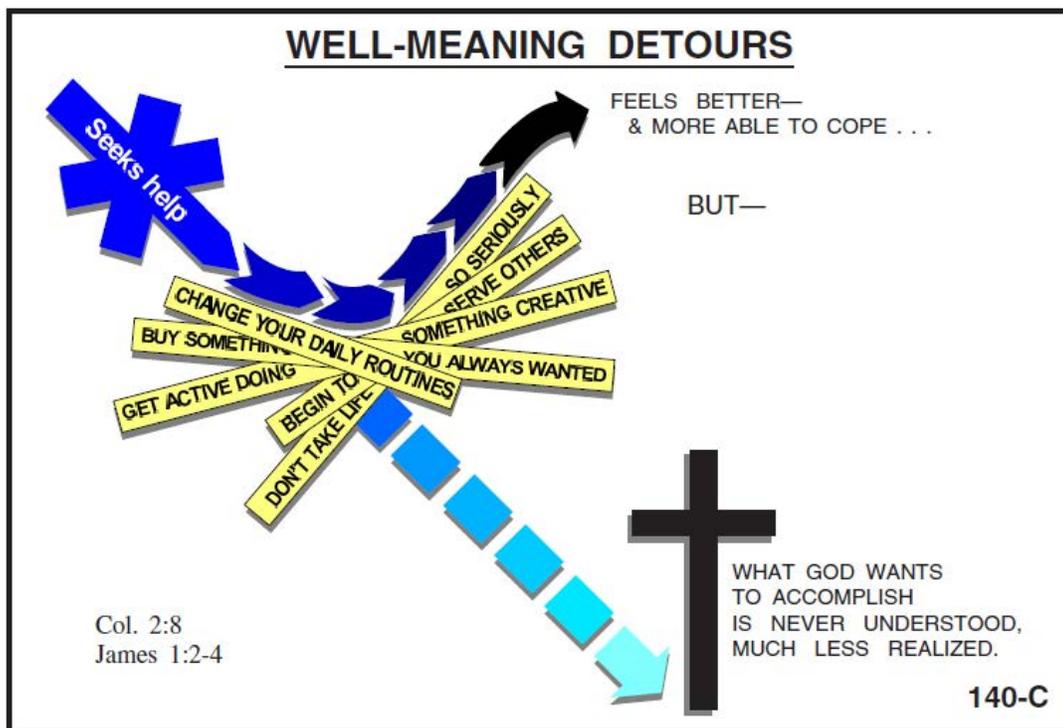
*... death ... that the life
of Jesus be manifested ...*

2 Cor. 4:11



5. What area of your self-life (godship) does God want to bring to death? _____

*God uses everything to conform me to
Christ's image.*



Purpose: To warn of the danger of being sidetracked before God’s purpose can be accomplished.

EXPLANATION

- God allows WHAT we go through, we choose HOW we go through it.
- Detours can be set by people who love us and don’t want us to hurt. (Colossians 2:8)
- We can set up our own detours, even our foolish choices.
- Every situation, even our foolish choices, God is using to draw us to Christ.
- An escape or relief may look good to the self-life, but the greater value is what the Lord wants to accomplish.
- Don’t try to fix the fix that God has fixed to fix you.

APPLICATION

-  Study James 1:2-4.
- ? How are we told to consider trials? What do trials produce in us?
- ? What are you doing to get out of your trials?
- ? If you get out of your trials, how will you become mature?

Problems, Problems, Why Problems?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 140-C:

*To warn of the danger of being sidetracked before
God's purposes can be accomplished.*



1. Study James 1:2-4. How are we told to consider trials? _____
What do trials produce in us? _____



2. What are you doing to get out of your trials? _____



3. If you get out of your trials, how will you become mature? _____

*. . . philosophy
and empty
deception*

Col. 2:8

Let God finish what He started.

**DEAD TO THE SELF-LIFE
AND ALIVE TO CHRIST'S LIFE**

1 Thess. 5:18
Eph. 5:20

140-D

Purpose: To move a person to godly action concerning a problem.

EXPLANATION

- Problems can cause us to become bitter or better.
- Against my fears I choose to trust God. I turn my focus away from the circumstances and focus only on the Lord.
- Seeing God's purpose is more important than solving this situation quickly.
- God is sovereign—stop arguing and allow Him to reign as Lord.
- Trust in God is not based on feelings but on the reliable character of the Father Himself.
- Does seeing God, thanking God, trusting and obeying God lead to success and fulfillment? No. They lead to the cross! Death to my way leads to Christ's life being expressed.

APPLICATION

-  Study Philippians 3:9
- ? What would it take to bring you to the point where you could say with Paul, "I count all things to be lost in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.?"
-  Study Jeremiah 29:11-12
- ? Why can you trust God?
-  Study Ephesians 5:20 & 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
- ? Can you thank God for what is happening?
- ? Are you ready to be obedient to God in what is happening?

Problems, Problems, Why Problems?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 140-D:

To move a person to godly action concerning a problem.



1. Study Philippians 3:8.



2. What would it take to bring you to the point where you could say with Paul, "I Count all things to be lost in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ."? _____



3. Study Jeremiah 29:11-12.



4. Why can you trust God? _____



5. Study Ephesians 5:20 & 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Can you thank God in what's happening? _____



6. Are you ready to be obedient to God in what is happening? _____

*... to become
conformed to
the image of
His Son*

Rom. 8:29

LIFE comes out of death!

REVIEW

- Problems in life cannot be avoided.
- God uses *everything* in our lives to accomplish His purposes.
- Often problems cause us to come to a point of weakness either physically, spiritually, financially, or relationally so we will give up doing things our way.
- God wants us to trust Him because of His sovereignty, love, and power.
- We can even thank God for the problems He permits, because they cause us to come to Him and totally depend on Him.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY 

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT’S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

EXTEND
FORGIVE

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 150

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY

150-A	MAKING LIFE OR DEATH DECISIONS
150-B	SELF-LIFE
150-C	DISCERNING THE FLESH
150-D	CHRIST’S LIFE

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. To show your disciple the destructive pattern of making decisions based on the self-life.
2. To explain the seven areas of life.
3. To show why your disciple is experiencing a living death.
4. To help your disciple test his/her motives to see if he/she is walking after the flesh or the Spirit.
5. To break the pattern of making decisions based on the self-life.

Key Truths to Stress -----

When a believer chooses his/her own way over God’s way, that person is walking after the flesh and it will produce death. Satan lived the self-life and he was God’s enemy.

Key Verses -----

Proverbs 14:12, *“There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”*

Matthew 16:25, *“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”*

Romans 8:7, *“Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God ; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so.”*

Galatians 5:16, *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

To help your disciple see that he/she is making life (Christ’s life) or death (self-life) decisions and how to move from my way to Christ’s way. Lead your disciple to confess decisions made based on his/her own desires and then commit to follow Christ’s will.

MY FLESH—GOD'S ENEMY

Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so

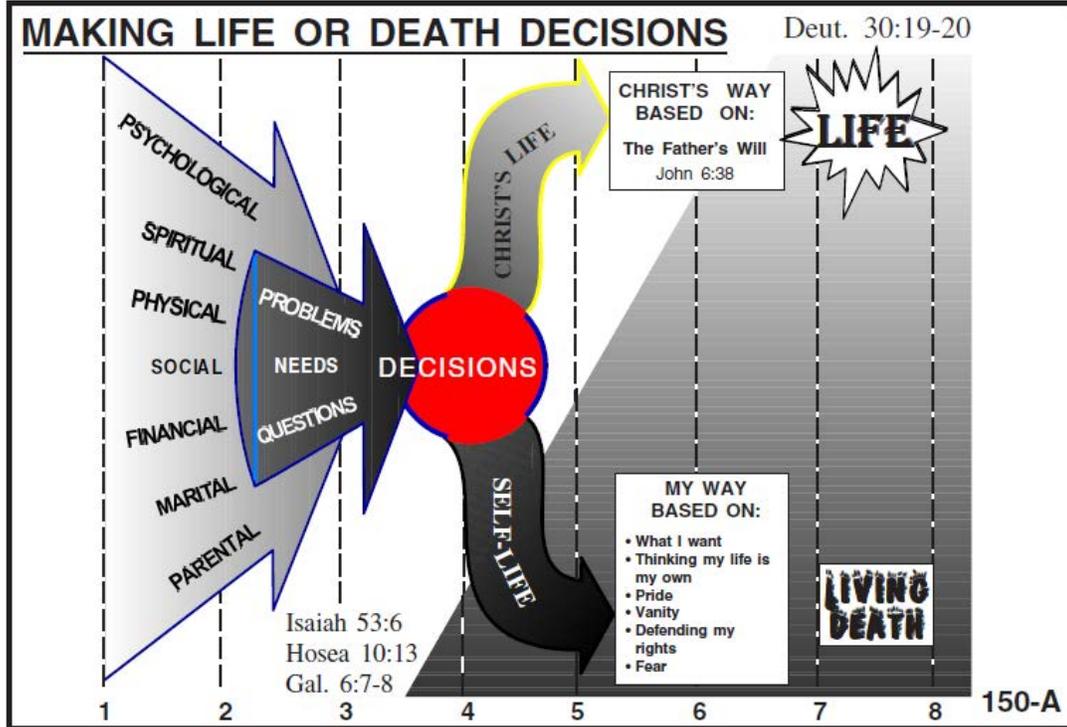
Romans 8:7

FLESH

This lesson deals with the condition within each of us whereby we desire to operate in our own strength, reason, and selfish desires. This condition is called the flesh or the self-life. The flesh may be described as “my claim to my right to myself” (Oswald Chambers). Paul says in Romans 8:6 that “The mind set on the flesh is death.” This is a crucial lesson to uncover a basic reason Christians are not living in victory. They are choosing to walk after the flesh. There is good news—victory is possible because **I am not my flesh.**

Consider this quote to help clarify the “flesh.”

“We have all learned to rely on our own strategies for getting our needs met. The Bible calls this mechanism for servicing our own needs the *flesh*. Every person has developed his flesh-life in order to get what he wants out of life as much of the time as possible. Don't think of flesh as skin, but as personal *techniques* for meeting your own perceived needs, apart from Christ. . . .” From *Grace Walk* by Steve McVey, page 28.



Purpose: To show that all decisions will reap life or death depending upon whether they are made my way or Christ's way.

EXPLANATION

- This diagram points out that the seven areas of life will lead to problem, needs and questions forcing decisions.
- Decisions are made either my way (according to the flesh) or God's way (according to the Spirit).
- Each decision is a matter of life or death, depending on how it is made (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).
- Many people make decisions without any thought of what God says. That's why they experience a living death.
- Decisions made my way are based on a will other than God's. Jesus didn't come to do His will, only the will of the Father.

APPLICATION

- Study Deuteronomy 30:19-20.
- ? What is God's desire for you? Is He interested in every decision you make? Why?
- List a decision you need to make in one of the seven areas of life.
- ? How have you typically made decisions in the past? Which of the six ways of deciding "my way" have you used?
- ? Have you experienced a living death?
- Study John 6:38.
- ? How can you know what God's will is regarding your decision?
- Study John 5:30. Is doing your own will hindering you from considering God's will? Explain.
- ?

My Flesh—God’s Enemy

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **150-A:**

To show that all decisions will reap life or death depending upon whether they are made my way or Christ’s way.

-  1. Study Deuteronomy 30:19-20.
-  2. What is God’s desire for you? Is He interested in every decision you make? Why? _____

3. List a decision you need to make in one of the seven areas of life.

-  4. How have you typically made decisions in the past? Which of the six ways of deciding “my way” have you used? _____

-  5. How have you experienced a living death? _____

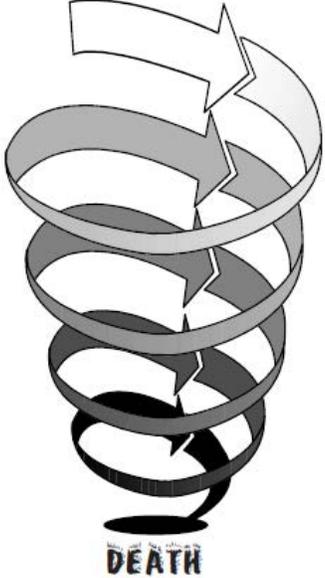
-  6. Study John 6:38.
-  7. How can you know what God’s will is regarding your decision?

-  8. Study John 5:30. Is doing your own will hindering you from considering God’s will? Explain. _____

Choose life!
Deut. 30:19

FLESH

My life is not my own.

<u>SELF-LIFE</u>	Matthew 16:25a
	SELF-LIFE <i>James 3:16</i>
	SELF-COMMENDATION <i>2 Cor. 10:17-18</i>
	SELF-OCCUPATION <i>Phil. 2:4</i>
	SELF-PLEASING <i>Rom. 15:1-3</i>
	SELF-CONDEMNATION <i>Rom. 8:1</i>
	SELF-DEFENSIVENESS <i>Gen. 3:11-13</i>
	SELF-PITY <i>Jonah 4:8</i>
	SELF-DESTRUCTION <i>Phil. 3:19</i>
	150-B

Purpose: To reveal the cause and the process of death brought about through the self-life.

EXPLANATION

- Focusing on oneself or the self-life is a death spiral because it is a path away from God (Romans 8:6).
- This shows the natural conclusion of Diagram 150-A. A consistent choosing of my way leads to my death.
- Read James 3:16 and write it out.
- Notice that the first four steps are pleasurable and seem good. As the downward spiral continues the last four steps are hard and painful.

APPLICATION

-  Study Matthew 16:25.
- ?
- Have you been seeking your own way? Have your decisions reflected that mindset?
-  Study James 3:16.
- ?
- How might your selfish ambition lead to every evil thing?
- ?
- Which of these steps in the spiral can you identify with now?
- ?
- If you are living your life for yourself, you are headed down further.
-  Study John 12:25.
- ?
- Are you ready to admit an infatuation with yourself?

My Flesh—God's Enemy

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 150-B:

To reveal the cause and the process of death brought about through the self-life.



1. Study Matthew 16:25.



2. Have you been seeking your own way? _____

Have your decisions reflected that mindset? _____



3. Study James 3:16. How might your selfish ambition lead to every evil thing? _____



4. Which of these steps in the spiral can you identify with now? _____

5. If you are living your life for yourself, you are headed down further.



6. Study John 12:25.



7. Are you ready to admit an infatuation with yourself? _____

*For the mind
set on the flesh
is death*

Rom. 8:6

Self-life leads to death.

DISCERNING THE FLESH

Romans 8:5-8

TEST YOUR MOTIVES

1.

Is my decision for the **FLESH**?

- Am I doing it for my self-interest? *Phil. 2:3-4*
- Is it against God's word? *Ps. 119:11*
- Is it contrary to those in authority? *Rom. 13:1; Heb. 13:17*
- Am I feeling frustrated, angry, or fearful? *Gal. 5:16-21*
- Is there a lack of contentment? *1 Tim. 6:6*

If so, the result is DEATH, LOSS, and CORRUPTION!

2.

Is my decision for the **SPIRIT**?

- Is it in agreement with God's Word? *John 6:63*
- Am I doing it in recognition that my life is not my own? *2 Cor. 5:15*
- Am I acknowledging God's sovereign control in everything and trusting Him to work things out? *Rom. 8:28*

If so, the result is LIFE & PEACE!

150-C

Purpose: To provide a means to determine if motives are from the Spirit or the flesh.

EXPLANATION

•Motive is crucial in our Christian life. It's not so much what we do, but why we do it.

•It is possible to do a good things with a wrong motive.

•People look at our actions, God looks at our heart (motive) (Proverbs 16:2).

•How can one determine if an action is being motivated by the flesh or the Spirit? This diagram can help answer that questions. For example: If I avoid someone because of fear, frustration, or anger, that is a fleshly motive.

APPLICATION

?

Do you have any doubts that your decisions are motivated by the Spirit?



Study Galatians 5:16-21.

?

Are your decisions or actions found in this list?

?

What principles in God's Word speak to you about the decision you are facing?

?

Is it contrary to those in authority over you? This could include for example: your pastor, parents, husband, or boss. Have you checked?

?

Are you feeling angry, frustrated, fearful, or discontented? What do these feelings show you?

?

Are you willing to ask for help and guidance from anyone? (See Diagram 100-A)

?

If you're acknowledging that your life belongs to God, would it affect your decision?

?

If you could trust God would it affect your decision?

My Flesh—God’s Enemy

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 150-C:

To provide a means to determine if motives are from the Spirit or the flesh.

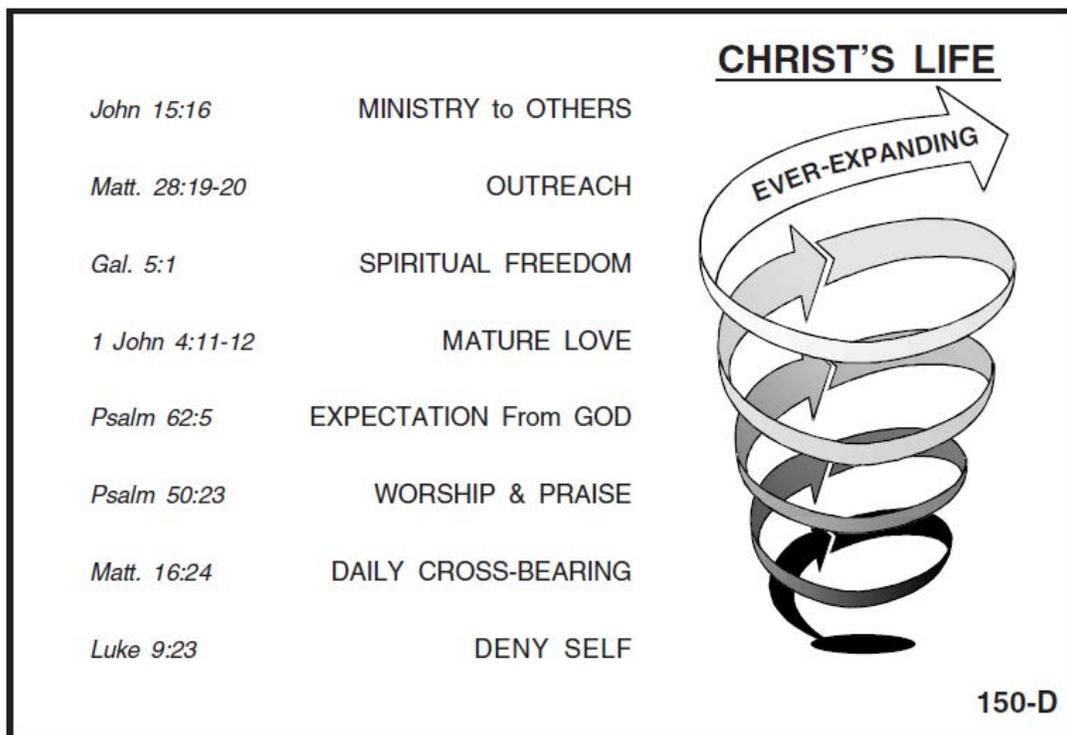
1. Do you have any doubts that your decisions are motivated by the Spirit? _____
2. Study Galatians 5:16-21.
3. Are your decisions or actions found in this list? _____
4. What principles in God’s Word speak to you about the decision you are facing? _____
5. Is it contrary to those in authority over you? This would include for example: your pastor, parents, husband, or boss. Have you checked? _____
6. Are you feeling angry, frustrated, fearful, or discontented? What do these feelings show you? _____

This is the way, walk in it. Isa. 30:21

7. Are you unwilling to ask for help and guidance from anyone? (See Diagram 100-A.) Yes No
8. If you’re acknowledging that your life belongs to God would it affect your decision? _____
9. If you could really trust God would it affect your decision? _____

Motive is the key.

FLESH



Purpose: To show how Christ's life can be expressed in a person.

EXPLANATION

- This diagram starts where Diagram 150-B stopped. These are listed in an arbitrary order, not absolute.
- In order to see Christ's life expressed in me, I must start with repentance from living the self-life.
- This involves denying self as Jesus taught in Luke 9:23.
- I now look at Christ, not me, which motivates me to be obedient—bearing my cross. When I obey Him He makes Himself known to me (John 14:21), and I praise and worship Him.
- My expectations are from God and not myself.
- I can love others because I am not consumed with self-love.
- I have spiritual freedom enabling me to decide without fear.
- Now I care about others and want to give myself to them.

APPLICATION

-  Study Acts 16:22-31
- ? How does this diagram illustrate this passage?
-  Study Luke 9:23.
- ? What would denying yourself look like?
- ? How would it affect your decision-making process?
- ? Are you ready to confess decisions you have made based on your own desires and commit to follow His will and not your own?
- ? Can you begin to praise God that your life is turning around?
-  Study John 15:16.
- ? Have you considered how you can minister to others? Who? How?

My Flesh—God's Enemy

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **150-D**:

To show how Christ's life can be expressed in a person.



1. Study Acts 16:22-31.



2. How does this diagram illustrate this passage? _____

*... whoever loses
his life for My sake
shall find it.* Matt. 16:25



3. Study Luke 9:23.



4. What would denying yourself look like? _____



5. How would it affect your decision-making process? _____



6. Are you ready to confess decisions you have made based on your own desires and commit to follow His will and not your own? _____



7. Can you begin to praise God that your life is turning around? _____



8. Study John 15:16. Have you considered how you can minister to others? Who? How? _____

Blessed to be a blessing.

FLESH

REVIEW

- The flesh or self-life is a condition that exists within every person, believers and nonbelievers alike.
- A believer has been born of the Spirit and does not have to carry out the deeds of the flesh.
- However, when a believer chooses his or her own way over God's way that person is walking after the flesh and it will produce death.
- By checking my motives, I can determine if I am walking after the flesh or walking after the Spirit.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE 

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S NEW

ACCEPT RIGHT

EXTEND FORGIVE

SEEK FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 160 **REPENTANCE**

160-A	NATURAL MAN
160-A1	SPIRITUAL MAN FUNCTIONING SPIRITUALLY
160-A2	SPIRITUAL MAN FUNCTIONING CARNALLY
160-B	REPENTANCE
160-C	CONSIDERING AND TURNING
160-D	MY OPINIONS ABOUT SIN
160-D1	MY FEELINGS ABOUT SIN

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. This can be used to evaluate the spiritual status of a person.
2. When your disciple has fallen into sin.
3. When your disciple is confused about living a victorious life.
4. When your disciple is being tempted to sin.

Key Truths to Stress -----

Sin cannot be ignored in the life of a Christian. When we turn away from God and sin, we must turn back to Him by repentance.

Key Verses -----

Psalm 119:59, *"I considered my ways And turned my feet to Your testimonies."*

Romans 8:9, *"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."*

James 1:13-15, *"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God "; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

Have your disciple identify where he/she is currently walking in sin for an honest appraisal about the need for repentance. Invite your disciple to admit sin to the Lord and thank Him for His cleansing and forgiveness.

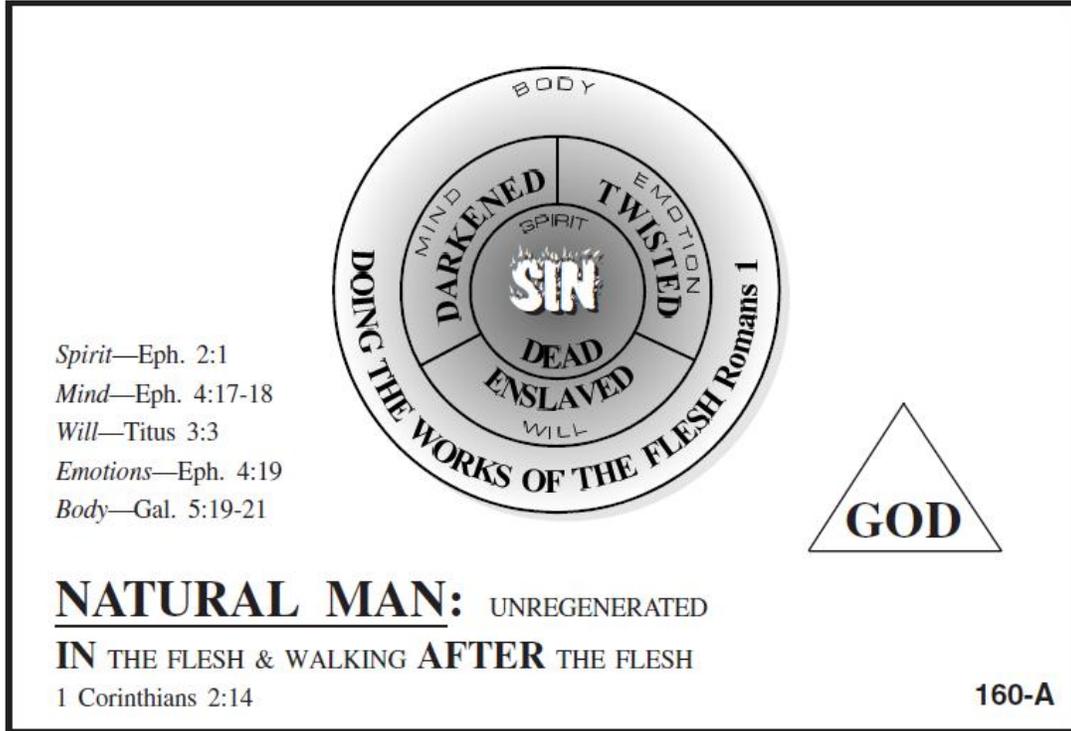
REPENTANCE

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

REPENT

We came to Christ by repentance. Do we need to repent after salvation? Yes! Have you looked for life and fulfillment in things, people, or your performance instead of looking to God for fulfillment? Have you been going your own way ignoring God's right to be God in your life? Maybe you have been rejecting yourself or God. If any of these things are true, REPENTANCE is needed. Pride works against taking such action. And yet, we see throughout Scripture that true repentance is the gateway to wholeness and joy and peace with God. God is "against the proud" (1 Peter 5:5), but always ready to meet the repentant soul with forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration.



Purpose: To illustrate the utter hopelessness of the person who is not born again spiritually.

EXPLANATION

- “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1)
- Because the spirit is dead and is dominated by sin, the mind, will, emotions, and the body are enslaved to sin.
- This is the natural state we are all born into—Romans 5:12.
- The natural man/woman cannot understand spiritual things and must walk after the flesh. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14.
- The natural man is IN the flesh because he is in Adam and walks AFTER the flesh because sin is his master.
- God is outside the life (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- This is a picture of a dead person who desperately needs life that only Christ can give.
- God looks on the inside. A natural man may be a well-adjusted, very nice person who does good things. Death still reigns because there is no relationship with Christ.

APPLICATION

-  Study Ephesians 2:1-3
- ? Where is God in this diagram?
- ? How did you become a Christian?
- ? Have you had any doubts you are really a Christian?
-  Study Ephesians 4:17-19.
- ? How would you describe your heart in regard to the things of God?
- ? Is it hard to choose the right things to do?
- ? How do you feel after you sin?
-  Study Matthew 7:21-23
-  If you are unclear about your relationship to God, then see the plan of salvation on page 12 of the introduction.

Repentance

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **160-A**:

*To illustrate the utter hopelessness of the person
who is not born again spiritually.*



1. Study Ephesians 2:1-3.



2. Where is God in this diagram? _____



3. How did you become a Christian? _____



4. Have you had any doubts you were really a Christian? _____



5. Study Ephesians 4:17-19.



6. How would you describe your heart
in regard to the things of God?

*You were dead in your
trespasses and sins.*

Eph. 2:1



7. Is it hard to choose the right things to do? _____



8. How do you feel after you sin? _____



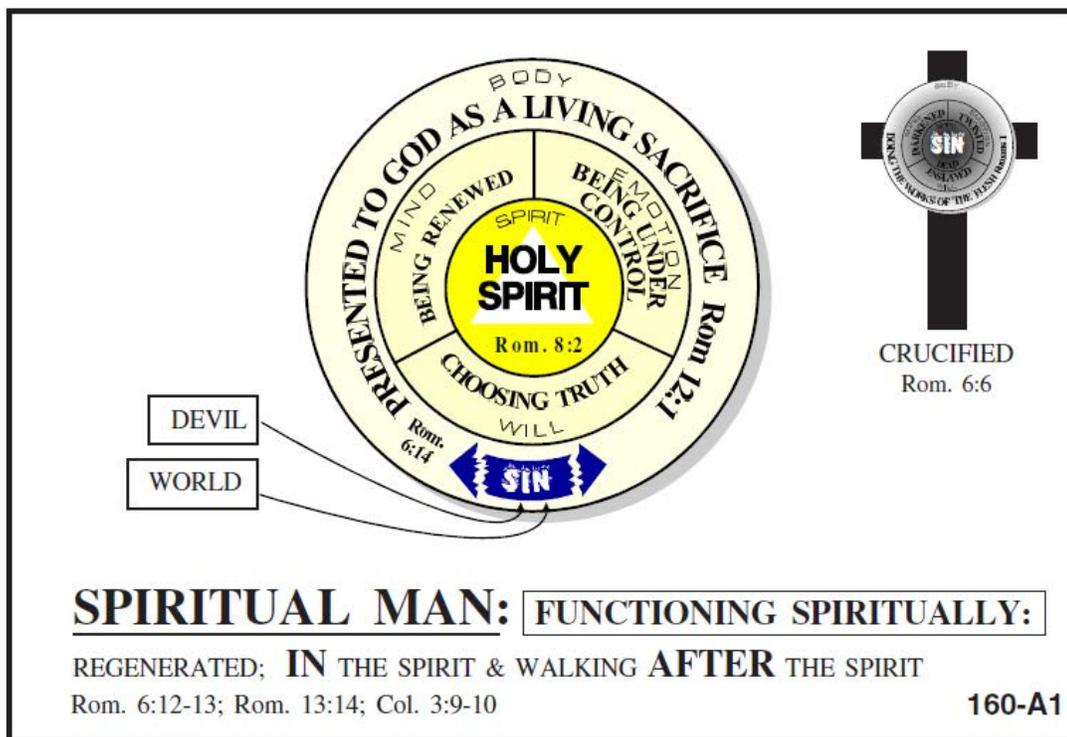
9. Study Matthew 7:21-23.



10. If you are unclear about your relationship to God, go over the verses
on the page titled "How to Commit Your Life to Christ" before "Godship."

*Jesus didn't come to make bad
people good, but dead people alive!*

REPENT



SPIRITUAL MAN: FUNCTIONING SPIRITUALLY:

REGENERATED; **IN THE SPIRIT & WALKING AFTER THE SPIRIT**
Rom. 6:12-13; Rom. 13:14; Col. 3:9-10

Purpose: An illustration of a person who has accepted Jesus Christ and is walking after the Spirit.

EXPLANATION

- In a Christian two obvious changes have taken place. The *old man* has been crucified with Christ on the cross and now God is central in this person's spirit. Read Romans 6:6.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"
- The Holy Spirit who is in this person is freely controlling every part of this person: mind, emotions, will, and body (Galatians 5:16-17).
- Temptation can still come from the world and Satan directed toward the body; however, sin's power is broken (as shown by the broken arrowheads) and this person is no longer a slave to sin (Romans 6:14).
- This diagram is the goal of the normal Christian life; born in the Spirit and walking after the Spirit.

APPLICATION

- Study Romans 8:11.
- ? Where is God now?
- Study Romans 6:6, 6:14.
- ? Is your old self really dead?
- ? What happened to sin's power?
- ? In what ways are you currently being tempted?
- ? Does this diagram accurately describe your walk with God today?
- If not, check the next diagram and see if it does.

Repentance

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **160-A1**:

*An illustration of a person who has accepted Jesus Christ
and is walking after the Spirit.*

-  1. Study Romans 8:11.
-  2. Where is God now? _____

 3. Study Romans 6:6, 14.

-  4. Is your old self really dead? _____

*... our old self
was crucified*
Rom. 6:6

-  5. What happened to sin's power? _____

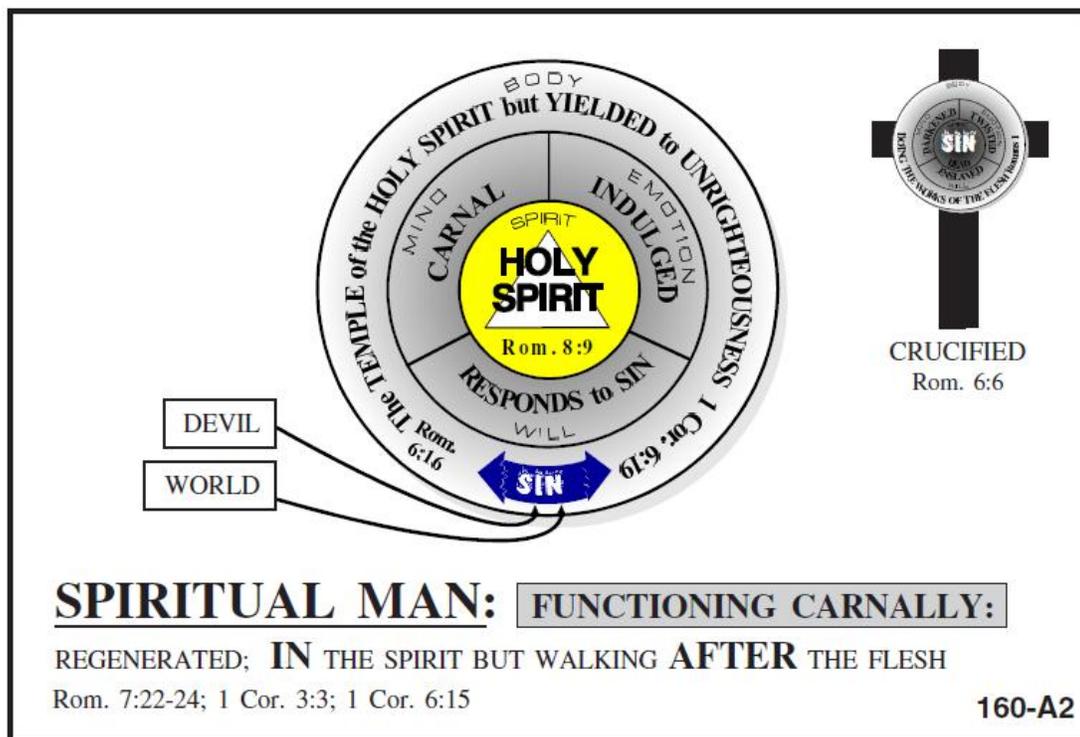
-  6. In what ways are you currently being tempted? _____

-  7. Does this diagram accurately describe your walk with God today?

 8. If not, check the next diagram and see if it does.

*The indwelling Spirit makes me
spiritual—not my behavior!*

REPENT



Purpose: To show how a spiritual man or woman can make sinful choices and function as a natural man or woman.

EXPLANATION

- This is the unfortunate condition of many Christians today.
- The old man is dead and this person is indwelt by the Spirit but is yielding his/her body, mind, will, and emotions to sin.
- Christ is hindered in sanctifying this person in his/her body, mind, will, and emotions entirely (1 Thessalonians 5:23)
- Satan and the world have made their appeal to the body and temptation has become sin. Sin has not power, but is given power by this person exercising his/her will and choosing to sin—Romans 6:16.
- A Christian can move from functioning spiritually to functioning carnally by one sinful choice.
- Nothing has changed in the spirit, but everything has changed in the mind, will, emotions and body.
- A choice has been made to follow one’s own will rather than the Father’s will—contrast John 6:38. This is a miserable person, living contrary to his/her true identity.

APPLICATION

- Study James 1:13-15
- ? How do you handle temptations?
- ? Do you GO for it?
- ? Do you try to STOP by self-effort?
- ? Do you YIELD to the Lord and say yes to Him and His life?
- ? How does this diagram depict your life?
- ? Are you led into temptation by your thoughts?
- ? Are you led into temptation by your emotions?
- Study 1 John 2:15
- ? How are your thoughts and emotions being influenced by the Devil and the world?
- ? Are you ready to consider the process of repentance?
- If so, then go to the next diagram.

Repentance

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **160-A2**:

*To show how a spiritual man or woman can make sinful choices
and function as a natural man or woman.*

-  1. Study James 1:13-15.
-  2. How do you handle temptations? _____

-  3. How does this diagram depict your life? _____

-  4. Are you led into temptation by your thoughts? _____
-  5. Are you led into temptation by your emotions? _____
-  6. Study 1 John 2:15.
-  7. How are your thoughts and emotions being influenced by the Devil and the world? _____

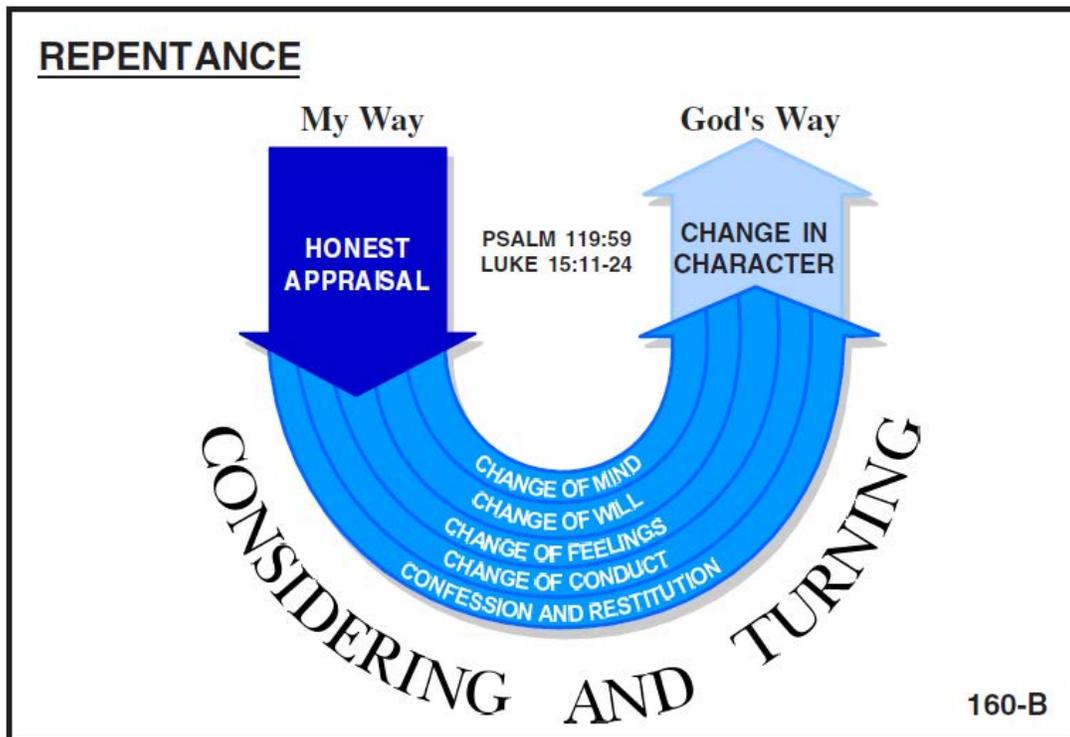
-  8. Are you ready to consider the process of repentance? Yes No
-  9. If so, then go to the next diagram.

*You are not in the flesh
but in the Spirit*

Rom. 8:9

REPENT

*Christians can be carnal by behavior,
but never carnal by nature.*



Purpose: This is the key diagram. To illustrate repentance as a U-turn.

EXPLANATION

- Repentance starts with a person considering his/her way, which requires an honest appraisal.
- Refer to Diagram 160-C for a complete step-by-step outline.
- Repentance is not just feeling sorry (2 Corinthians 7:8-10). It is a complete alteration of the basic motivation and direction for a person's life. This is a major step of growth.
- Read Luke 15:11-24. Notice the steps of repentance.
 - Change of mind—17—"He came to his senses."
 - Change of will—18—"I will get up."
 - Change of feelings—19—"I am no longer worthy."
 - Change of conduct—20—"He got up."
 - Confession and restitution—21—"I have sinned."

APPLICATION

-  Study Psalm 119:59
- ? What two steps do you see?
- ? How have you been living according to your own way?
-  Study Luke 15:11-24 and describe the repentance process in the story of the Prodigal Son.
-  Study the "Considering" section of Diagram 160-C.
- ? What sin have you been committing, how long, how often, who else is involved, and do you want to repent now?
- ? Are you ready to follow the example and repent? If so, walk through the steps found under the word "Turning" on Diagram 160-D.
- 

Repentance STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **160-B**:

This is a key diagram. To illustrate repentance as a U-turn.



1. Study Psalm 119:59.



2. What two steps do you see? _____



3. How have you been living according to your own way?

*I considered my ways,
and turned my feet to
Thy testimonies. Ps. 119:59*



4. Study Luke 15:11-24 and describe the repentance process in the story of the Prodigal Son. _____



5. Study the “Considering” section of Diagram 160-C.



6. What sin have you been committing, how long, how often, who else is involved, and do you want to repent now? _____



7. Are you ready to follow his example and repent? _____

If so, walk through the steps found under the word “Turning” on Diagram 160-C.

It's never too soon to repent!

REPENT

CONSIDERING

Considering your way begins with an HONEST APPRAISAL.

HONEST APPRAISAL leads to as clear a statement as is possible for you to make, as to WHAT IS: that is, what the TRUTH is about your own purposes, motives, methods, and patterns—without the varnish of self-protection, without enhancing or guarding your reputation, and without using devious means to maintain personal objectives.

One difficulty encountered immediately is that of overcoming procrastination. Honest appraisal must be undertaken in obedience to God without waiting for the feelings. Honesty requires *facing the truth*. Often a person may need help in this process.

The following factors are suggested:

1. Pray specifically for God to reveal your “own way” or your self-life.
2. Wait upon God, listening to Him. You may want to record what God reveals.
3. Allow yourself no excuses, rationalizations, or alibis. Do not allow blaming others to stop the process.

The purpose of HONEST APPRAISAL is to bring about in you an attitude of cooperation with the Holy Spirit in which CHANGE OF MIND, CHANGE OF THE WILL, and CHANGE OF FEELING may follow.

TURNING

- Quit doing what you were doing
- Choose to appropriate the life of Christ to empower right decisions.
- Admit your sin to the Lord and thank Him for forgiveness.
- Admit your wrong to those you offended and seek their forgiveness.
- Make restitution when necessary.
- Walk in the freedom of who you are in Christ.

Note: Forgiveness is covered in detail in the VCL Conference “Extending Forgiveness” and “Seeking Forgiveness” lessons.

160-C

There is no study guide for 160-C

REPENT

MY OPINION ABOUT SIN

	<i>I'M TRULY REPENTANT</i>	<i>I'M UNREPENTANT</i>
AS TO THE NATURE OF SIN	I see my sin as disgusting and detestable. I am contrite and ashamed that I ever desired such a thing or actually ever did it. I see my own sin as hateful and deserving of hell.	Inwardly I harbor the secret opinion that my sin is desirable and “worth it.” I see that it will ruin me, that God will punish me—but I still love it. I may see that it will adversely affect my character; but if it could end in happiness, I would never abandon it.
AS TO SIN'S RELATION TO GOD	I view my sin with God's righteous evaluation. I do not question the severity of the judgment—but heartily agree with it.	I don't see why God threatens my sin with such great judgment & punishment. When deeply convicted I may see it quite as God does, but only in fleeting glimpses.
AS TO THE TENDENCIES OF SIN	I see my sin's destructive tendencies and accept in my own mind the rightness of God's dealings with it. I acknowledge that total abandonment of it is necessary.	I initially cannot grasp that sin's tendencies should lead to eternal death. I may see sin as ruinous to myself and others, in body and soul for time and eternity, and the very opposite of all that is good & lovely—and still rationalize my continuance of it.
AS TO WHAT SIN DESERVES	I have no doubt whatsoever about the justice of God's condemnation of my sin. I see this as a fact of God's character and, therefore, a valid and necessary action on God's part.	I admit in theory that sin deserves eternal death, but do not really believe it. (If I believed it, my unrepentant attitude would be impossible.) My real opinion is different than I think it is. I am self-deceived. 160-D

MY FEELINGS ABOUT SIN

	<i>I'M TRULY REPENTANT</i>	<i>I'M UNREPENTANT</i>
TOWARD SIN'S NATURE & RELATION TO GOD	I see my sin as distinct from its consequences and really hate and detest it in my heart—not for what it brings, but for what it is, an insult to my holy God. Deep and profound sorrow crushes me when I'm repentant.	My feelings of regret are centered on my sin's consequences to me. I feel sorry my sin was discovered. But all this is pure selfishness. I really care nothing for what my sin does to God; its nature is unknown to me.
TOWARD SIN'S TENDENCIES	I have a fervent desire to stop what I have been doing. My heart is set on fire to deliver myself and others from the direction, destruction, and ramifications of my sin.	I rationalize my refusal to deal ruthlessly with sin by telling myself that for <i>my</i> action I have special safeguards. Sin will never trap me (I think) because I am too shrewd. I view my own actions as excusable, because I “will never go as far as others have gone.” I feel myself able to walk dangerously close to the edge of the cliff but never fall to my doom. The challenge to do so excites my passions and boosts my ego.
TOWARD WHAT SIN DESERVES	I feel right about what God says my sin deserves. Far from arguing with God's sentence, I am overwhelmed with wonder that God can forgive me.	I fully agree intellectually that God's condemnation is deserved, but my heart continues to argue that my own case is different. My sin should be excluded (and this is supported by my long list of mental reasoning's). The rightness of God's judgment produces no <i>feelings</i> of agreement. 160-D1

Repentance

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **160-D & D1:**

*To distinguish the differences between
the truly repentant person and the unrepentant person.*

-  1. Study Psalm 139:23-24.
-  2. Study these diagrams.
-  3. Your opinion about sin is important. What sin in your life have you considered “worth it” to continue rather than stop and repent of it? _____
_____ What do you think the Lord wants you to do? _____
-  4. Do you sometimes question the severity of God’s judgment? If so, write an example here: _____
-  5. Study Psalm 19:9. How do you believe God wants you to view His judgment of sin? _____
-  6. Write an example of a time you rationalized sin.

-  7. What opinion(s) about sin do you believe you could be deceived in? _____
-  8. Your feelings about sin are important also. Are your feelings of regret centered on the consequences of your sin, or the insult sin is to God? _____
-  9. Is your desire to stop sinning a fervent desire, or do you refuse to deal with sin ruthlessly? _____
-  10. What is God convicting you of right now? _____
What will you do about God’s conviction? _____
When will you do that? _____

*Search me, O
God, and know
my heart*

Ps. 139:23

REPENT

It's time to repent—Now!

REVIEW

- Repentance is God's way of bringing us into His family.
- As God's child I can choose to walk after the flesh and sin.
- Every time I turn to sin I need to turn back to God's way by repentance.
- God uses people and circumstances to get my attention, so I will repent and stop doing things my way.
- After repentance I can start making right choices.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? 

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

EXTEND
FORGIVE

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 170 **WHAT'S NEW ABOUT YOU?**

170-A	MAN—A TRIUNITY
170-B	SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY
170-C	“IN” ADAM
170-C1	IT'S YOUR CHOICE
170-C2	LIFE IN CHRIST
170-D	WALK AFTER THE FLESH/ WALK AFTER THE SPIRIT

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. This can be used to lead someone to Christ.
2. When your disciple is wondering why he/she doesn't experience the fruit of the Spirit.
3. When your disciple is walking after the flesh.
4. To give your disciple a clear view of his/her identity in Christ.
5. To explain the three parts of a person.

Key Truths to Stress -----

Our old life is gone and now Christ is our life. Meaning and purpose in life flow from identity. By faith in Jesus Christ, God has transferred us into Christ's very life. Our purpose is to demonstrate the very life of God by having and intimate, obedient, dependent, love relationship with Him.

Key Verses -----

2 Corinthians 5:17-21, *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature ; the old things passed away ; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Galatians 2:20, *“I have been crucified with Christ ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”*

Colossians 1:13, *“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,”*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

To teach the truth of who your disciple is in Christ. Have him/her praise God for his/her new identity.

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT YOU?

If any man is in
Christ he is a new
creature

2 Corinthians 5:17

God created you a God-conscious being. He gave you the ability to think in terms of your own personal identity as related to Him. You have a built-in need to view life in terms of meaning and purpose. Meaning and purpose in life flow from identity. Personal significance is a driving objective. The constant search for meaning has always motivated man (Psalm 8:3-4). This need is met only when a person experiences Christ as his/her very life and identity (Philippians 1:21; Colossians 3:3).

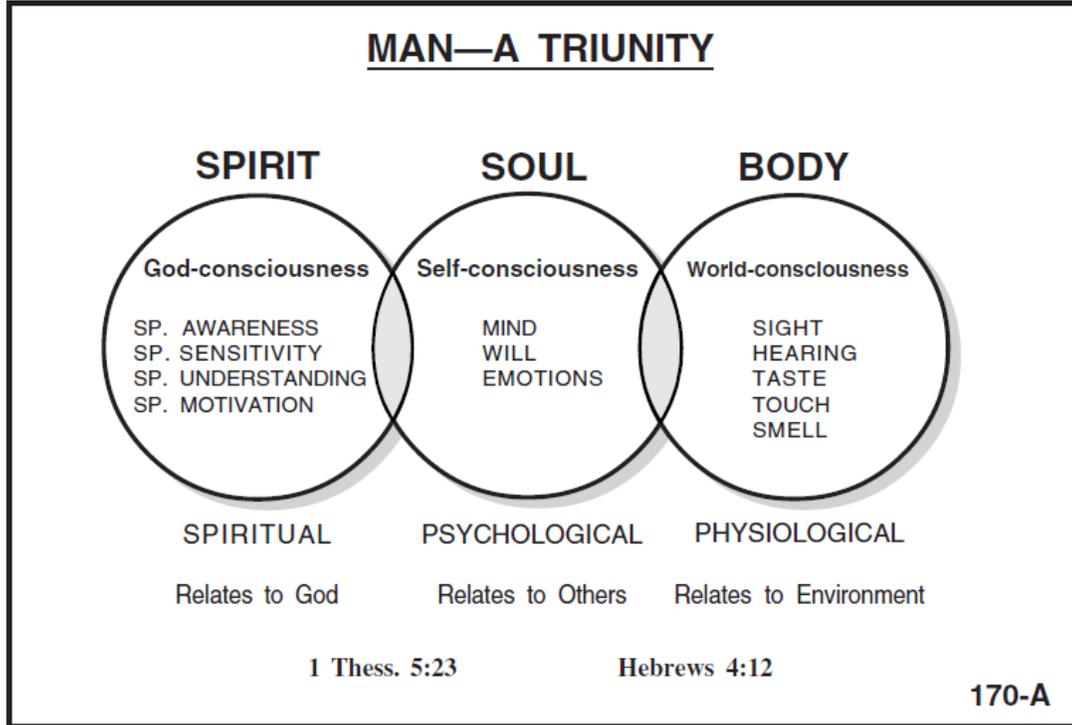
God's purpose is that through an intimate, obedient, dependent, love relationship with Him, you will receive and demonstrate the very life of Christ. His life, love, purity, patience, faithfulness, and power are meant to become yours and then be manifested through you.

Adam and Eve lost the security of life through unbelief and disobedience. Following their rebellion, they tried to "make life work" with only human resources. Life's meaning and purpose thus had to be sought *within* the person, now that man had become god of his own life (Genesis 3:5). Identity, significance, and purpose must now be achieved by personal appearance, accomplishments, social status, possessions, or the earned acceptance of others.

Sin is the deception that man can find meaning and purpose in life apart from a personal love relationship of obedience to the Creator of life.

If you are a Christian living without a true picture of "who you are in Christ" you may be functioning in a manner that is lacking (if not contrary to) true freedom. This is an identity crisis!

In this lesson dare to take God's Word at face value, neither blindly affirming its truth without honest examination, nor rationalizing your failures and calling them acceptable. The greatness and victory of Christ's atonement is yours in reality.



Purpose: To show the nature of a man as a spiritual, psychological, physical being, and to introduce the significance of this in self-understanding.

EXPLANATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Every person IS a spirit, HAS a soul, and LIVES IN a body. •Meaning and purpose in life flow from our identity. •God desires that we will experience fullness of life as we choose to seek meaning and purpose from Him. •People tend to emphasize the area of their lives that they think is their primary identity. •A “body” type of identity will spend time and money to look good, feel healthy, and have nice clothes. •A “soul” type of identity will focus on thoughts, feelings, or decisions. •A “spirit” type of identity will order all of life around the person of Christ. There will be no secular or sacred parts of life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Do you think of yourself as a body? Examples: I am fat, I am in great shape, I am beautiful, etc. If so, explain. ? Do you spend a lot of time, money or energy to improve your body or appearance? This could include clothes, exercise, diets, surgery, etc. If so, explain. ? Do you think of your intellect as who you are? Examples: I am smart, I am decisive, I am a deep thinker or maybe even I am slow and not very smart. If so, explain. ? Do you spend large amounts of time trying to figure things out or think situations or circumstances through? If so, explain. ? Do you define yourself by your feelings? Examples: I feel happy so I have joy or I feel guilty so I must be guilty. If so, explain. ? Do you emotions or how you are feeling determine whether or not you are having a good day? If so, explain. ? If you could believe your true identity was spiritual, how would that change your daily routine?

What's New About You?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 170-A:

To explain the nature of man as a spiritual, psychological, physical being, and to introduce the significance of this in self-understanding.

1. Do you think of yourself as a body? Examples: I am fat, I am in great shape, I am beautiful, etc. If so, explain _____

2. Do you spend a lot of time, money, or energy to improve your body or appearance? This could include clothes, exercise, diets, surgery etc. If so, explain _____

3. Do you think of your intellect as who you are? Examples: I am smart, I am decisive, I am a deep thinker or maybe even I am slow and not very smart. If so, explain: _____

4. Do you spend large amounts of time trying to figure things out or think situations or circumstances through? If so, explain _____

5. Do you define yourself by what you are feeling? Examples: I feel happy so I have joy or I feel guilty so I must be guilty. If so, explain _____

6. Do your emotions or how you are feeling determine whether or not you are having a good day? If so, explain _____

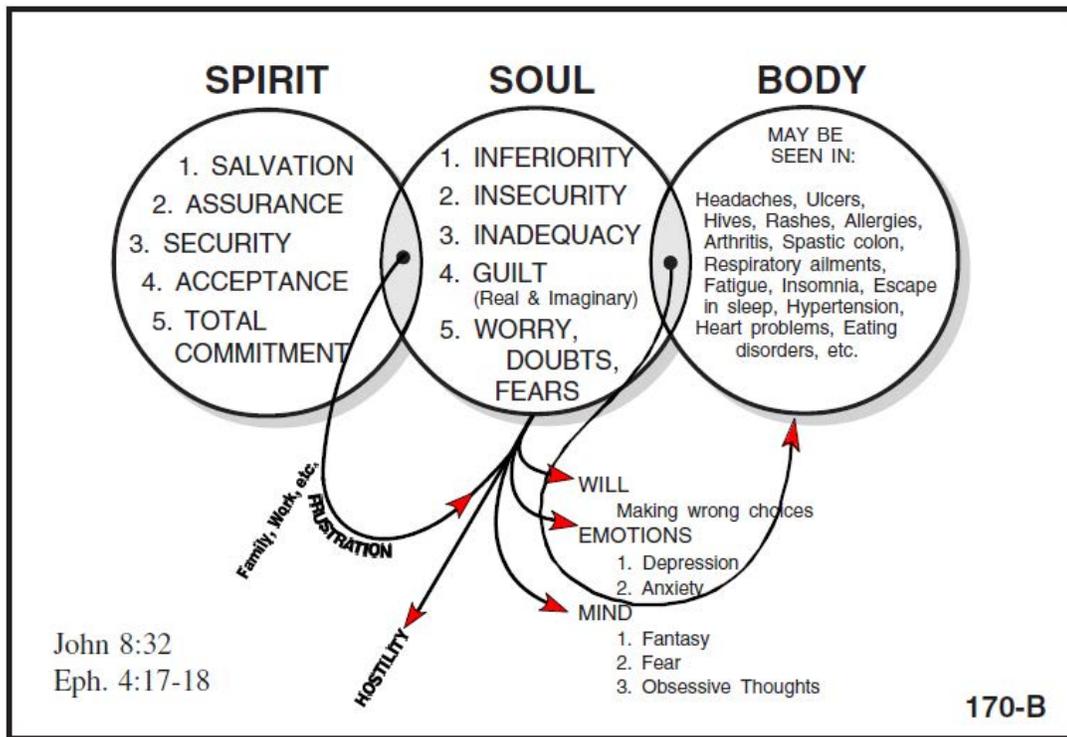
7. If you could believe your true identity was spiritual, how would that change your daily routine? _____

*... may your spirit
and soul and body be
preserved complete.*

1 Thess. 5:23

WHAT'S
NEW

*I am a Spirit . . .
I have a soul . . .
I live in a body . . .*



Purpose: To show that the difference between what is true in the Spirit and what is felt to be true in the soul creates inner problems which express themselves in disturbing ways.

EXPLANATION

•The factors given in the soul (psyche) affects the body (soma) creating psychosomatic results. Many people are hospitalized because of these conflicts between the spirit, soul, and body. There is real pain, but the cause is not organic.

•This is a Christian living after the flesh and buying into feelings instead of God’s truth.

•When my soul doesn’t agree with what is true in my spirit frustrations results. My frustration leads to problems in my body.

APPLICATION

?

Do you even experience any of the following feelings? (an extra sheet of paper may be necessary)



1. Inferiority_____ Describe
2. Insecurity_____ Describe
3. Inadequacy_____ Describe
4. Guilt_____ Describe
5. Worry, doubt, fear_____ Describe
6. Depression_____ Describe
7. Anxiety_____ Describe
8. Obsessive thoughts or behavior _____ Describe

?

Why do you think you experience these feelings?



Study Proverbs 3:5-8.

?

How would your life experience change if you lived according to what God says about you, instead of how you think or feel or what you, others, or the world think?

What's New About You?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 170-B:

To show that the difference between what is true in the Spirit and what is felt to be true in the soul creates inner problems which express themselves in disturbing ways.



Do you ever experience any of the following feelings?
(an extra sheet of paper may be necessary)

1. Inferiority _____ Describe _____

2. Insecurity _____ Describe _____

3. Inadequacy _____ Describe _____

4. Guilt _____ Describe _____

5. Worry, doubt, fear _____ Describe _____

6. Depression _____ Describe _____

7. Anxiety _____ Describe _____

8. Obsessive thoughts or behavior _____ Describe _____

9. Why do you think you experience these feelings? _____



10. Study Proverbs 3:5-8.



11. How would your life experience change if you lived according to what God says about you, instead of how you feel or what you, others, or the world think?

*Walk no longer . . .
in the futility of
their (your) mind.*

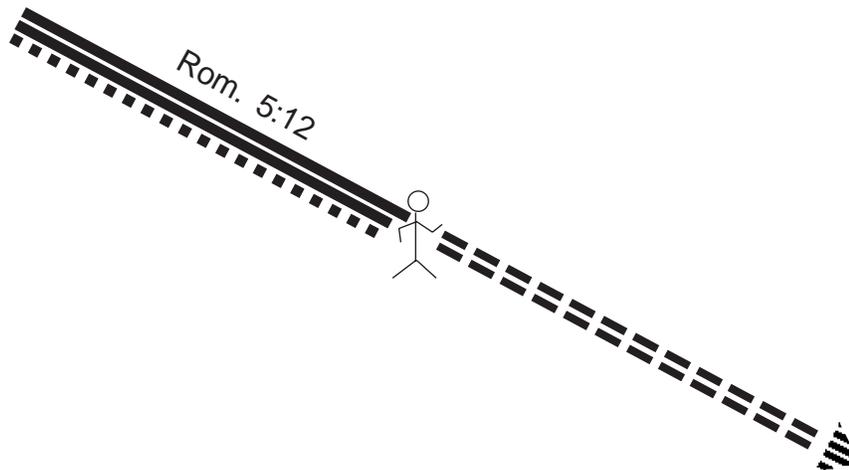
Eph. 4:17

WHAT'S
NEW

My feelings may not be true.

“IN” ADAM

SIN
SEPARATION



DEATH

170-C

Purpose: To give an understanding of how all persons became sinners through their descent from Adam.

EXPLANATION

- Diagrams 170-C, C1, C2 are good to use to lead someone to Christ.
- We are all born “IN” Adam and receive his nature to sin.
- Each of the tiny squares represents a generation. First is a person’s parents, then grandparents, then great grandparents, etc.
- Being “IN” Adam means:
 - We receive his spiritual death
 - We receive his nature to sin,
 - We have the identity of sinner.
- By birth we are related spiritually and physically to Adam and under the same sentence of death both spiritually and physically.

APPLICATION

-  Study Romans 5:12
- ? What did you learn about you?
- ? What does it mean to be “IN” Adam?
-  Study Romans 3:23, 6:23.
- ? What did you learn about sin?
- ? Are you a sinner?
- ? What will happen to you when you die?

What's New About You?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 170-C:

To give an understanding of how all persons became sinners through their descent from Adam.



1. Study Romans 5:12.



2. What did you learn about you? _____



3. What does it mean to be "IN" Adam? _____



4. Study Romans 3:23, 6:23.

All have sinned . . . Rom. 3:23



5. What did you learn about sin? _____



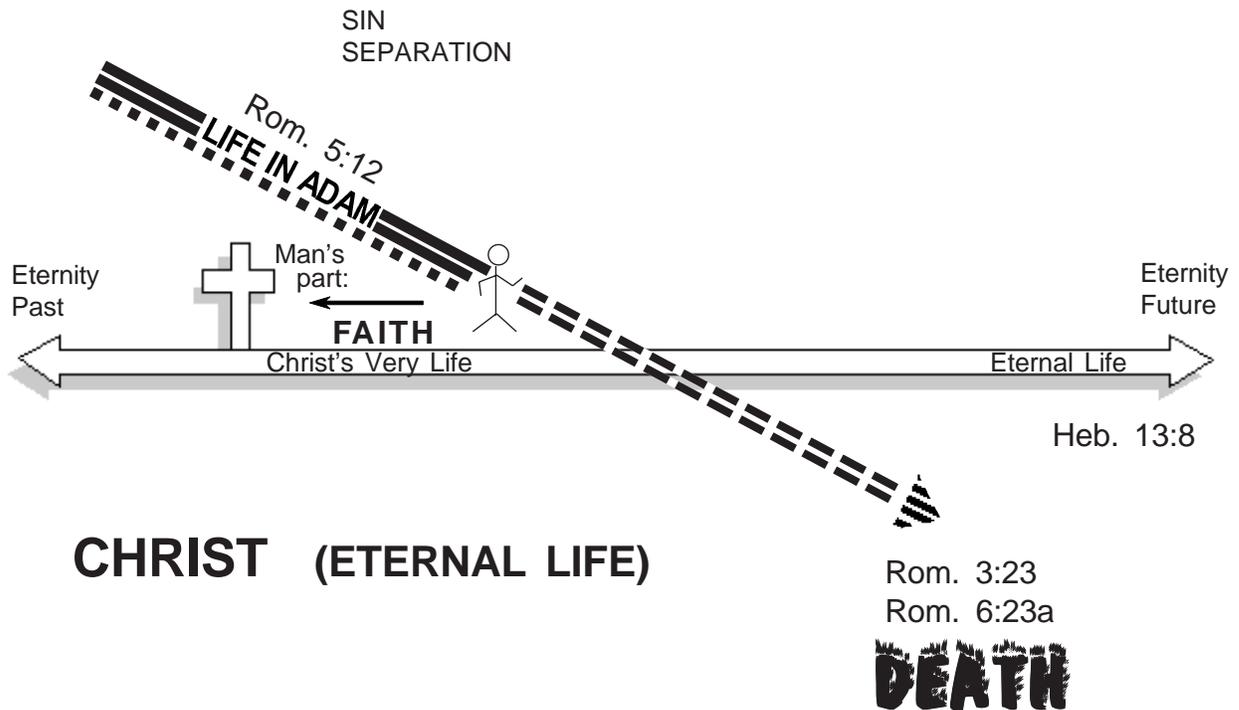
6. Are you a sinner? _____



7. What will happen to you when you die? _____

*Born once—die twice!
Born twice—die once!*

IT'S YOUR CHOICE



170-C1

Purpose: To confront this sinner with the eternal life of Christ and explain the sinner's responsibility toward the cross as the key factor in any spiritual change.

EXPLANATION

- The choice is between Adam and Christ.
- As Adam's life and heritage became mine by physical birth, so too, Christ's life and heritage is mine by spiritual birth (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- Jesus didn't come to make bad people good, but to make dead people alive.
- Christ's life is eternal with no beginning or no end. He is absolutely complete and never-changing as shown in Hebrews 13:8.

APPLICATION

- Study Romans 5:12, 5:17-19
- ? What did you receive because of Adam's sin?
- ? What did you receive because of Christ's obedience?
- Study Romans 10:9-10.
- ? Do you have to end up in spiritual death? Why not?

What's New About You?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **170-C1**:

To show the sinner the choice of eternal life in Christ as an alternative to death.

*... while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.* Rom. 5:8

-  1. Study Romans 5:12, 17-19.
-  2. What did you receive because of Adam's sin? _____

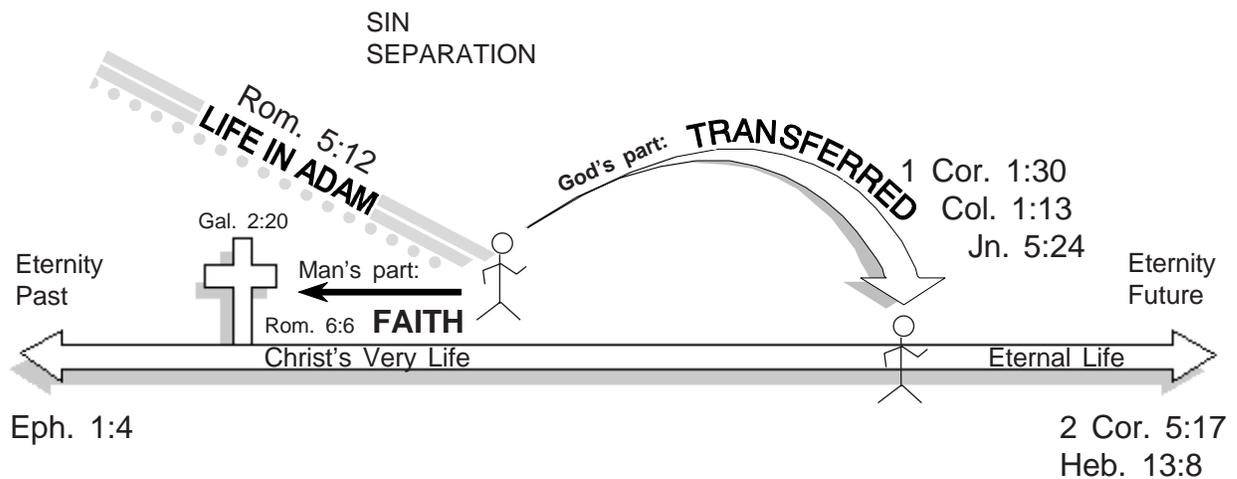
-  3. What did you receive because of Christ's obedience? _____

-  4. Study Romans 10:9-10.
-  5. Do you have to end up in spiritual death? _____
Why not? _____

If you are not sure you are truly "In Christ," then now would be a wonderful time to open your life up to Him and receive Him as your Savior and Lord. He is knocking and waiting (Revelation 3:20).

*I wouldn't choose death,
would I?*

LIFE IN CHRIST



“IN” CHRIST (ETERNAL LIFE)

170-C2

Purpose: To show the believer in Christ is actually removed from being “in Adam” and placed “into Christ.”

EXPLANATION

- Read Colossians 1:13.
- Consider the key word “transferred.”
- In the Greek this word emphasizes removal. God removed us from Adam and plunged us into Christ!
- Once I am transferred from Adam into Christ, “Everything is new about me!”
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 & Galatians 2:20. All we carry away from Adam is our bodies, which will also be replaced. The flesh resides in the body, but God has use for it. By choosing righteousness against the desires of my flesh, I experience the power of the cross (Philippians 2:12).
- Our eternal life began when we received Christ and made Him Lord.
- Being born “IN” Christ means:
 - We receive spiritual life—His life,
 - We are being sanctified,
 - We receive the identity of saint.

APPLICATION

-  Study 1 Corinthians 1:30.
- ? Whose work was it to move you from the old path to the new path?
-  Study Romans 6:6.
- ? What happened to your old self that was in Adam?
-  Study Colossians 1:13.
- ? How did you get into Christ?
-  Study Galatians 2:20.
- ? Whose life do you have now?

What's New About You?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **170-C2**:

*To show the believer in Christ is actually removed from being
“in Adam” and placed “into Christ.”*



1. Study 1 Corinthians 1:30.



2. Whose work was it to move you from the old path to the new path?



3. Study Romans 6:6.



4. What happened to your old self that was in Adam?

*... your life is hidden
with Christ in God. Col. 3:3*



5. Study Colossians 1:13.

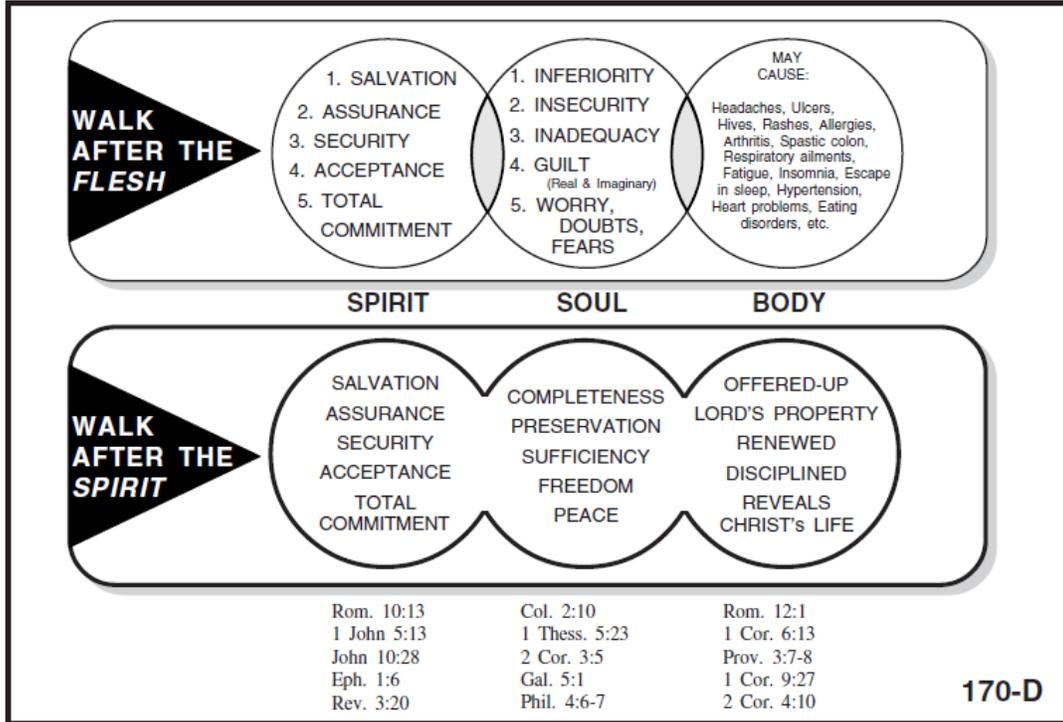


6. How did you get into Christ? _____



7. Study Galatians 2:20. Whose life do you have now? _____

What's new about me—everything!



Purpose: To show the difference between walking after the flesh and living in the true identity of Christ.

EXPLANATION

- Notice the difference between the spirit, soul, and body of the one walking after the flesh and the free flow of truth in the one walking after the Spirit.
- Walking after the flesh is choosing to believe that our thoughts, feelings, and appearance define who we are.
- Walking after the Spirit is choosing to believe God's Word and allowing that to direct my soul and body. Changes need to take place in the soul which will affect the body.

APPLICATION

- Study Romans 8:5-6
- ? Do you see that feelings of inferiority, etc., are focusing on self, and feelings of completeness, etc. come from focusing on the Lord?
- Study John 8:32.
- ? How do you change from walking after the flesh to walking after the Spirit? Where is your focus now?
- ? What is more true—God's Word or your feelings?
- ? Are you ready to choose to believe what God's Word says about you?

What's New About You?

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 170-D:

*To show the difference between walking after the flesh
and living in the true identity of Christ.*



1. Study Romans 8:5-6.



2. Do you see that feelings of inferiority, etc. are focusing on self, and feelings of completeness, etc., come from focusing on the Lord?



3. Study John 8:32.



4. How do you change from walking after the flesh to walking after the spirit? Where is your focus now? _____

*You shall know the
truth and the truth
shall set you free.*

John 8:32



5. What is more true—God's word or your feelings?



6. Are you ready to choose to believe what God's word says about you?

God said it—that settles it!

REVIEW

- I am given the life of Christ.
- I am no longer dead, but alive “in Christ.”
- I am no longer a slave to sin. It is a choice now.
- I am a new creation—God’s child!
- I am to be transformed by the renewing of my mind.
- I am to appropriate His *very* life.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS 

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

EXTEND
FORGIVE

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 180

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

180-A	WRONG CHOICES
180-B	THE WILL IS THE KEY—WRONG CHOICES
180-C	RIGHT CHOICES
180-D	THE WILL IS THE KEY—RIGHT CHOICES
180-E	FAITH IS:
180-F	THE CHRISTIAN'S IDENTITY

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. When your disciple is living a performance-based acceptance lifestyle.
2. When you see your disciple functioning in the area of godship of seeking the acceptance and approval of others.
3. When your disciple is living with someone who is constantly rejecting, criticizing and putting him/her down.
4. If you want to show your disciple he/she has grown as a Christian.
5. If your disciple is making wrong choices and seems stuck in that pattern.
6. When you want to clearly show your disciple who he/she is in Christ.

Key Truths to Stress -----

We need to stop living for acceptance from others and begin living from the acceptance we have in Christ. He accepts us as righteous. As we walk in our new identity, our mind is being renewed and we will believe that what God says about us is true and then make right choices.

Key Verses -----

Romans 5:19, *“For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”*

Romans 15:7, *“Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”*

Philippians 3:9, *“and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.”*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

Show your disciple where he/she is piling up rocks on the teeter-totter. If it is on the left side then encourage repentance. To pile up the rocks on the right side, work through one of the verses on diagram 180-F with your disciple.

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

People who are aimless, disheartened, discouraged, or have given up on life are all around us. One of the saddest things is that all too often these words describe Christians! They “try to live the Christian life” and fail miserably. They allow their behavior to determine their identity. They see the wrong choices they make and then call themselves names like: failure, loser, stupid, sinner, angry person, or liar. Or, they see themselves as addicted to something or someone.

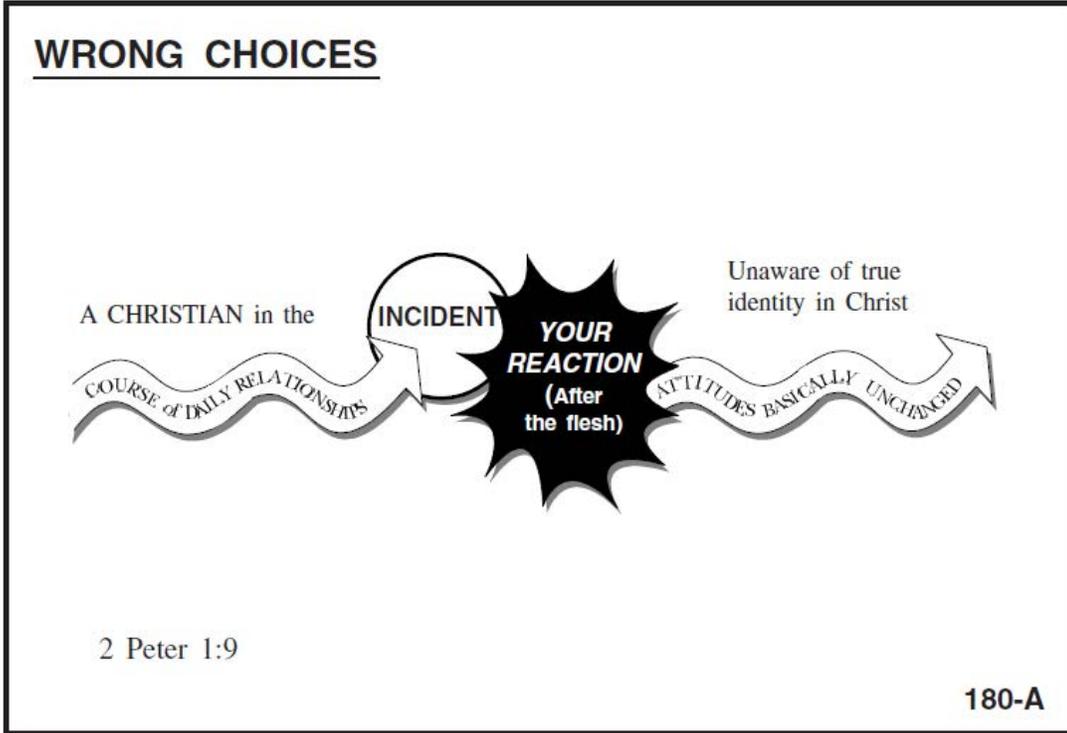
We live in a world that rewards performance. People are promoted at work and given raises commensurate with their performance. Many companies have yearly performance evaluations.

Many sincere people try very hard to gain acceptance from God and others through performance. A believer may say, “I have made some very poor choices, and I know God will love me if I _____.” (Fill in the blank with Christian service, sacrifice, or self-denial.) Instead of allowing our actions to determine our identity, we need to see what God says.

Are you accepted right now, today, just as you are?

People are either functioning **for** acceptance or **from** acceptance. Every day we make choices based on our view of ourselves. To see ourselves as unloved, unrighteous, insecure, unstable, and unacceptable is to be deceived and to live in bondage. Sadly, to believe circumstances, past history, emotions, or what other people say, as opposed to what God says, is the norm for Christians. To no longer live under bondage, you must begin by accepting your righteousness in Christ.

ACCEPT
RIGHT



Purpose: To illustrate how not knowing who I am in Christ causes wrong choices.

EXPLANATION

- This is a picture of a Christian who is unaware of his/her identity in Christ.
- As this person moves along through life “something happens.” Examples could be a temptation, a failure, a rebuke, or a rip-off.
- When circumstances are seen as negative, this person explodes in anger, bitterness, or revenge and attitudes remain unchanged.
- This person is living by circumstances, not by truth.
- Due to a lack of awareness of his/her true identity in Christ, the person’s attitudes are unchanged. Without knowing the truth, right choices won’t be made.
- Jesus didn’t react after the flesh because He knew who He was.

APPLICATION

- ? What is a negative incident that has confronted you recently?
- ? Did you react after the flesh? How?
- ? Did the truth of who you are in Christ affect your reaction? How?
-  Study Galatians 5:16 and 2 Peter 1:9.
- ? What does it mean to carry out the desires of the flesh?

Accepting Your Righteousness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 180-A:

To illustrate how not knowing who I am in Christ causes wrong choices.

? 1. What is a negative incident that has confronted you recently? _____

? 2. Did you react after the flesh? How? _____

? 3. Did the truth of who you are in Christ affect your reaction? How? _____

*We are under
obligation not to
the flesh*

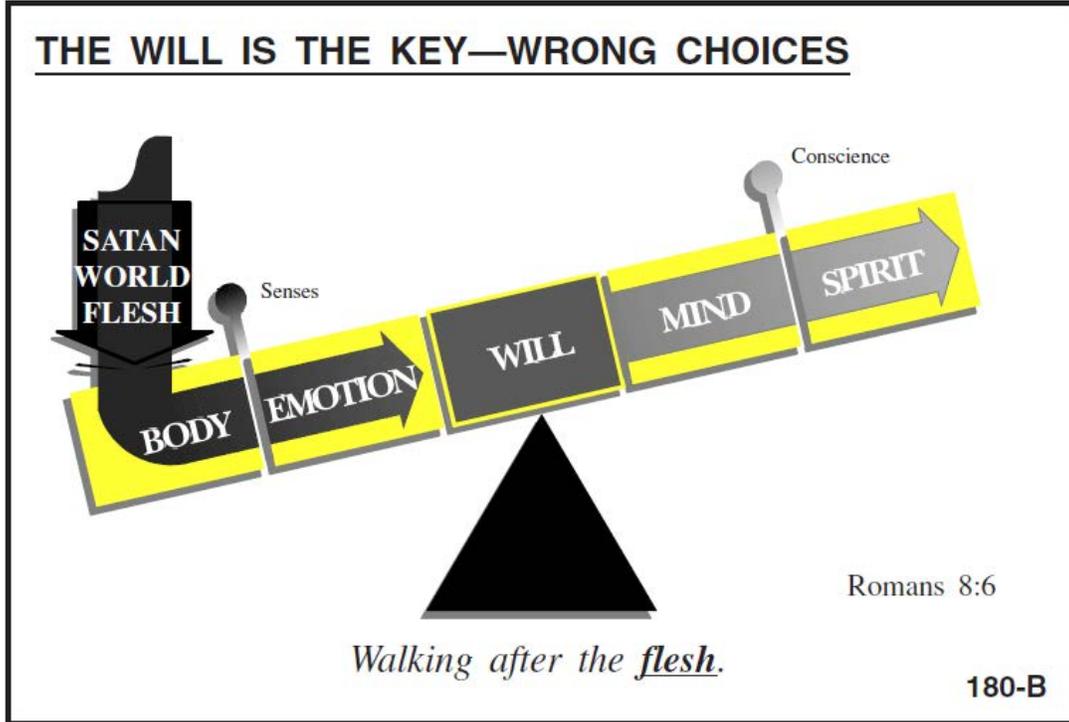
Rom. 8:12

 4. Study Galatians 5:16 and 2 Peter 1:9.

? 5. What does it mean to carry out the desires of the flesh? _____

Identity determines behavior.

ACCEPT
RIGHT



Purpose: To illustrate how wrong choices are made through the influence of Satan, the world, and our flesh.

EXPLANATION

- Read Romans 8:6a.
- Satan, the ruler of the world, wants to set our minds on the flesh by stirring up emotions by things that are seen (2 Corinthians 4:18).
- Initially the appeal is made through physical stimuli which excites the emotions and moves a person to a decision. The mind and the spirit might not be consulted in the decision.
- For example in Genesis 3:4-6, Satan made an appeal to Eve through her senses. She experienced delight with the emotions because of what she saw. She dismissed what she knew to be true in her mind and made the wrong choice.
- Continuing to make wrong choices is like piling rocks on one side of the teeter-totter. If this continues an addiction can occur.
- Whatever controls the will, controls the person.

APPLICATION

-  List some of the identities you have accepted (such as parent, spouse, employee, employer, friend, athlete, etc).
- ? What are you doing to prove your value in the identities you listed?
- ? How does the world say you should perform if the real you is one of the identities you listed?
-  Study Ephesians 2:2-3.
- ? Who is it that influences the ways of the world?
-  Study Galatians 1:10.
- ? Are you seeking anyone's acceptance (even your own) rather than God's?

Accepting Your Righteousness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 180-B:

To illustrate how wrong choices are made through the influence of Satan, the world, and our flesh.

- ? 1. List some of the identities you have accepted? (such as parent, spouse, employee, employer, friend, athlete, etc.)

- ? 2. What are you doing to prove your value in the identities you listed? _____

- ? 3. How does the world say you should perform if the real you is one of the identities you listed?

-  4. Study Ephesians 2:2-3.

- ? 5. Who is it that influences the ways of this world? _____

-  6. Study Galatians 1:10.

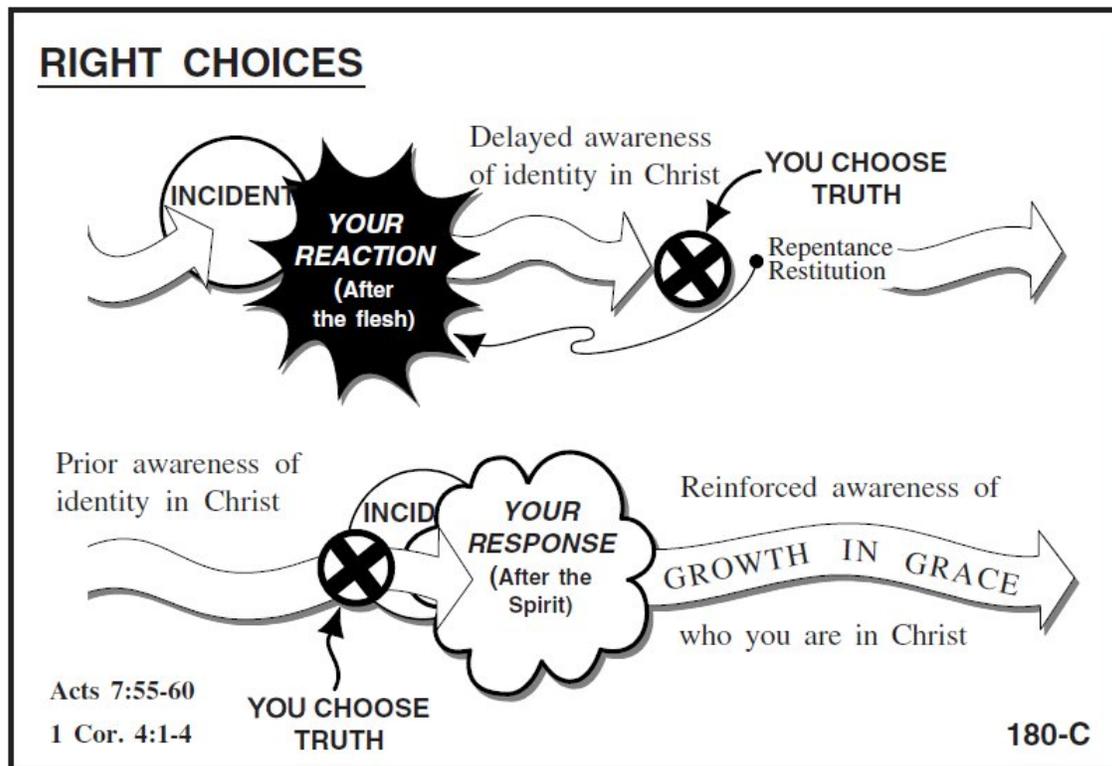
- ? 7. Are you seeking anyone's acceptance (even your own) rather than God's? _____

Do not be conformed to this world

Rom. 12:2

ACCEPT
RIGHT

My choices are made based on who I think I am.



Purpose: To illustrate the benefits of choosing to walk in the truth of who I am in Christ.

EXPLANATION

- When unpleasant incidents occur, we do not have to react after the flesh but can respond after the Spirit.
- Read Romans 8:6b.
- Notice the importance of truth. Only after truth is applied can right choices be made. See John 8:32.
- Paul was unaffected by popular opinion. His mind was set on the Spirit. He knew who he was in Christ (1 Corinthians 4:1-4).
- When the truth of our identity in Christ is in place prior to an incident, we are free to respond after the Spirit.
- These two choice trails show growth in a Christian who knows he/she is accepted by God and is accepting his/her identity in Christ.
- We can respond to an incident as Jesus would because He lives in us. This is our true identity.

APPLICATION

- Study 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- ? Do you have trouble accepting the truth that you are the righteousness of God in Christ? Why?
- ? Can you accept that God's Word is true regardless of how you feel?
- Study 2 Corinthians 5:7.
- ? If you choose by faith what God says is true about you, how would it affect your responses?
- Study John 1:12.
- ? Who does this verse say you are?
- If I choose to believe the truth that I am a child of God, then regardless of the incident, I can respond as a child of God (after the Spirit).

Accepting Your Righteousness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **180-C**:

To illustrate the benefits of choosing to walk in the truth of who I am in Christ.

-  1. Study 2 Corinthians 5:21.
-  2. Do you have trouble accepting the **truth** that you are the righteousness of God in Christ? Why? _____

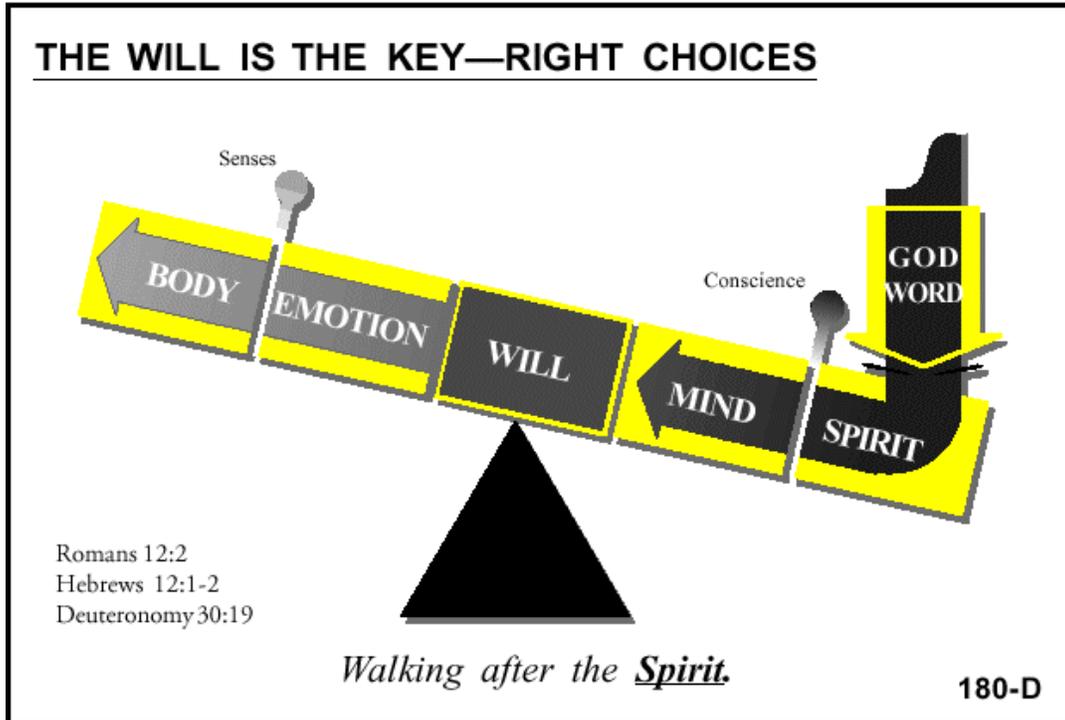
-  3. Can you accept that God's word is true regardless of how you feel?

-  4. Study 2 Corinthians 5:7.
-  5. If you choose by faith what God says is true about you, how would it affect your responses? _____
-  6. Study John 1:12. Who does this verse say you are? _____
-  7. If I choose to believe the truth that I am a child of God, then regardless of the incident, I can respond as a child of God (after the Spirit).

*For as he thinks . . .
so is he.* Prov. 23:7

*Identity is based on birth,
not on behavior.*

ACCEPT
RIGHT



Purpose: To illustrate how right choices are made through the influence of God and His Word.

EXPLANATION

- God wants to influence our decisions through His Spirit bearing witness with our spirit (Romans 8:16)
- Jesus said we should live by the Word of God (Matthew 4:4).
- Right choices are made by considering God’s Word rather than what we see or feel.
- Because we are one in spirit with Jesus Himself, we are able to receive input from God’s Word and believe it in our mind. Then we can make right choices (Romans 8:6b).
- The more choices we make considering what God has to say, the more rocks (figuratively) we will pile up on the right side of the teeter-totter.
- It is never too late to start making right choices.

APPLICATION

- ? Why do you want to make right choices?
 Study 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.
- ? What does God say should motivate your choices?
- ? Instead of listening to the one who led you astray, how can you start listening to God?
 Study Psalm 119:11.
- ? How would you get God’s Word in your heart?
 Study Philippians 4:8-9.
- ? Do these verses characterize your thinking or do you focus on circumstances?
- ? What other ways can you renew your mind (Romans 12:2)?

Accepting Your Righteousness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **180-D**:

To illustrate how right choices are made through the influence of God and His Word.

? 1. Why do you want to make right choices? _____

 2. Study 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

? 3. What does God say should motivate your choices? _____

? 4. Instead of you listening to the one who led you astray, how can you start listening to God? _____

 5. Study Psalm 119:11.

? 6. How would you get God's Word in your heart? _____

 7. Study Philippians 4:8-9.

? 8. Do these verses characterize your thinking or do you focus on your circumstances? _____

? 9. What other ways can you renew your mind (Romans 12:2)? _____

*... be transformed
by the renewing of
your mind . . . Rom. 12:2*

ACCEPT
RIGHT

Read a good book lately—try the Bible.

FAITH IS:

A CHOICE BASED ON GOD'S TRUTH, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT SEEM TO BE TRUE, SO THAT WHAT IS TRUE ABOUT ME ALREADY MAY BECOME TRUE IN MY DAILY EXPERIENCE.

*"The assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
Hebrews 11:1*

180-E

Purpose: To define "faith" based on biblical truth.

EXPLANATION

- Faith is a choice which is based on what God says.
- Read Hebrews 11:1, 11:6.
- Faith is what God says pleases Him.
- Our feelings may not join in believing what God says.
- Our feelings don't change the truth!
- It doesn't please God if I choose circumstances and feelings over believing Him.
-  Go to "Exercising Godship" (Diagram 100-A) in the "Godship" lesson.
- Daily experience of the Lord's joy, peace and contentment will be evidence of choosing to walk after the Spirit.

APPLICATION

-  Study Ephesians 4:24.
- ?
- Do you feel righteous and holy?
- ?
- Do your feelings negate what God says?
-  Study Philippians 3:20.
- ?
- If you didn't feel like a citizen of your country, would it change the truth of your citizenship?
- ?
- Can you be a citizen of heaven even though you don't feel like it?
- ?
- Do you want to believe what God says about you?
-  Check the next diagram to see the truth.

Accepting Your Righteousness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 180-E:

To define “faith” based on biblical truth.



1. Study Ephesians 4:24.



2. Do you feel righteous and holy? _____



3. Do your feelings negate what God says? _____



4. Study Philippians 3:20.



5. If you didn't feel like a citizen of your country, would it change the truth of your citizenship? _____



6. Can you be a citizen of heaven even though you don't feel like it? _____

*Faith is the assurance
of things hoped for*

Heb. 11:1



7. Do you want to believe what God says about you? _____



8. Check the next diagram to see the truth.

Righteousness is a fact—not a feeling.

ACCEPT
RIGHT

The truest things about me are what God says about me (1 Corinthians 4:3-4)

In Christ I am a child of God—born of God (John 1:12-13)
 In Christ I am being saved by His life (Romans 5:10)
 In Christ I am free from condemnation (Romans 8:1)
 In Christ I am an heir of God, joint heir with Christ (Romans 8:17)
 In Christ I am a saint (Romans 8:27)
 In Christ I am accepted (Romans 15:7)
 In Christ I am a possessor of the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)
 In Christ I am a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 In Christ I am the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 In Christ I am blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)
 In Christ I am adopted as God's child (Ephesians 1:5)

In Christ I am God's workmanship created for good works (Ephesians 2:10)
 In Christ I am a member of God's household (Ephesians 2:19)
 In Christ I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
 In Christ I am holy and blameless and beyond reproach (Colossians 1:22)
 In Christ I am complete [perfect] (Colossians 2:10)
 In Christ I am alive and forgiven of all my transgressions (Colossians 2:13)
 In Christ I am a member of a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9)
 In Christ I am a partaker of God's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)
 In Christ I am given eternal life today (1 John 5:11-13)
 In Christ I am released from my sins (Revelation 1:5)

RENEWING my mind brings about TRANSFORMATION.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

1. Read a verse listed above in its context and check cross references.
2. Report to God that I believe (adhere to, trust in, rely on) what He says about me is true.
3. Respond to God in prayer by thanking Him for what He did. "Father, I believe You when Your Word says I am a saint. I may not feel like one, but that's what You call me, so I believe it. Thank You!—1 Thessalonians 5:18.
4. Recognize what this verse teaches me about God and praise Him for who He is!
5. Reject my old view of myself. This would include no longer calling myself names like: failure, dummy, stupid, idiot, and loser. Also, I would stop seeing myself as: sinner, alcoholic, lazy, fornicator, homosexual, or liar.—1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
6. Rejoice that my mind is being renewed each time I choose the truth.
7. Receive direction for today as a result of this verse. "Lord, I see what You have done and who You are, now what do You want me to do regarding this truth?"

180-F

Purpose: To show how what God says can be used to renew our minds.

EXPLANATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Following the seven steps in the box provides a practical way to receive God's truth and apply it to daily life. •These Scriptures listed on the diagram are identity statements about who God says we are, in spite of what we might be feeling or what others may say about us. •This can be a wonderful homework sheet. •Work through one verse a day. •Our identity in Christ is based on birth not behavior. <p>Note: You have permission to copy this diagram for someone else.</p>	<p>?</p> <p>Are these verses literally true of you?</p> <p>?</p> <p>Can you pick a verse and go through the seven steps now?</p> <p> Write out what God shows you.</p> <p>?</p> <p>Can you choose to believe what God says is true about you even if you don't feel it or have experienced it yet?</p> <p>?</p> <p>What keeps you from believing these truths?</p> <p>?</p> <p>Have you ever received the acceptance God has for you based on what Christ did for you?</p> <p> Would you now, in prayer, like to receive His acceptance of you?</p> <p> You are loved, accepted, holy, blameless, and a saint. Praise God! Ephesians 1:4-8.</p>

Accepting Your Righteousness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 180-F:

To show how what God says can be used to renew our minds.

? 1. Are these verses literally true of you? _____

? 2. Can you pick a verse and go through the seven steps now? _____

3. Write out what God shows you.

*... you shall know
the truth ... the truth
shall set you free.*

John 8:32

? 4. Can you choose to believe what God says is true about you even if you don't feel it or have experienced it yet? _____

? 5. What keeps you from believing these truths? _____

? 6. Have you ever received the acceptance God has for you based on what Christ did for you? _____

 7. Would you now, in prayer, like to receive His acceptance of you?

8. You are loved, accepted, holy, blameless, and a saint. Praise God!
Ephesians 1:4-8

*God said it.
I believe it.*

ACCEPT
RIGHT

REVIEW

- I am totally accepted by Christ.
- Christ has made me righteous. I need to believe this truth regardless of how I feel or how I act.
- This truth frees me from trying to gain acceptance from others. I don't have to live a performance-based-acceptance lifestyle.
- Knowing this truth stops the need to compete and makes decision making easier. I am not trying to prove anything.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS 

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

**EXTEND
FORGIVE**

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 200

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS

200-A	ACHIEVING ONES
200-B	PERSONAL CONFLICT WITHOUT FORGIVENESS
200-C	CONTINUAL CONFLICT WITHOUT FORGIVENESS
200-E	I AM THE OFFENDED
200-E1	THE RESULT OF MY FLESHY REACTIONS
200-D	EXTENDING FORGIVENESS (2 pages)
200-E2	I CHOOSE TO EXTEND FORGIVENESS
200-F	PERSONAL CONFLICT WITH TRUE FORGIVENESS
200-G	TESTS OF FORGIVENESS

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. When your disciple has been hurt by someone, either intentionally or unintentionally.
2. If your disciple is carrying around a grudge toward someone, even if that person is deceased.
3. When you see your disciple living with a lot of anger.
4. When your disciple's growth is hindered because of focusing on what another person did to hurt him/her.

Key Truths to Stress -----

We must forgive anyone who has hurt us and against whom we hold anything. Freedom from anger and pain can come by extending forgiveness.

Key Verses -----

Ephesians 4:26-27, 32, *“Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*

Colossians 3:13, *“Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone ; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”*

James 4:12, *“There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy ; but who are you who judge your neighbor?”*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

Identify someone in your disciple's life who has hurt him/her and lead your disciple to actually forgive that person.

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS

*Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving
each other*

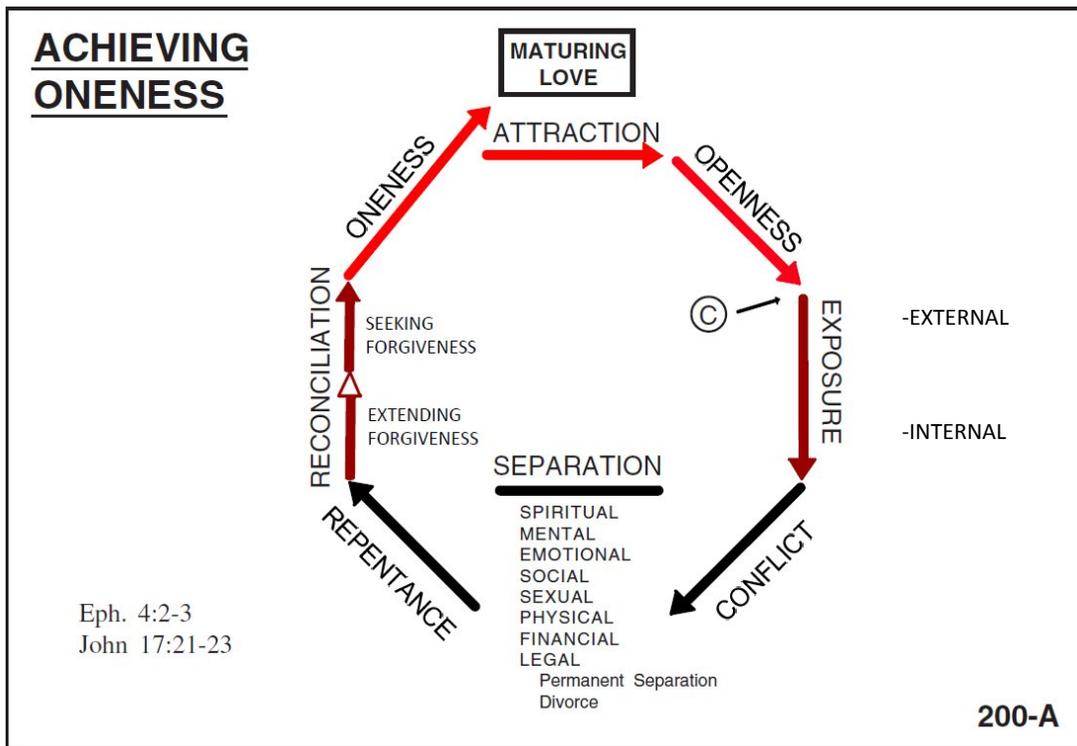
Ephesians 4:32

Nothing is more practical in Christian living than dealing with conflict in human relations. Roommates, church staff members, married couples, fellow missionaries, co-workers, school friends, family members, business partners—all know the hurt, frustration, and disillusionment that discord brings. Is there a sure route to oneness and harmony? What is forgiveness? How can I make it work? What about repeated offenses?

“I can forgive, but I can’t forget. What can I do?” “I can forgive others, but I can’t forgive myself.” “You’re asking me to forgive this person for doing THAT?” These kinds of statements are heard daily in the discipling process.

God wants us to live in harmony and unity in the body of Christ. How can that happen? We must make extending forgiveness a way of life. When someone hurts us, we need to extend forgiveness and not, “Let the sun go down on our wrath.”

EXTEND
FORGIVE



Purpose: To illustrate the process of achieving oneness in a relationship.

EXPLANATION

- This process fits any voluntary relationship. For example: marriage, business partners, or friends.
- Relationships begin with attraction leading to openness.
- The “C” in the octagon stands for commitment. Example: wedding day or business partnership. Some commitments happen involuntarily such as family members or co-workers.
- When exposure comes, we see things in ourselves and the other person that we don’t like.
- Exposure brings about conflict, which—if not dealt with—brings separation. Conflicts are normal and natural.
- After conflict, reconciliation is needed. Many relationships end in separation. God wants us to move from conflict to repentance to reconciliation.
- The three parts of reconciliation are extending forgiveness, seeking forgiveness, and rebuilding the relationship.
- Mature love happens once repentance and reconciliation take place.
- God desires oneness in all relationships—voluntary or involuntary.

APPLICATION

- Study John 17:21-23.
- ? What was Jesus praying for?
- ? Are you experiencing a separation in a relationship now?
- ? Since God desires oneness, what area of godship (see Diagram 100-A) is keeping you from moving past this separation?
- ? Do you withdraw from people to avoid conflict?
- ? Can you see that this withdrawal is another form of separation?
- Repentance is the first step back toward oneness.
- ? Can you admit to God your part in this conflict and separation?

Extending Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **200-A**:

To illustrate the process of achieving oneness in a relationship.



1. Study John 17:21-23.



2. What was Jesus praying for? _____



3. Are you experiencing a separation in a relationship now? _____



4. Since God desires oneness, what area of godship (see Diagram 100-A) is keeping you from moving past this separation? _____



5. Do you withdraw from people to avoid conflict? _____

... that they may be one.

John 17:22



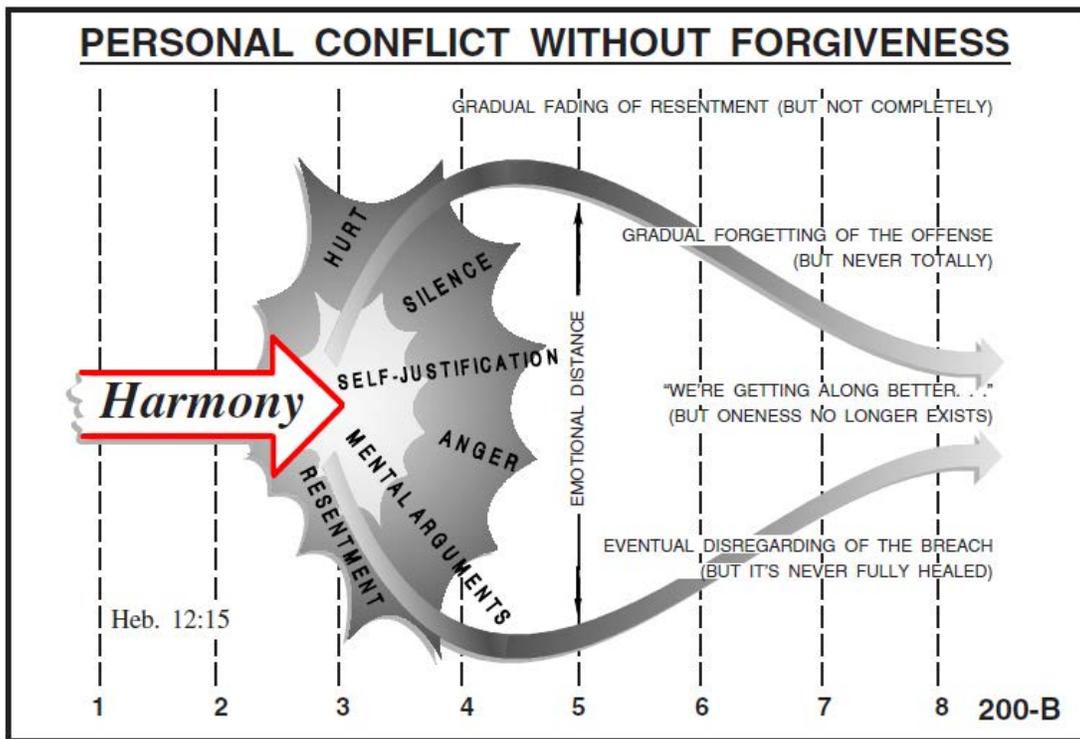
6. Can you see that this withdrawal is another form of separation? _____



7. Repentance is the first step back toward oneness. Can you admit to God your part in this conflict and separation? _____

*Conflict is inevitable . . . the way
to oneness is through it!*

EXTEND
FORGIVE



Purpose: To illustrate the effects of unresolved conflicts.

EXPLANATION

- What do most people do with conflicts? Nothing!
- When a conflict happens an emotional explosion erupts.
- The numbered lines represent time passing—hours, days, weeks, months, or years.
- When you are hurt, you don't want to forgive immediately. Gradually the intensity of the emotions subsides, but without forgiveness oneness no longer exists.
- Choosing not to forgive someone who has hurt you will eat at you like a slow growing cancer.
- Unity doesn't occur by letting time pass.
- Time does not heal any wounds.
- Only forgiveness brings healing.

APPLICATION

- ? Who has hurt you?
- ? Which of these emotions are you experiencing: anger, bitterness, resentment, desire to seek revenge, or a lack of trust?
-  Study Hebrews 12:15.
- ? Is there a root of bitterness toward anyone in a present or past relationship?
- ? Are you ready to tear up that root?

Extending Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **200-B**:

To illustrate the effects of unresolved conflicts.

 1. Who has hurt you? _____

 2. Which of these emotions are you experiencing: anger, bitterness, resentment, desire to seek revenge, or a lack of trust? _____

 3. Study Hebrews 12:15.

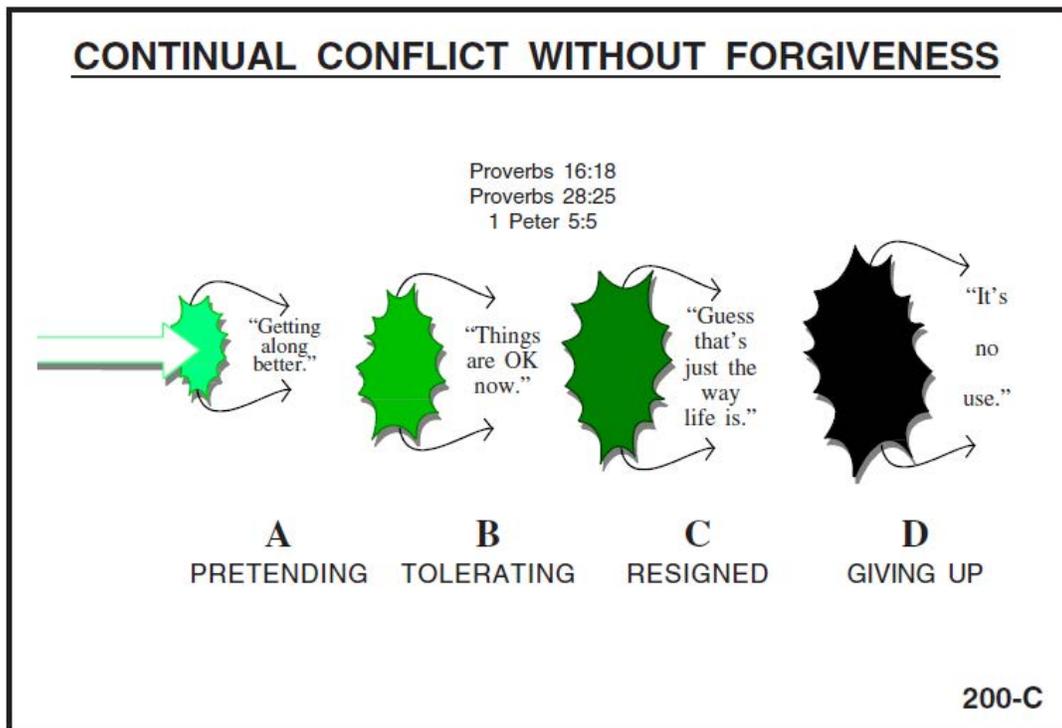
... root of bitterness ... Heb. 12:15

 4. Is there a root of bitterness toward anyone in a present or past relationship? _____

 5. Are you ready to tear up that root? _____

Time does not heal any wounds!

EXTEND
FORGIVE



Purpose: To illustrate the effects of unresolved conflict when time is allowed to pass without forgiveness.

EXPLANATION

- Without forgiveness conflicts tend to escalate.
- Notice that the conflicts and the emotional distances are getting larger because the two people don't come back together by forgiveness.
- Pride is a major barrier to forgiveness. Notice how the verses listed in Proverbs refer to pride.
- Another barrier to extending forgiveness is a desire to protect ourselves. Trusting in self-protection is a form of control which is godship. We are not trusting God, we are trusting ourselves. For example, "I will not forgive that person because he/she can hurt me again."

APPLICATION

- ? Which of the four explosions best describe your relationship with the person who has hurt you?
A B C D
- Study Ephesians 4:32.
- ? What is commanded in this verse?
- ? What is keeping you from obeying God's command?
- Study Proverbs 16:18.
- ? Could it be your own pride or self-protection?
- ? Do those who have hurt you deserve your forgiveness?
- Study Colossians 1:13-14.
- ? Has God forgiven you? Did you deserve it?

Extending Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **200-C**:

*To illustrate the effects of unresolved conflict
when time is allowed to pass without forgiveness.*

- ? 1. Which of the four explosions best describe your relationship with the person who has hurt you?

A B C D

*Because of your
hardness of heart . . .*

Mark 10:5

-  2. Study Ephesians 4:32.

- ? 3. What is commanded in these verses? _____

- ? 4. What is keeping you from obeying God's command? _____

-  5. Study Proverbs 16:18.

- ? 6. Could it be your own pride or self-protection? _____

- ? 7. Do those who have hurt you deserve your forgiveness? _____

-  8. Study Colossians 1:13-14.

- ? 9. Has God forgiven you? Did you deserve it? _____

*No forgiveness, know loneliness.
Know forgiveness, no loneliness.*

EXTEND
FORGIVE

I AM THE OFFENDED

1

When I am offended, in my mind I see the offender as guilty (James 4:12). Only God has the right to execute judgment (Ps. 9:7-8; Acts 17:31). My attempt to lay guilt on the offender by setting a standard is reacting after the flesh. For example: "This person should not have treated me that way" (Matthew 7:1-5).

200-E

Purpose: To describe how an offended person acts like a judge.

EXPLANATION

- James 4:12 says there is only one Judge. God is the perfect judge, not us.
- He is sinless and always judges righteously.
- We must allow God to be the judge.
- Matthew 7:1 gives us the command "Do not judge."
- He has set up forgiveness for all through the death of His Son (Colossians 1:13-14).
- To try to act as judge is to exercise godship.
- Common judgmental statements might be: "I deserve better than this. After all I've done for him/her, this is what I get in return."
- 1 Peter 2:23 says Jesus, "While being reviled kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously."

APPLICATION

- ? Where do you see yourself in this diagram?
-  Study James 4:12.
- ? What is God's message to you?
-  Study Psalms 9:7-8 & Acts 17:31.
- ? Who is the only One who is qualified to be The Judge?
- ? Can you see how you have tried to play god by judging this person?

Extending Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **200-E**:

To describe how an offended person acts like a judge.

? 1. Where do you see yourself in this diagram? _____

 2. Study James 4:12.

? 3. What is God's message to you? _____

 4. Study Psalm 9:7-8 and Acts 17:31.

? 5. Who is the only One who is qualified to be The Judge? _____

*... who are you to
judge your neighbor.*

James 4:12

? 6. Can you see how you have tried to play god by judging this person? _____

No one made me the judge.

EXTEND
FORGIVE

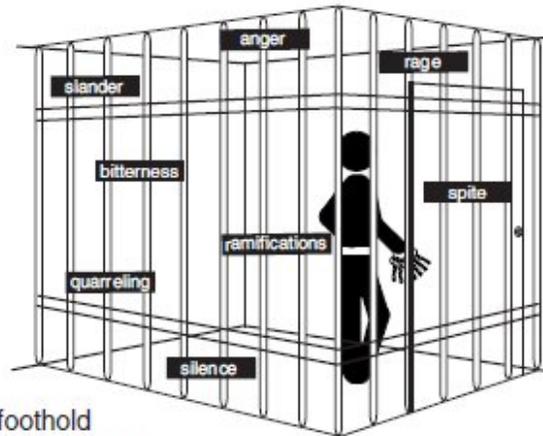
THE RESULT OF MY FLESHLY REACTIONS

2

I may react silently and “stuff” my bitterness or wrath. Or I may express it in abusive speech or actions, slander, or swearing.

The result is the same: **I'm in jail!**

Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32
1 Peter 5:8-9
Ecclesiastes 7:9



Going to bed angry gives the Devil a foothold to torment me, a child of God. I am actually held prisoner by reacting after the flesh. This control of the flesh and torment by the Devil can only be stopped by extending forgiveness. The offender should ask forgiveness from me, but may never do so. Consequently, I must initiate forgiveness. Notice: **I, the offended, have the keys to freedom in my hand.**

200-E1

Purpose: To illustrate the results of judging someone “guilty”.

EXPLANATION

- Although the offended person judged the offender as “guilty”, because of lack of forgiveness, the offended person continues to live in turmoil.
- Un-forgiveness results in a person living in a prison of his/her own making.
- The bars of the prison are actually the offended person’s anger, resentment, etc.
- The offended person tries to use anger, bitterness, and spite for protection. But the bars actually become the offended person’s own turmoil.
- The steps of forgiveness are the keys to being set free from this prison of torment.

APPLICATION

-  Study Ephesians 4:31-32.
- ? Which of the jail cell bars apply to you?
-  Study Ephesians 4:26-27.
- ? When do you need to extend forgiveness? Have you done it yet?
- ? What happens if you don’t do it?
-  Study 1 Peter 5:8-9.
- ? What does Satan want to do to you?
- ? Do you want to get out of jail?

Extending Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **200-E1**:

To illustrate the result of judging someone “guilty.”

-  1. Study Ephesians 4:31-32.
-  2. Which of the jail cell bars apply to you? _____

-  3. Study Ephesians 4:26-27.
-  4. When do you need to extend forgiveness?

Have you done it yet? _____
-  5. What happens if you don't do it?

-  6. Study 1 Peter 5:8-9.
-  7. What does Satan want to do to you? _____

-  8. Do you want to get out of jail? _____

*... do not let the
sun go down on
your anger ...*

Eph. 4:26

The unjust judge goes to jail.

EXTEND
FORGIVE

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS

Extending forgiveness is taking the time to consider how a person has hurt me. This would include listing the act, my hurt, the ramifications, and my sinful reactions. Then I depend on the indwelling forgiver, Jesus, as I extend grace to the offender just as Jesus extended grace to me.

I. WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

When I endeavor to understand forgiveness—what it is and how it works—much time and effort can be saved and misunderstanding avoided, if I eliminate what forgiveness is NOT. It is not ignoring, disregarding, tolerating, excusing, overlooking, or closing my eyes to the wrong another person has done against me. It is not simply letting time pass after the offense has been committed. It is not forgetting that the offense happened—or pretending that it didn't. It is not just resigning myself to the other person's actions by saying, "Well, that's just the way that person is."

II. WHY FORGIVENESS IS NECESSARY

- A. If I don't exercise true forgiveness, I continue to hold the offender responsible (guilty) for the wrong. This can result in an accumulated "treasure" of faults in my mind toward the offender all ready to be "cashed in" when I feel the situation calls for it. **Diagram 200-E**
- B. Without forgiveness, an attitude of unforgiveness fosters resentment, and this crystallizes into bitterness (Hebrews 12:15). This can make me harsh, critical, cynical, and mistrustful. Forgiveness breaks the bondage of bitterness. **Diagram 200-E1**
- C. Without true forgiveness, I may secretly await the "joy" of seeing the offender punished by God—and be delighted when it happens. This is a form of vengeance which is godship. (Proverbs 24:17-18)
- D. Not forgiving may cause problems relating to another person who reminds me of the initial offender.

*Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad
When he stumbles; lest the Lord see it and be displeased, and He turn away His
anger from him.*

Proverbs 24:17-18

*Never take vengeance into your own hands. Stand back and let God punish, if He
will.*

Romans 12:19 (PHILIPS)

200-D (2 pages)

III. THE PROCESS OF EXTENDING FORGIVENESS

A. I need to make four lists:

1. First, I list what this person did or didn't do that offended me.
2. Second, I list all the hurt I have felt regarding this offense. I think of all the emotions I've experienced and write them down. These feelings could include being: embarrassed, belittled, devastated, defiled, hustled, cheated, or ridiculed.
3. Third, I list all the ramifications of the offense. How did this action affect me spiritually, financially, socially, maritally, psychologically, parentally, or physically?

This clarifies HOW the offense has affected me. Another ramification is that I can develop "rotten reasoning" about God, myself, or others. For example: God can't be trusted; all men are horrible; or I will never love anyone again.

4. Fourth, I list my sinful reactions regarding this offense. That would include such things as bitterness, gossip, revenge, slander, rage, and abusive speech. This could include any grudge I may be holding. This could also include an attitude of unforgiveness.

B. Now I use the keys of forgiveness on **Diagram 200-E2**.

C. This completes human forgiveness. _____

D. Destroy the list.

NOTE: Do not tell the offender he/she is forgiven. The forgiving of a person does not require that the person be told. Telling the person may simply create more conflict. Your forgiveness of him/her was between you and God.

- Forgiving the offender deals with unforgiveness which was on your side of the breach. The offender may never seek your forgiveness. If or when he/she does, all you need to say is, "I am so thankful that you asked me. Yes, I do forgive you."

E. If his/her offense is of a persistent nature that disrupts Christian harmony, God may lead you to confront the person with his/her need—after you have exercised forgiveness toward him/her.

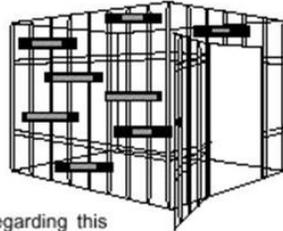
- The secondary purpose is to "win" or "restore" the offender.
- The pattern for confrontation is given in Matthew 18:15-17 and Proverbs 25:9.
- The first objective of such a confrontation is to purify the church.
- The attitude required on the part of the confronter is spelled out in Galatians 6:1-2.

EXTEND
FORGIVE

200-D (2 pages)

I CHOOSE TO EXTEND FORGIVENESS

3 I can achieve freedom by extending forgiveness. By using these keys I am set free from the prison and torment. Now the truth about me can be seen and realized.



**KEYS
TO
FREEDOM**

Key #1—I admit to God how I felt regarding this offense (Psalm 62:8).

Key #2—I admit to God that I have been holding the person guilty for the act, the hurt, and the ramifications of the offense (Luke 6:37; Rom. 2:1).

Key #3—I now extend (give freely) my forgiveness to the person for that action, my hurt, and the ramifications of the action. This forgiveness is extending grace to the offender as Christ extended grace to me (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13).

Key #4—I now put the offender into God's hands and let go. I will allow God to work in this person's life in His time (1 Peter 5:7).

Key #5—I now name and confess (agree with God) that my sinful reactions and attitudes (including holding the offender guilty) were wrong. I ask God to show me areas of godship and repent (1 John 1:9).

Key #6—I choose to live as the new creation that I am (2 Cor. 5:17). This means I accept that God has forgiven me, and I lay aside my fleshly reactions (Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8, 12).

Key #7—I tell God I am willing to be reconciled to the offender and allow Him to love the offender through me (2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 3:14; Heb. 12:14).

DESTROY THE LISTS

200-E2

Purpose: To give specific steps (keys) to freedom gained only through forgiveness.

EXPLANATION

•For many people forgiveness has not been clearly understood and, therefore, ineffectively applied. The goal of this process is to fully consider all the aspects of extending forgiveness.

•In preparing to extend forgiveness one should make four lists. Refer to the “Extending Forgiveness” text page, Diagram 200-D.

1. First, list the offense—what the person did or didn't do.
2. Second, list feelings as a result of being hurt.
3. Third, list the ramifications of the offense. (Consider all seven areas of life to see how this offense affected and is still affecting the person.)
4. Fourth, list your own sinful reactions. We may be wronged, but we don't have to react in a sinful manner. (This would include things like: gossip, slander, and bitterness.)

•Refer to page 1 of Diagram 200-D, Part III, “Extending Forgiveness.”

APPLICATION



Write down exactly how the offender has offended you.



What are your feelings regarding that offense?



What are the ramifications (effects) of that offense?



What were your sinful reactions to the offense?



Now, free yourself from the prison of this offence by applying the keys of forgiveness!



Check off each key as you finish it.



Destroy the lists.

Extending Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **200-E2**:

To give specific steps (keys) to freedom gained only through forgiveness.

1. Write down exactly how the offender has offended you.

? 2. What are your feelings regarding that offense? _____

? 3. What are the ramifications (effects) of that offense? _____

? 4. What were your sinful reactions to the offense? _____

Now free yourself from the prison of this offense by applying the keys of forgiveness!

✓ 5. Check off each key as you finish it.

#1

#2

#3

#4

#5

#6

#7

... do not judge ...

... do not condemn ...

... pardon ...

Luke 6:37

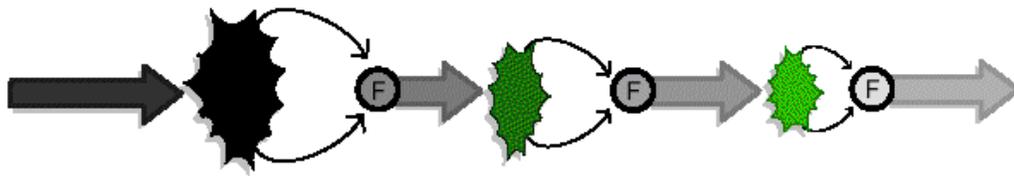
EXTEND
FORGIVE

Freedom to love and live again!

PERSONAL CONFLICT WITH TRUE FORGIVENESS

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32



MATTHEW 18:21-22

200-F

Purpose: To illustrate the effects of forgiveness.

EXPLANATION

- Conflicts diminish in size and frequency when both parties give and receive forgiveness.
- Forgiveness removes hidden anger and facilitates harmony.
- God commands that all wrath, anger, etc., “be put away from you” (Ephesians 4:31-32).
- According to Matthew 18:21-22 we are to forgive as often as it takes. Forgiveness is a lifestyle.
- When a person stops playing god by setting standards, he/she is not offended as often.
- This completes the first part of the reconciliation process.
- Part two is seeking forgiveness. Part three is rebuilding trust. Both of these are covered in the next lesson.

APPLICATION



Study Matthew 18:21-22.

?

What principle regarding forgiveness do you see in these passages?

?

If this person offends you again will you forgive them?

Extending Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagrams **200-F**:

To illustrate the effects of forgiveness.



1. Study Matthew 18:21-22.



2. What principle regarding forgiveness do you see in these passages?

*... I will remember
their sins no more.*

Heb. 8:12



3. If this person offends you again will you forgive them? _____

Forgiveness is a lifestyle.

EXTEND
FORGIVE

TESTS OF FORGIVENESS

- A. Do you see the offender as not guilty?
- B. Are you sincerely thanking God for the lessons learned during the pain (Romans 8:28-29)?
- C. Can you talk about your hurt without getting angry, without feeling resentful, without the slightest thought of revenge (Ephesians 4:31)?
- D. Do you have a willingness to accept your part of the blame for what happened?
- E. Can you revisit the scene or the person(s) involved in your hurt without experiencing a negative reaction?
- F. Are you rewarding with good those who have hurt you (Romans 12:20-21)?

200-G

Purpose: To verify that forgiveness has happened by the use of six tests.

EXPLANATION

- Many people say they forgive and yet continue to hold the other person guilty.
- The offender may still be guilty before God and civil authority; yet true forgiveness means that I no longer see the person as guilty before me.
- God is working through all things to change you into the image of His Son. Therefore, you can give thanks.
- Read Romans 12:20-21. True forgiveness will result in doing good to those who hurt us rather than avoiding them to protect ourselves.
- Forgetting is not a test of forgiveness.

APPLICATION

-  Study Matthew 6:12.
-  Go through the tests of forgiveness.
-  Did you pass the test?
-  Have you forgiven all the ramifications?
-  Study Romans 8:1.
-  How does God see you since you became a Christian?
-  How do you see the person who offended you?
-  How would God want you to love this person now?

Extending Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagrams **200-G**:

To verify that forgiveness has happened by the use of six tests.

-  1. Study Matthew 6:12.
-  2. Go through the tests of forgiveness.
-  3. Did you pass the test? _____
-  4. Have you forgiven all the ramifications? _____
-  5. Study Romans 8:1.
-  6. How does God see you since you became a Christian? _____

-  7. How do you see the person who offended you? _____

-  8. How would God want you to love this person now? _____

*Mercy triumphs
over judgment.*

James 2:13

*Forgiving is not holding
another guilty.*

EXTEND
FORGIVE

REVIEW

- God commands us to forgive others when they hurt or offend us.
- This is essential to live with impossible people.
- Pride will stand in the way of extending forgiveness.
- Extending forgiveness is not a thought or a feeling, it is a definite action.
- If I refuse to forgive someone who hurts me, I can end up in a jail of my own fleshly reactions and be tormented by the enemy.
- It does take time to do this because I need to write out the offense, my hurt, the ramifications, and my sinful reactions. Then I need to use the seven keys of forgiveness.



NOTES

Extending & Seeking Forgiveness

1. _____

Handwriting practice lines for item 1, consisting of 10 sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle dashed, bottom).

2. _____

Handwriting practice lines for item 2, consisting of 10 sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle dashed, bottom).

3. _____

Handwriting practice lines for item 3, consisting of 10 sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle dashed, bottom).

4. _____

Handwriting practice lines for item 4, consisting of 10 sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle dashed, bottom).

Extending & Seeking Forgiveness

1. _____

Handwriting practice lines for item 1, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

2. _____

Handwriting practice lines for item 2, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

3. _____

Handwriting practice lines for item 3, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

4. _____

Handwriting practice lines for item 4, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS 

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

EXTEND
FORGIVE

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 210

SEEKING FORGIVENESS

210-A	FORGIVENESS REQUIRES BLOOD
210-B	FLESH—SOWING AND REAPING
210-C	SPIRIT—SOWING AND REAPING
210-D	SEEKING FORGIVENESS
210-E	SEEKING FORGIVENESS PROCESS
210-F	REBUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. Often as your disciple forgives someone, he/she becomes aware of the need to seek forgiveness from the person that was forgiven.
2. When your disciple makes a list of those he/she has hurt.
3. When your disciple feels estranged from someone and is not sure why.
4. When the Holy Spirit convicts of any violation towards another person.
5. After your disciple extends forgiveness and needs to rebuild the relationship.

Key Truths to Stress -----

If anyone has anything against us, we must go and seek forgiveness. It is a vital part of the Christian life.

Key Verses -----

Matthew 5:23-24, *"Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go ; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."*

Romans 12:18, *"If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."*

Galatians 6:7-9, *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

Identify a person your disciple has offended. Walk your disciple through the definition and 12 keys found in diagram 210-E. When will he/she go to seek forgiveness?

SEEKING FORGIVENESS

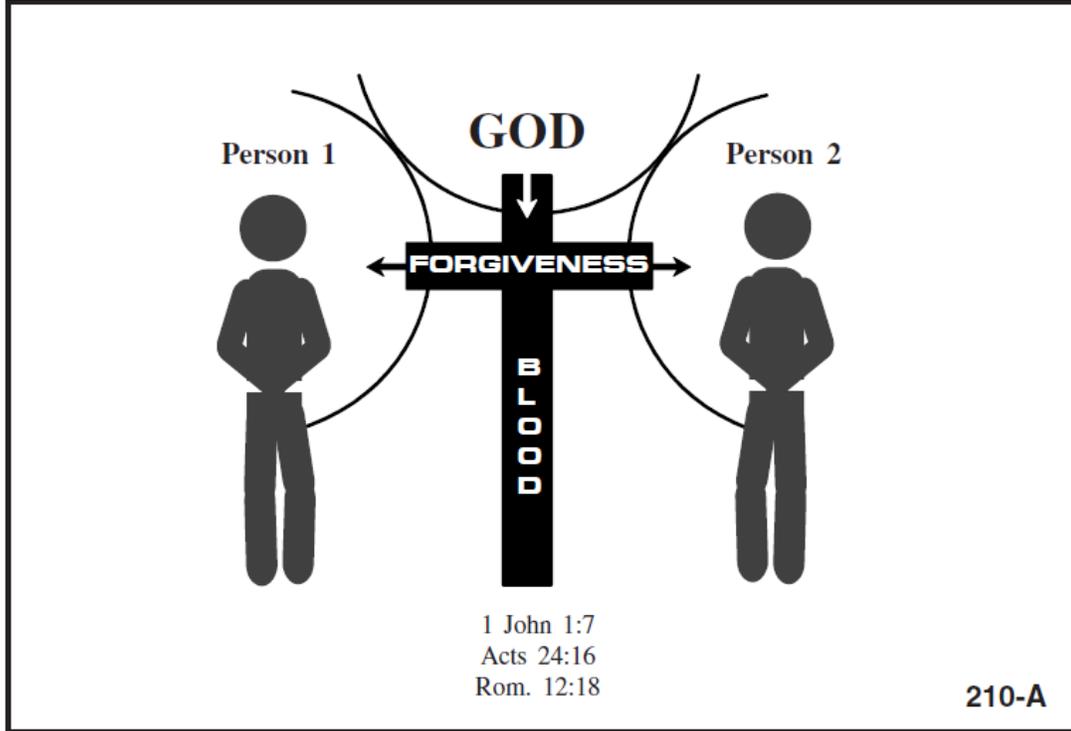
Leave your offering
there before the altar, and
go . . . be reconciled to
your brother.

Matthew 5:24

Most people are aware of those who offend them. However, there are times when I am the offender. Even as I go through the process of extending forgiveness, I am pricked by the Holy Spirit where I am also at fault. How important is it that I go and make it right? Do I put it off until I see that person again? Do I say, “Well, that happened so long ago, that person probably doesn’t even remember”?

What does God’s word say about seeking forgiveness? When should I do it? How do I do it without causing more pain for myself or the other person? These are some of the questions to be answered during this lesson.

SEEK
FORGIVE



Purpose: To show how God’s forgiveness is the foundation for human forgiveness.

EXPLANATION

- Total forgiveness for us has been accomplished by the shedding of Christ’s blood on the Cross (Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22, Ephesians 1:7).
- God’s forgiveness to us is the foundation on which we are able to forgive and seek forgiveness from others. That brings reconciliation.
- In Acts 24:16, Paul desired to have a conscience clear before God and man. Seeking forgiveness is a way to have a clear conscience.
- In Romans 12:18, Paul encourages us to be at peace with all men.
- We were sought out by God even though we were the offenders. How much more should we seek out those we have offended to ask for forgiveness?

APPLICATION

- ? From whom would God want you to seek forgiveness?
-  Study 1 John 1:7, Acts 24:16, and Romans 12:18.
- ? What do these verses say to you?
- ? Check Diagram 200-A. Are you ready to do your part to bring about reconciliation?
- ? Have you forgiven the person you hurt for any wrongdoing toward you?
-  If not, take time to do so now using the keys from the “Extending Forgiveness” lesson.

Seeking Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **210-A**:

To show how God's forgiveness is the foundation for human forgiveness.

? 1. From whom would God want you to seek forgiveness? _____

 2. Study 1 John 1:7, Acts 24:16, and Romans 12:18.

? 3. What do these verses say to you? _____

? 4. Check Diagram 200-A. Are you ready to do your part to bring about reconciliation? _____

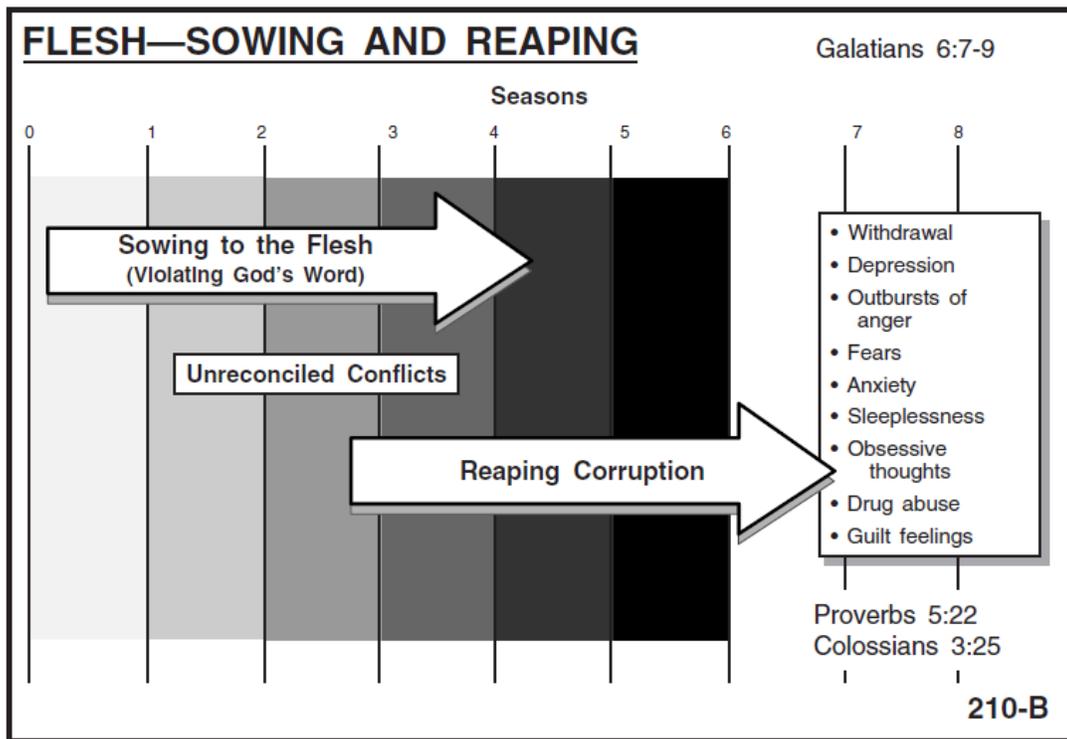
? 5. Have you forgiven the person you hurt for any wrong-doing toward you?

6. If not, take time to do so now using the keys from the "Extending Forgiveness" lesson.

But if we walk in the light . . . we have fellowship one with another 1 John 1:7

The foundation for forgiveness is the blood of Christ.

SEEK
FORGIVE



Purpose: To illustrate the truth that sowing to the flesh reaps corruption.

EXPLANATION

- Laws of Sowing and Reaping:
 1. You reap what you sow (Galatians 6:7).
 2. You reap more than you sow (Hosea 8:7).
 3. You reap in proportion to what you sow (2 Corinthians 9:6).
 4. You reap in a different season (Galatians 6:9).
- Sowing to the flesh violates God's Word. For example: judging, lying, or abusing people violates God's Word. It also leaves un-reconciled conflicts.
- Not resolving these conflicts by seeking forgiveness is more bad sowing.
- Corruption will come, but will come in a different season as shown by the lines and the darkening of the segments.
- Sowing to the flesh and reaping corruption lead to the reactions and effects in the box such as: withdrawal, fear, anxiety, and even physical problems.

APPLICATION

- ? How have you chosen to sow to the flesh by violating God's Word? Such as lied, deceived, been sexually immoral, or judged another person?
- ? Are you seeing corruption from the fleshly sowing yet? How?
- ? What evidence can you check in the box to show the corruption you have reaped?
-  Study Colossians 3:25.
- ? What does God say will happen when we sow to the flesh?
-  Study Galatians 6:7-9.
- ? Are you trying to avoid reaping what you have sown? How?

Seeking Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagrams 210-B:

To illustrate the truth that sowing to the flesh reaps corruption.

? 1. How have you chosen to sow to the flesh by violating God's Word? Such as lied, deceived, been sexually immoral, or judged another person? _____

? 2. Are you seeing corruption from the fleshly sowing yet? How? _____

*... God is not
mocked*

Gal. 6:7

? 3. What evidences can you check in the box to show the corruption you have reaped? _____

 4. Study Colossians 3:25.

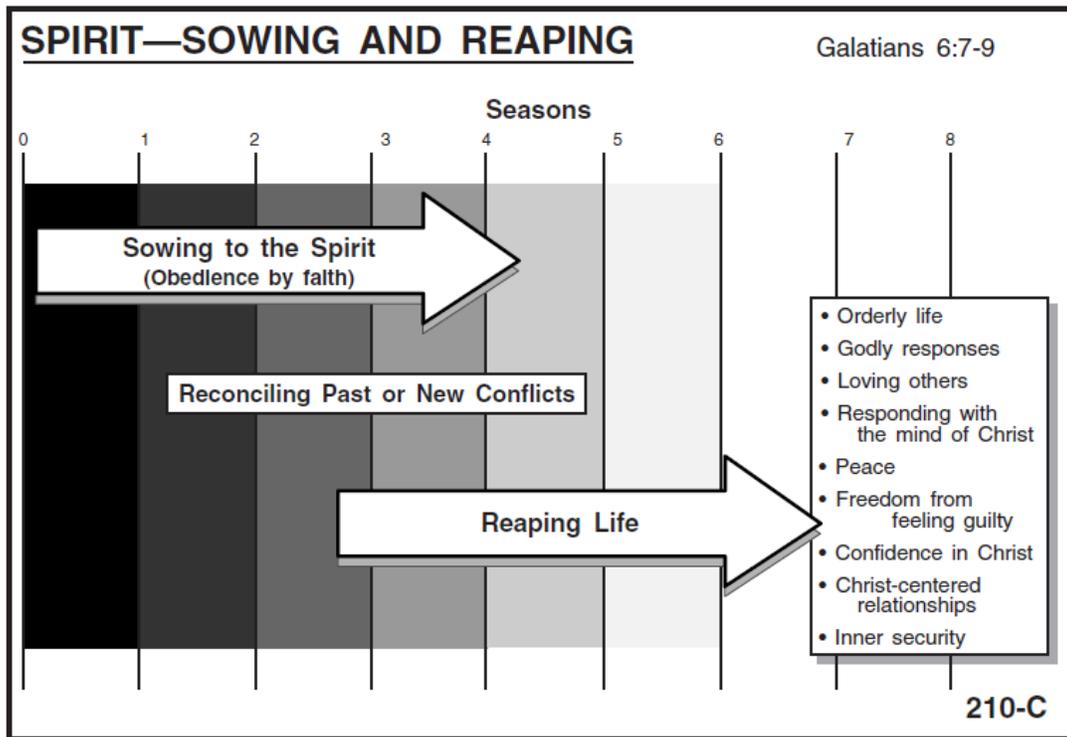
? 5. What does God say will happen when we sow to the flesh? _____

 6. Study Galatians 6:7-9.

? 7. Are you trying to avoid reaping what you have sown? How? _____

I plant it, I harvest it.

SEEK
FORGIVE



Purpose: This illustrates the truth that sowing to the Spirit reaps life.

EXPLANATION

- Galatians 6:8 says that a person who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life!
- Sowing to the Spirit will produce fruit that will last many seasons.
- Don't give up sowing to the Spirit even though you don't see immediate results (Galatians 6:9)
- Sowing to the Spirit—reconciling past or new conflicts as a way of life—will result in the reactions and effects in the box at the right.

APPLICATION

- ? Are you frustrated because you have sown to the Spirit and not seen positive fruit yet?
-  You can start sowing to the Spirit even while you are reaping a bad crop.
- ? Is seeking forgiveness from someone you have offended something God wants you to do?
- ? What is stopping you from seeking forgiveness?
-  Study 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 12:18.
- ? What should David have done when he saw Uriah?

Seeking Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagrams **210-C:**

To illustrate the truth that sowing to the Spirit reaps life.

- ? 1. Are you frustrated because you have sown to the Spirit and not seen positive fruit yet? _____
2. You can start sowing to the Spirit even while you are reaping a bad crop.
- ? 3. Is seeking forgiveness from someone you have offended something God wants you to do? _____
- ? 4. What is stopping you from seeking forgiveness? _____

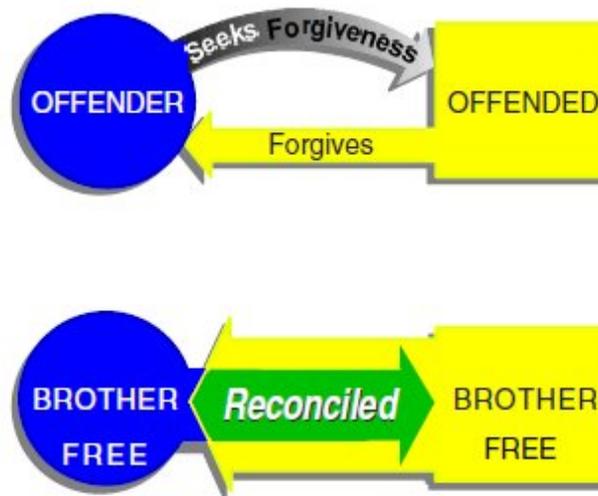
5. Study 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 12:18.
- ? 6. What should David have done when he saw Uriah? _____

*... let us not lose heart
in doing good.” Gal. 6:9*

*Start sowing to the Spirit
even while reaping corruption.*

SEEK
FORGIVE

SEEKING FORGIVENESS



1 John 1:9
Matthew 5:23-24

210-D

Purpose: To show the two directions of extending and seeking forgiveness.

EXPLANATION

- Matthew 5:23-24 emphasizes the importance in being reconciled with others. The Lord desires uncluttered worship. Knowing someone has something against you will hinder your worship.
- You may not have intended to offend, but the other person may be offended.
- The solution is to go to the person you have offended and seek forgiveness.
- Truly seeking forgiveness makes it easy for the offended person to forgive.
- The offender's obedience in seeking forgiveness sets him/her free from the burden of the offense even if the other person doesn't forgive.
- Now free and uncluttered worship can occur.

APPLICATION



Study Matthew 5:23-24.

?

What does Jesus say to do when you remember someone has something against you?

?

Do you see how your worship will be distracted as you think about this person who has been hurt by you?

?

If you seek forgiveness from someone, do they have to forgive you?

Seeking Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **210-D**:

To show the two directions of extending and seeking forgiveness.



1. Study Matthew 5:23-24.



2. What does Jesus say to do when you remember someone has some thing against you? _____



3. Do you see how your worship will be distracted as you think about this person who has been hurt by you? _____



4. If you seek forgiveness from someone, do they have to forgive you?

*I can't have a right relationship
with God if I have a wrong
relationship with others.*

*leave your offering . . .
first be reconciled*

Matt. 5:24

SEEK
FORGIVE

SEEKING FORGIVENESS PROCESS

"Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."
Matthew 5:23-24

Seeking forgiveness is honestly "seeing" how I hurt another person by my words or actions. Then I go to that person and say I was wrong for what I did and ask that person to forgive me. Before I go I need to forgive anything I am holding against that person.

Twelve Keys to Seeking Forgiveness:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p> 1. Reexamine what seeking forgiveness is NOT.
 -It is NOT "apologizing" or "being sorry" for what I have done.
 -It is NOT trying to "make up" to someone or be nice to someone I have hurt.</p> <p> 2. Reminded by the Holy Spirit.
 -Don't be continually searching myself.</p> <p> 3. Remembered by the other person.
 -Don't seek forgiveness for jealous, lustful, or angry thoughts or feelings.
 -Exceptions would be when I have stolen something or slandered someone's name.</p> <p> 4. Review the offence clearly.
 -It may be helpful to have a pastor or discipler help me see how I have offended the other person.</p> <p> 5. Respond quickly.</p> | <p> 6. Rehearse only as much detail as necessary.</p> <p> 7. Reject any defense, excuse, or blame.</p> <p> 8. Rapidly move to ask, "I was wrong regarding _____, will you forgive me?"</p> <p> 9. Right timing is vital.</p> <p> 10. Request in person.
 -Not if I was involved in an immoral relationship.
 -Use the telephone if the person lives out of town.</p> <p> 11. Refuse to write a letter, send an E-mail or use the internet.
 -It could be kept.
 -There is no sense of closure.
 -It may fall into the wrong hands.</p> <p> 12. Restitution needs to be offered if something was stolen.</p> |
|---|---|

210-E

Purpose: To give a guide for seeking forgiveness.

EXPLANATION

- This guide prepares a person to seek forgiveness.
- It is important to have an honest evaluation to see how one person has hurt or offended another.
- Sometimes when we go to seek forgiveness the person does not forgive. Then what do we do?
- We do not need to keep going back and seeking forgiveness. We have done our part. We pray that God will work in that person's heart to extend forgiveness.
- One possibility could be we are only seeking forgiveness for part of the offense. We may need to ask if there is anything else we have done or said that has offended our friend. Whatever is mentioned should then be admitted to and forgiveness sought.
- Pride is a major hindrance to seeking forgiveness. Read Luke 14:11.
- John 17:22 talks about our oneness as Christians. Another hindrance to seeking forgiveness is a desire to protect ourselves from those who have hurt us.

APPLICATION

-  Study Matthew 5:23-24.
-  Read the definition in the box of seeking forgiveness.
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?
-  Pray for a good time to go and seek forgiveness.
-  Using these twelve keys, go to the person and seek forgiveness.

Seeking Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **210-E**:

To give a guide for seeking forgiveness.



1. Study Matthew 5:23-24.

2. Read the definition in the box of seeking forgiveness.



3. Who is the person you will go to and seek forgiveness? _____



4. How did you hurt this person?



4. Does God want you to seek forgiveness?
Yes No



5. When will you go? _____



6. Have you forgiven the person for any way he/she has hurt you?



7. Pray for a good time to go and seek forgiveness.

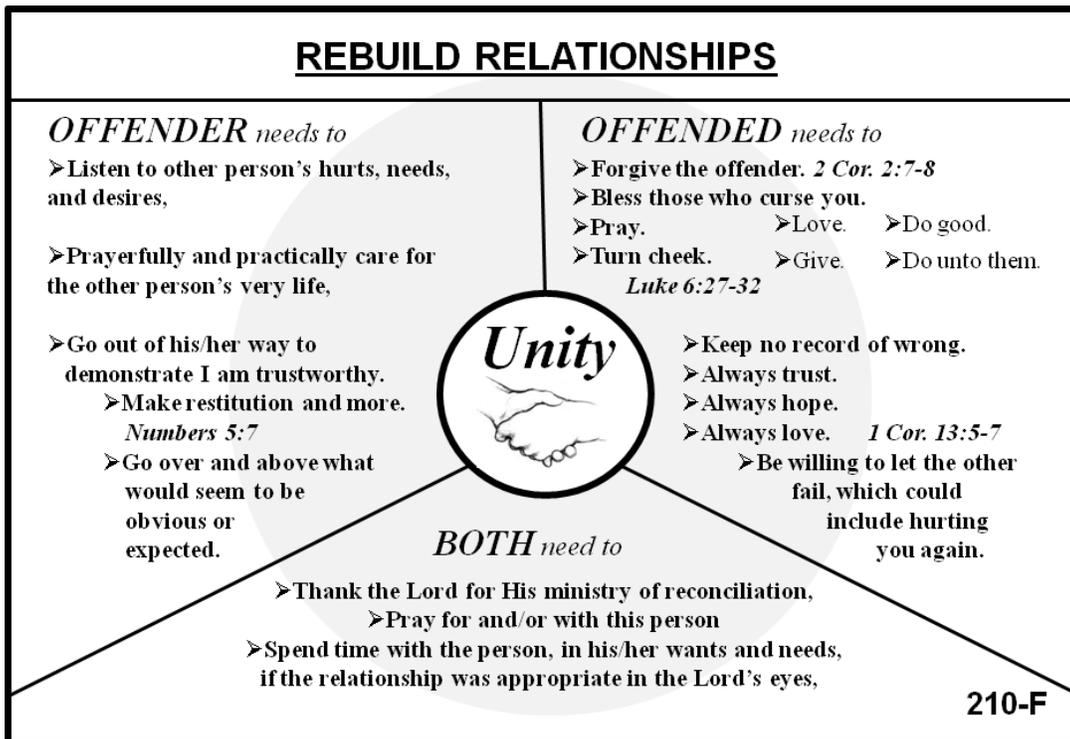
8. Using these twelve steps, go to the person and seek forgiveness.

*With all humility
and gentleness*

Eph. 4:2

*Seeking forgiveness
should be a way of life.*

SEEK
FORGIVE



Purpose: To show how to rebuild a damaged relationship.

EXPLANATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unity is the goal. The fighting is over and both parties are working together for the Lord's glory. •Both the offender and the offended have a responsibility to rebuild the relationship as appropriate. •Beyond seeking forgiveness, the offender needs to minister to and serve the offended as Christ would. •Beyond extending forgiveness, the offended needs to give up his standards (godship) that the offender does not meet. Only when the offended recognizes that his life is not his own, will he be able to be vulnerable to the offender again. See 2 Corinthians 5:15. •Both people need to pray for each other and be willing to spend time together. 	<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  Study Psalm 133:1. </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? What does God desire in relationships? ? What do you think is keeping you from rebuilding a relationship? <p>OFFENDER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Are you willing to be inconvenienced to demonstrate that you are trustworthy? ? What could you do to restore the offended person's trust? <p>OFFENDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Have you been offended and told God you would never give that person another chance? What area of godship is that? <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  Study 1 Peter 2:23. </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Who is your protector? ? Have you forgiven the one who hurt you? ? Are you letting God love the offender through you?

Seeking Forgiveness

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **210-F**:

To show how to rebuild a damaged relationship.



1. Study Psalm 133:1.



2. What does God desire in relationships?



3. What do you think is keeping you from rebuilding a relationship? _____

*... Come, let us
rebuild . . . that we
may no longer be a
reproach. Neh. 2:17*

OFFENDER:



4. Are you willing to be inconvenienced to demonstrate that you are trustworthy? Yes No



5. What could you do to restore the offended person's trust? _____

OFFENDED:



6. Have you been offended and told God you would never give that person another chance? Yes No What area of godship is that?



7. Study 1 Peter 2:23.



8. Who is your protector? _____



9. Have you forgiven the one who hurt you? Yes No



10. Are you letting God love the offender through you? Yes No

*Rebuilding is harder than building—
but well worth it!*

SEEK
FORGIVE

REVIEW

- It is impossible to live with people and not hurt or offend them.
- As soon as you feel the direction of the Lord to seek forgiveness from another person, it is time to act.
- It is a very humbling thing to go to another person and say, “I was wrong. Will you forgive me?”
- This is essential to live with impossible people.
- Seeking forgiveness from anyone you offend should be a way of life.
- After reconciliation, you need to rebuild the relationship.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP 

LOVE _____

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

EXTEND
FORGIVE

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 190

LORDSHIP

190-A2	ABIDE
190-A3	WALK
190-A	REST
190-A1	REST (continued)
190-B	PAST/PRESENT/FUTURE
190-C	MAN'S VIEW OF LIFE

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. When your disciple is overwhelmed by life's situations.
2. When your disciple needs help seeing God's perspective.
3. When your disciple talks about being stressed-out or uptight.
4. As you see your disciple living either in the past or in the future.
5. When problems, feelings or circumstances are crowding God out of the life of your disciple.

Key Truths to Stress -----

Jesus wants us to come to Him to find rest when we feel stressed-out. We need to have a God-centered view of life and not a self-centered view. We should not allow anything or anyone to steal our rest. We must admit when we are not resting and ask Him to fill us with His rest now.

Key Verses -----

Matthew 11:28-30, *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

John 15:1-5, *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine dresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."*

Galatians 5:16-17, *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

To bring your disciple into a place of rest. Show how to live in the present in obedience. Confront the self-centered view of life and challenge your disciple to shift to the God-centered view of life.

LORDSHIP

Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you will find rest for your souls

Jeremiah 6:16

One of the greatest challenges to a believer is to avoid being sidetracked from following Jesus Christ. Life is filled with things that threaten to overwhelm you, things like business affairs, time-pressures, problems, trials, and tragedies. When you are weighted down, when things seem hopeless and the future bleak, the tendency is to look to other people for answers. You may attempt to “fix” the circumstances, or do something other than receiving from Jesus Christ the power to live.

This lesson is designed to help the believer, whether newborn or mature, to know the secret of real power for the drudgery of living day after day after day in grace and triumph. We pray that you will realize that what we call “the process of daily life” is the arena where God’s sustaining grace and peace and strength are to be proven. You may tend to think in terms of “what it will be like” when . . . a certain level of spiritual maturity is reached, or a chosen goal attained. But God and His power are for now—not just for the future. Your life can be characterized by either resting or wrestling. Rest is yours when you can shift the focus of your attention from yourself and your problems to God.

ABIDE

John 15:1-2.

DO YOU WANT TO BE PRODUCTIVE (FRUITFUL)?

- Jesus is the Vine.
- The Father is the Vinedresser (Owner)
- You are the branches.
- He desires the branches to be fruitful.

John 15:2-9.

HOW DO YOU BEAR FRUIT?

- The branch (you) cannot bear fruit on your own.
- You must abide in the Vine (Jesus).
- You must abide in His (Jesus') love.....

John 15:10-11.

HOW DO YOU ABIDE IN HIS LOVE?

- Keep His commands (this is about a relationship, not commandments—saying “no” to self-rule and “yes” to being led by Him.
- Your joy will be full!

190-A2

Purpose: To show the necessity of the believer remaining in Christ.

EXPLANATION

- Read John 15:1-2. Notice there is an intimate relationship (abiding) between the Vine (Jesus), the Vinedresser (the Father) and the branch (you). The Vine and the Vinedresser pour their life into the branch for the purpose of fruit.
- Read John 15:2-9. It is absolutely impossible to be fruitful outside of intimacy (abiding) in the Vine. The fruit is described in Galatians 5:22-23.
- Read John 15:10-11. Keeping Jesus' commands is the result of abiding in Jesus' love and being dedicated to His pleasure out of intimacy and a desire to submit to Him.
- Abiding in His love results in an overflowing joy.

APPLICATION

- ? Are there things you desire to produce that you know the Vine (Jesus) will not be part of producing? Example: taking revenge, independent control.
- ? In what ways are you trying to produce fruit on your own? What have been some results?
- ? What convictions are you hearing from the Holy Spirit?
- ? What commands of Jesus are you avoiding? Are you abiding in His love?
- ? Is your joy full?

Lordship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **190-A2**:

To describe the Christian's life when he or she is functioning after the Spirit.

ABIDE



1. Study John 15:4-11.



2. Are there things you desire to produce that you know the Vine (Jesus) will not be part of producing? Example: taking revenge, independent control _____



3. In what ways are you trying to produce fruit on your own? What have been some results?

4. What convictions are you hearing from the Holy Spirit?

5. What commands of Jesus are you avoiding? Are you abiding in His love?

6. Is your joy full?

*Abide in Me,
and I in you.....*

John 15:4

Stay connected to the vine.

WALK

Galatians 5:16-17.

WALK AFTER (BY MEANS OF) THE SPIRIT.

- If we choose to walk after the Spirit we will not sin.
- The flesh opposes the Spirit.
- The Spirit opposes the flesh.
- You cannot fulfill the desire of the flesh while walking by means of the Spirit.

190-A3

Purpose: To explain walking after the Spirit.

EXPLANATION

•Read Galatians 5:16-17. The key to life is “who is in the drivers seat.” The areas of life directed by the Spirit (Lord) will produce righteousness. The areas of life directed by the flesh (self) produce sin.

•Walking “after” the Spirit means that the Holy Spirit actually becomes your Director, the Supplier, and the One doing the living in our bodies. He will do it all if we choose to yield to Him.

•Read Joshua 24:15. You make choices every day regarding who will direct yourself.

•The one in control of the life can be identified by the fruit of the life. The fruit of the Spirit and the works of the flesh are at war against each other.

APPLICATION



Study Galatians 5:16-17.

?

What area of our life do you find difficult to yield to the Lord?

?

What are you afraid will happen if God is making the choices?

?

What do you believe the Spirit wants you to do right now?

?

What is the purpose of your life?

?

What are the resources available to you to accomplish that purpose?

?

Is that purpose and those resources yours or the Lords?

Lordship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **190-A3**:

To explain walking after the Spirit.

WALK



1. Study Galatians 5:16-17.



2. What area of our life do you find difficult to yield to the Lord?



3. What are you afraid will happen if God is making the choices?



4. What do you believe the Spirit wants you to do right now?



5. What is the purpose of your life?



6. What are the resources available to you to accomplish that purpose?



7. Is that purpose and those resources yours or the Lords?

*But I say,
walk by the Spirit,....*

Gal 5:16

Choose His Life.

REST

Matthew 11: 28-30.

ARE YOU WEARY AND BURDENED?

- Come unto Him.
- Learn from Him.
 - He is meek.
 - He is lowly in heart.

Philippians 2: 5-8.

MEEKNESS IS TO GIVE UP WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS.

- He became of no reputation.
- He became a slave.
- He humbled Himself.
- He gave up His life.

Philippians 2: 3-4.

LOWLY IS GIVING UP SELF INTERESTS.

- He regarded other people as more important.
- He regarded the interests of others as more important.

190-A

Purpose: To illustrate how Christ lived the life of rest.

EXPLANATION

- Becoming weary is the result of trying to stand in “God’s shoes” without His resources. You cannot rest when you have taken on God’s responsibilities.
- Read Mathew 11:28-30. Coming to Him means you abandon what was taking His place in your life before.
- Learning from Him means learning *HIS WAY*, a completely different way of thinking than you previously embraced.
- Read Philippians 2:3-4. The key to being lowly in heart is selflessness. Self-interest destroys life. Loving others above self breeds life and frees us to rest. It is the pursuit of self-interest that prevents rest.
- Read Philippians 2:5-8. Jesus chose to give up His reputation and humbled Himself. No one could destroy His reputation or humiliate Him. The key to a restful life is to make the same choice Jesus did. Then you don’t have to live trying to maintain your reputation and protect yourself.

APPLICATION

- ? What is keeping you from coming to God and resting? Do you demand a visual security God will not give?
- ? Are you stressed out and up-tight? Is your stress the result of: worrying about your reputation, trying to protect yourself, or defending your rights?
-  Study Matthew 11:28-30.
- ? What does God command you to do?
- ? What does it look like to come to Him?
-  Study Philippians 2:5-8.
- ? What would it look like to give up your reputation and your rights in your stressed out situation? 2 Corinthians 5:15.
- ? How would recognizing that your life is not your own change your feelings of stress?
- ? How would regarding others as more important change your stressful feelings?

Lordship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **190-A:**

To illustrate how Christ lived the life of rest.

REST?

1.  What is keeping you from coming to God and resting? Do you demand visual security God will not give?

2.  Are you stressed out and up-tight? Is your stress the result of: worrying about your reputation, trying to protect yourself, or defending your rights?

3.  Study Matthew 11:28-30.
4.  What does God command you to do?

5.  What does it look like to come to Him?

6.  Study Philipians 2:5-8.
7.  What would it look like to give up your reputation and your rights in your stressed out situation?

8.  How would recognizing that your life is not your own change your feelings of stress?

9.  How would regarding others as more important change your stressful feelings?

*Come to Me, all
who are weary and
heavy-laden*

Matt. 11:28

I must labor to rest.

REST (continued)

Hebrews 4:9-11.

WE ARE COMMANDED TO REST.

- There remains a Sabbath rest for God's people.
- The one who rests has rested (ceased) from His works.
- Therefore labor (be diligent) to enter into His rest.

Isaiah 40:28-31.

GOD IS IN CONTROL.

- God does not grow weary or get tired.
- He gives strength to the weary.
- Those who wait on the Lord will gain new strength.

190-A1

Purpose: To explain that we can rest because God is in control.

EXPLANATION

- God wants His children to rest and makes His rest available to you.
- Read Hebrews 4:9-11. Worry, anger, or frustration will steal God's rest from you.
- When Christians rest, they cease from their own labors because Christ has finished all the work. Those who worry still believe there is work they must do.
- Laboring to rest is done by *accepting* the truth. My life belongs to God who is now directing it. Then you can *choose to receive* all circumstances as from God rather than just enduring them.
- Read Isaiah 40:28-31. God possess all strength and all wisdom and knowledge. You rest and exhaust yourself when you try to control life.

APPLICATION

- ? What are you doing that shows you are not resting?
- ? What is your justification for not resting?
- ? Do you see points of godship in your justification? For example: setting standards or trying to control?
-  Study Isaiah 40:28-30.
- ? Do you believe God is in control of your stressful situation and you are not?
- ? Do you believe your weakness can open the door for God's power in you? See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.
- ? What expectation do you have that makes waiting on the Lord difficult now? Do you see godship in it?

Lordship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 190-A1 continued:

To explain that we can rest because God is in control.

REST?

? 1. What are you doing that shows you are not resting?

? 2. What is your justification for not resting?

? 3. Do you see points of godship in your justification?
For example: setting standards or trying to control?

 4. Study Isaiah 40:28-30.

? 5. Do you believe God is in control of your stressful situation and you are not? _____

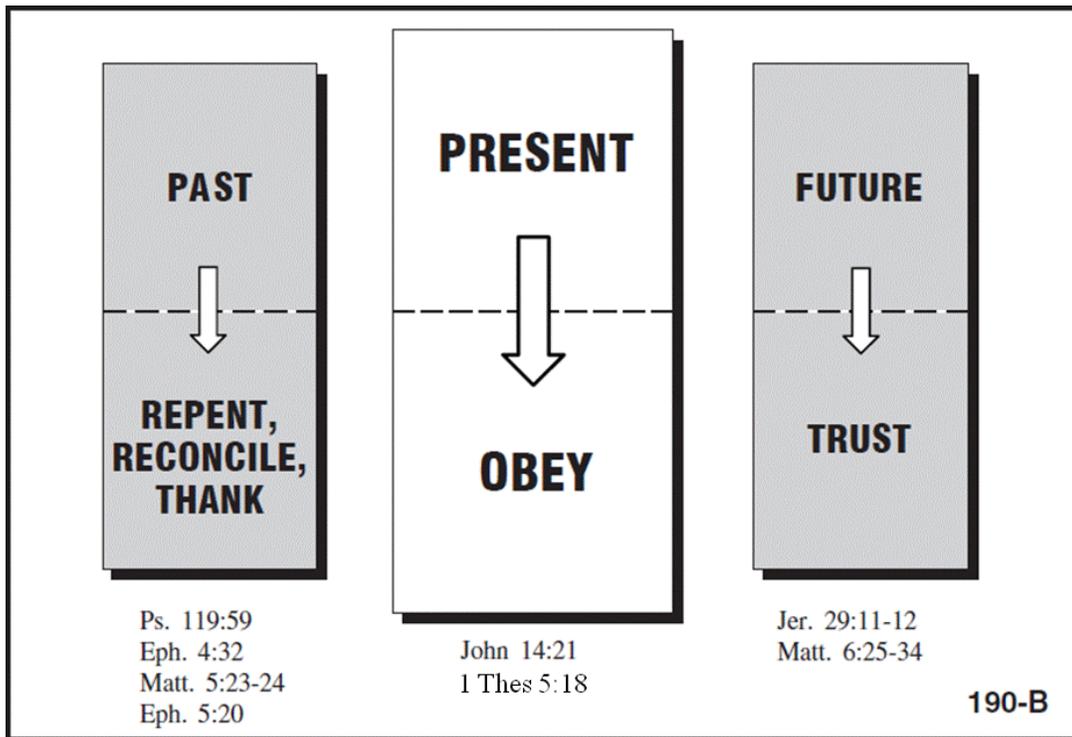
? 6. Do you believe your weakness can open the door for God's power in you?
See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

*Come to Me, all
who are weary and
heavy-laden*

Matt. 11:28

? 7. What expectation do you have that makes waiting on the Lord difficult now? Do you see godship in it?

I must labor to rest.



Purpose: To show how to rest regarding the past, present and future.

EXPLANATION

- Living in the past drags yesterday’s problems into today, sabotaging today’s rest.

- Read Psalm 119:59, Matthew 5:23-24, and Ephesians 5:20. With regard to the past, we can only repent of our sinful choices, reconcile relationships we damaged, and thank God for all He has been doing in our lives.

- Trying to control the future causes anxiety because we cannot know the obstacles. Great amounts of energy are expended worrying about all the possibilities.

- Read Jeremiah 29:11-12. With regard to the future we can only trust His Word, that He purposes only good for those who love Him, and choose to live in obedience in the present.

- Read Matthew 6:33-34. We can only rest in the life of Christ in the present, not in the past or in the future.

- Read John 14:21. With regard to the present we must focus on obedience. This obedience flows from a love relationship with Jesus.

APPLICATION



Study Psalm 119:59.



What sin haunts you? Are you ready to repent?



Study Ephesians 4:32.



Who has hurt you in the past? Are you ready to forgive?



Study Ephesians 5:20.



What circumstances from your past have you not thanked God for?



Study John 14:21.



In what area of your life do you need to obey God now?



Study Jeremiah 29:11.



Can you trust the Creator and Master of the universe with your future? Why?

Lordship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 190-B:

To show how to rest regarding the past, present, and future.



1. Study Psalm 119:59.



2. What sin haunts you? Are you ready to repent? _____

*For I know
the plans I have
for you*

Jer. 29:11



3. Study Ephesians 4:32.



4. Who has hurt you in the past? Are you ready to forgive? _____



5. Study Ephesians 5:20.



6. What circumstances from your past have you not thanked God for?



7. Study John 14:21.



8. In what area of your life do you need to obey God now? _____

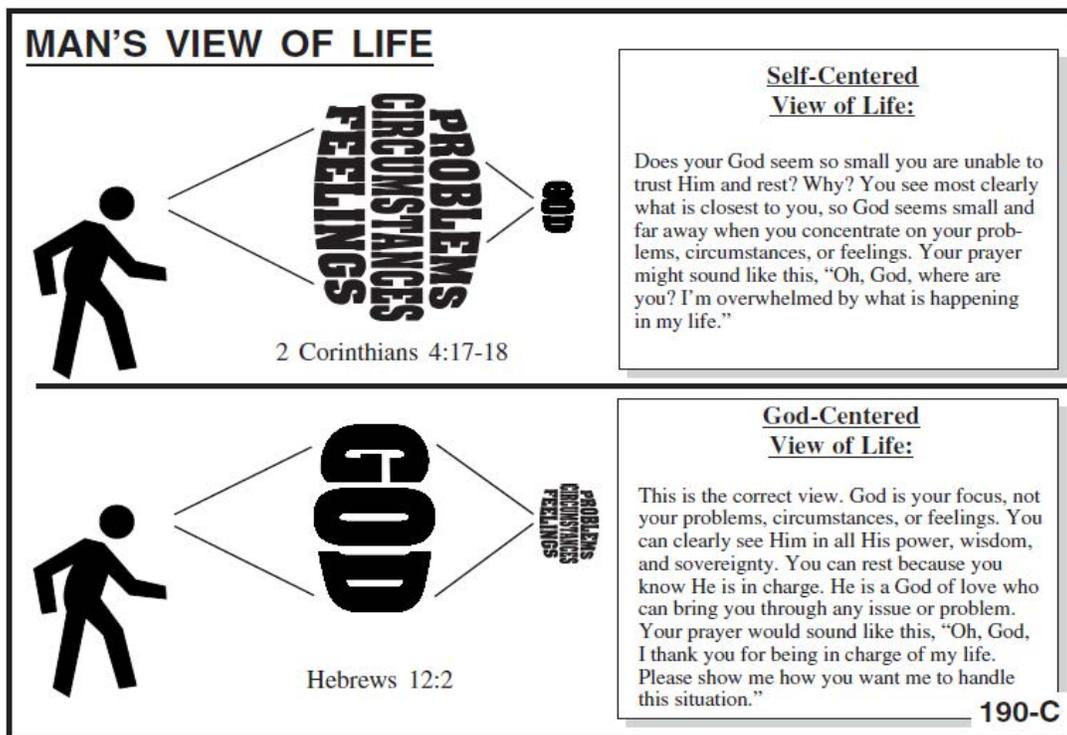


9. Study Jeremiah 29:11.



10. Can you trust the Creator and Master of the universe with your future?
Why? _____

*Today is a gift.
That's why it's called the "present."*



Purpose: To illustrate how one's focus becomes one's greatest issue.

EXPLANATION

- Focus is the key to perception. You can cover the sun with a penny if you hold it close enough to your eye. It seems as though it has covered the sun even though there is no comparison in their actual size.
- When our primary focus is our problems then they become bigger than God—like the penny seems bigger than the sun.
- The intensity of our response to problems, circumstances, and feelings is a measure of our self-centeredness. The more I care about me, the more I have at stake in any circumstances. When I evaluate life based on how I am affected, I become the standard instead of God.
- We must remember that focusing on God or on our circumstances is a choice God gives to us.
- When God is our primary focus, problems, circumstances, and feelings become smaller. Rest is resident only when focus and truth reign.

APPLICATION



Study Hebrews 12:1-3.



Which view of life is most often yours? Explain.



What problems, circumstances, or feelings are staring at you now?



Is your God too small?



What attribute of God can you think about now? (Omnipotent, omnipresent, all knowing, loving, patient, faithful)



Can you tell Him you are going to focus on Him and stop focusing on the problems that steal your joy?

Lordship STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **190-C**:

To illustrate how one's focus becomes one's greatest issue.



1. Study Hebrews 12:1-3. Which view of life is most often yours?
Explain. _____



2. What problem, circumstance, or feelings are you staring at now?

Fixing our eyes on Jesus Heb. 12:2



3. Is your God too small? _____



4. What attribute of God can you think about now? (Omnipotent, omnipresent, all knowing, loving, patient, faithful) _____



5. Can you tell Him you are going to focus on Him and stop focusing on the problems that steal your joy? _____

God is in control!

REVIEW

- God provides a never-failing rest that is the constant, present inheritance of every child of God.
- Self-focus is the first step in the forfeiture of God's rest.
- Jesus calls all who are weary and beaten down to receive His rest and give Him their burdens.
- Abiding in Christ and remaining in intimate contact with Him is the only way to have a fulfilling, fruitful life.
- Walking after the Spirit is a one-step-at-a-time process. Steps are small, manageable movements of progress that both train and prepare for greater strength and ability.



NOTES

GODSHIP _____

REJECTION _____

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL _____

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? _____

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY _____

REPENTANCE _____

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? _____

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS _____

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS _____

SEEKING FORGIVENESS _____

LORDSHIP _____

LOVE 

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S
NEW

ACCEPT
RIGHT

EXTEND
FORGIVE

SEEK
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE

CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

SERIES 230

LOVE

230-A	THE PINNACLE OF LOVE
230-B	LOVES TWOFOLD DIMENSION-VERTICAL
230-C	LOVES TWOFOLD DIMENSION-HORIZONTAL
230-D	THE EXPERIENCE OF THE OBEDIENCE CYCLE
230-E	LOVE SUMMARY

When to Use This Lesson -----

1. To evaluate if your discipleship process is complete.
2. To evaluate the three aspects of love in the life of your disciple.
3. To see which actions of disobedience in any of the 7 areas of life are preventing your disciple from truly loving God.
4. To evaluate why your disciple's prayer life is ineffective.
5. To challenge your disciple to give his/her life away to others.

Key Truths to Stress -----

This is **NOT** a lesson of something to **DO**. This lesson shows what the effects or results are of allowing Jesus to be Lord of our life. The result of the previous lesson on Lordship made possible by learning how to rest, abide and walk after the Spirit will become a life of LOVE.

We need to consider the other person more important than ourselves. Dependency upon God will bring a life of obedience which will sprout joy, peace, and love which will overflow into the lives of others.

God sheds His Love abroad in our heart (**Rom. 5:5**). We then allow Him to be Lord of everything in our life and then He loves unconditional through us to everyone who comes into our life.

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers April 30 is a great explanation of this truth.

Key Verses -----

John 14:15: *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments"*

1 Timothy 1:5: *"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."*

1 John 3:16-18, 21-22: *"We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love the world with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing to His sight."*

Goals in Using This Lesson -----

To see if your disciple understands all the truths of the Victorious Christian Living Conference. It will be evident as he/she desires to obey God and give his/her life away to others. As you see gaps, plan to cover the lessons that meet the needs revealed.

LOVE

*The ultimate aim of the Christian ministry
after all, is to produce . . . love.*

1 Timothy 1:5 (PHILLIPS)

*But now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

The apostle John, inspired by the Spirit of God, sums up all of God's being into one supreme quality and says, "GOD IS LOVE." It follows then that the key characteristic of the life of the Son of God within the believer is love expressed toward God Himself, toward the members of God's family here on earth, toward those outside the family, and incredibly, toward those who make themselves our enemies.

How do I love God whom I cannot see? How do I love my brother whom I can see? Is this love a feeling, an impulse, a sweeping emotional wave that makes the other person's weaknesses, habits, failures, and inconsistencies suddenly of no consequence?

Someone wittily expressed the feelings I may have:

To live above with saints I love, that surely will be glory!

But to live below with saints I know—well that's a different story!!

This lesson is designed to show the fruit of the Spirit (which is love) in its practical applications toward both God and man. Never lose sight of the fact that this is none other than THE CHRIST-LIFE in its ultimate expression.

This is not a lesson on how to love. Rather, it is what a life of love looks like in the life of a Christian—both toward God and man.

LOVE

THE PINNACLE OF LOVE

A. As a goal:

Matthew 22:36-37

The greatest commandment is....

Love the Lord with all your heart.

Matthew 22:39-40

The second greatest commandment is....

Love your neighbor as yourself.

B. As the end result:

Ephesians 4:11-16

The body (church) is equipped.

Colossians 3:24

There is unity.

230-A

Purpose: To show the importance of love and that loving God is obeying Him.

EXPLANATION

- Read Matthew 22:36-40
- Jesus summarizes all the law and the prophets into these two commands: love God and love others. This love has nothing to do with my feelings.
- Love is central in the life of a Christian.
- God is the source of love.
- Love comes from choosing to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh.
- A victorious Christian life is filled with and expresses God's love.
- His love is consistent.

APPLICATION



Study Matthew 22:36-40

?

Why is loving God the most important thing to do?

?

What would it look like to love God with your heart, soul, and mind?

?

Do you love God with all your heart, soul, and mind?

?

What would it look like to love your neighbor as yourself?

?

Who is your neighbor? Luke 10:29-37



Study 1 John 5:7-13

?

What is the goal of the Christian life?

Love

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **230-A**:

To show the importance of love and that loving God is obeying Him.



1. Study Matthew 22:36-40.



2. Why is loving God the most important thing to do? _____



3. What would it look like to love God with your heart, soul, and mind? _____

*Love the Lord your
God with all your
heart... Matt 22:37*



4. Do you love God with all your heart, soul, and mind? _____



5. What would it look like to love your neighbor as yourself?



6. Who is your neighbor Luke 10:29-37



7. Study 1 John 5:7-13

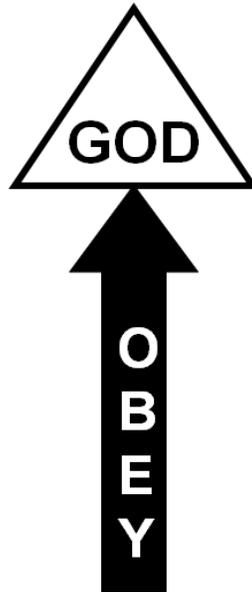


8. What is the goal of the Christian life?

Let love motivate me in everything!

LOVE

**LOVES'S TWOFOLD DIMENSION-VERTICAL
LOVING GOD**



John 14: 23-24
John 15:9-11, 14
1 John 5:1-3

230-B

Purpose: To explain that loving God is expressed by obedience.

EXPLANATION

- Luke 22:42 tells how Jesus was obedient to God even though He didn't want to go to the cross.
- He always obeyed His Father (John 6:38)
- His obedience demonstrated His love for God.
- We love God because He first loved us (1 John 4:19)
- We demonstrate our love for God as we **OBEY** (1 John 5:1-3)

APPLICATION

- ? How have you shown your love for God by obedience?
- ? What area of disobedience is preventing you from loving God?
-  Study John 14:21.
- ? What does Christ promise to do when you obey?

Love STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **230-B**:

To explain that loving God is expressed by obedience.

1. How have you shown your love for God by obedience? _____

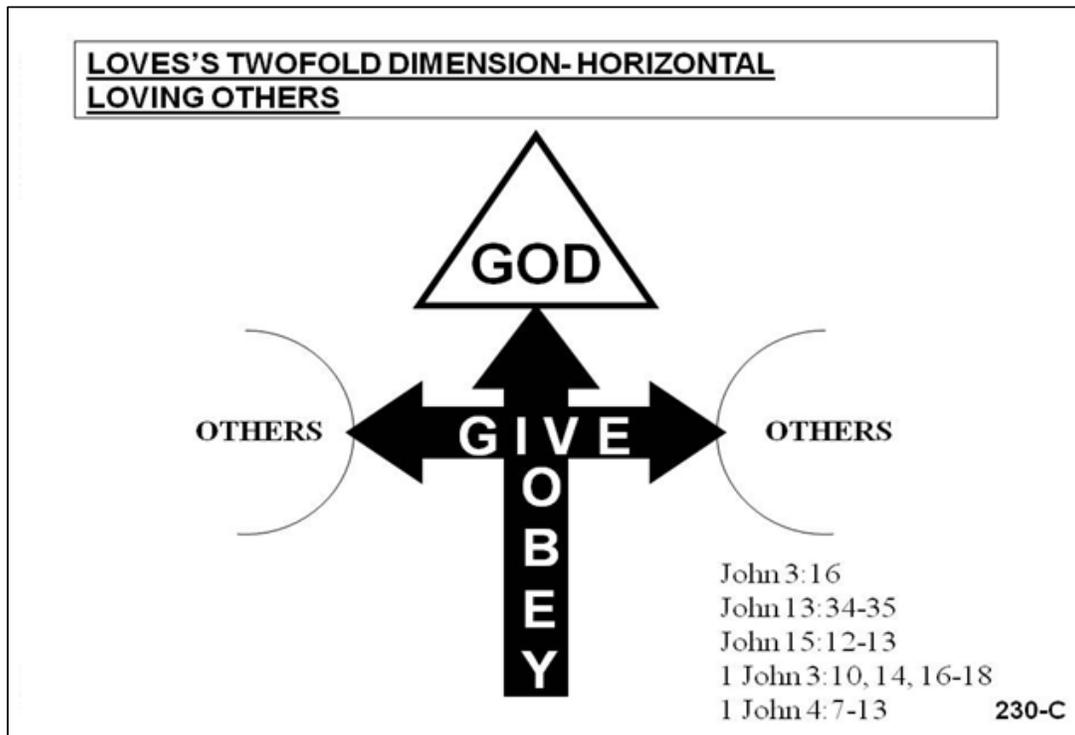
2. What area of disobedience is preventing you from loving God?

3. Study John 14:21.
4. What does Christ promise to do when you obey? _____

*..If anyone loves Me,
he will keep (obey)
My word... John 14:23*

Let love motivate me in everything!

LOVE



Purpose: To show that love is expressed by giving up your self-life for others.

EXPLANATION

- Read 1 John 3:10,14-18.
- Love towards mankind is expressed as we **GIVE** to others,
- This is Agape love, God's love flowing through us.
- This kind of love has a motive that is **right and righteous**. Check motives by referring to 1 Corinthians 13.
- This kind of love is a decision of the **will**.
- This kind of love is a deed of present **attitude** and **action**.

APPLICATION



Study John 15:12-13.

- ? Who has God brought into your life that requires you to lay down your life to meet that person's needs?
- ? Do you see that your self-life doesn't want to lay down and die to love others?
- ? Do you have a hard time giving up what you consider your rights, your time, your money, your abilities, and your desires to protect yourself from any pain or hurt?
- ? Do you love others out of pure motives, or do you want something in return?
- ? Are you choosing to love others, or do you seek a "feeling" of love first?

Love

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **230-C**:

To show that love is expressed by giving up your self-life for others.



1. Study John 15:12-13.



2. Who has God brought into your life that requires you to lay down your life to meet that person's needs? _____



3. Do you see that your self-life doesn't want to lay down and die to love others?



4. Do you have a hard time giving up what you consider your rights, your time, your money, your abilities, and your desires to protect yourself from any pain or hurt?



5. Do you love others out of pure motives, or do you want something in return?

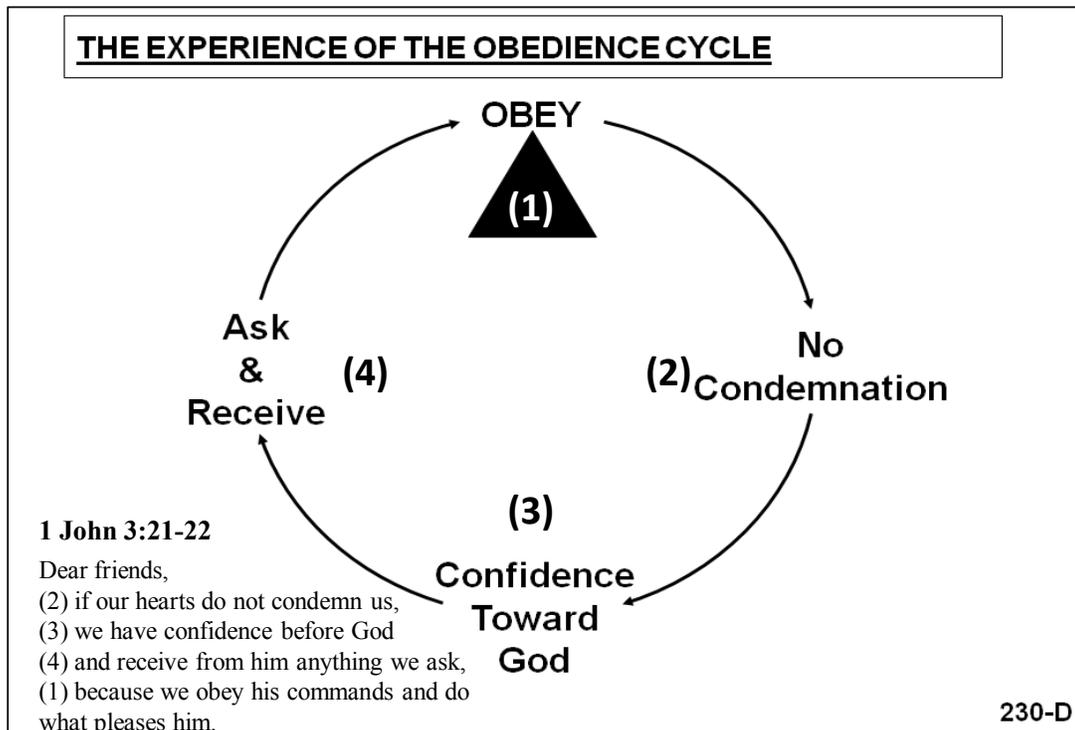


6. Are you choosing to love others, or do you seek a "feeling" of love first?

*This is My commandment
that you love one
another...* John 15:12

Let love motivate me in everything!

LOVE



Purpose: To show how obedience affects our prayer life.

EXPLANATION

- Read 1 John 3:21-22. This diagram shows that we experience no condemnation when we obey God.
- Condemnation comes from my own heart, not from God (Romans 8:1).
- We feel confident toward God, when we know we have done what God tells us.
- Because I feel confident toward God I can go before Him and make my requests known. God says He will answer my requests (John 15:7)
- Oswald Chambers often said, “Trust God and do the next thing.” That is a life of obedience.
- A person can harden his/her heart to God by knowing what He wants done and refusing to do it. That person will have little confidence toward God. God doesn’t shut the windows of heaven, we just don’t think they are open to us.

APPLICATION

-  Study 1 John 3:21-22
- ? Are you asking God for anything specific?
 - ? Are you receiving specific answers?
 - ? If not, do you have confidence before God when you ask?
 - ? If not, does your heart condemn you in any way?
 - ? If so, what is the area of disobedience that causes you to feel condemned?

Love STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **230-D**:

To show how obedience affects our prayer life.



1. Study 1 John 3:21-22.



2. Are you asking God for anything specific? _____



3. Are you receiving specific answers? _____



4. If not, do you have confidence before God when you ask? Yes No



5. If not, does your heart condemn you in any way? _____



6. If so, what is the area of disobedience that causes you to feel
condemned? _____

Obey, then pray.

LOVE SUMMARY

WHAT IS LOVE?

- A. A **MOTIVE** that is right and righteous
- B. A **DECISION** of the will
- C. A **DEED** of present attitude and action

1 Corinthians 13:13

230-E

Purpose: To show the importance of a full understanding of love.

EXPLANATION

- Read 1 John 3:10,14-18.
- Love towards mankind is expressed as we **GIVE** to others,
- This is Agape love, God's love flowing through us.
- This kind of love has a motive that is **right and righteous**. Check motives by referring to 1 Corinthians 13.
- This kind of love is a decision of the **will**.
- This kind of love is a deed of present **attitude** and **action**.

APPLICATION

-  Study 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
-  Study Luke 9:23
- ? What are your motives for loving God?
- ? What are your motives for loving others?
- ? Will you decide to love based upon God's Word rather than your feelings?
- ? What actions are the Spirit telling you to take towards God right now?
- ? What actions are the Spirit telling you to take towards others right now?

Love

STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram **230-E**:

To show the importance of a full understanding of love.



1. Study 1 Corinthians 13:1-7



2. Study Luke 9:23.



3. What are your motives for loving God?



4. What are your motives for loving others?



5. Will you decide to love based upon God's word rather than you feelings? _____



6. What actions are the Spirit telling you to take towards God right now? _____



7. What actions are the Spirit telling you to take towards others right now?

*... do not have
love, I am nothing.*

1 Cor. 13:2

Love gives.

LOVE

REVIEW

- Love has a twofold dimension. One is vertical toward God and the other is horizontal toward people.
- Love for God is demonstrated by a life of OBEDIENCE to all He commands.
- Love for our neighbor is demonstrated by GIVING our time, money, and life away to those in need.
- When Christ's life of love rules us, we don't live for ourselves any longer, but for Him and others.
- We don't try to love. Love flows from a relationship with a loving God.



NOTES