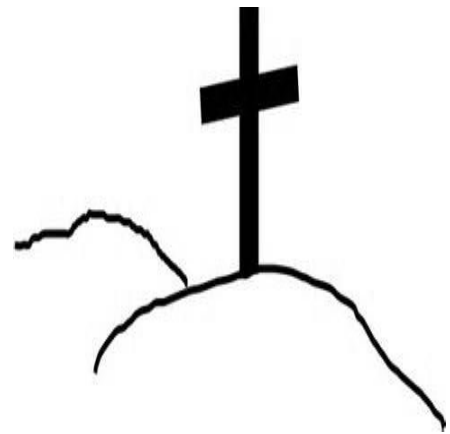


Get In & Get Going for God!



Discipleship Program

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

INDEX

- **Lesson 1:** *I'm Saved, Now What?*
- **Lesson 2:** *The Word of God*
- **Lesson 3:** *Prayer*
- **Lesson 4:** *The Triune God*
- **Lesson 5:** *The Church*
- **Lesson 6:** *Godly Standards*
- **Lesson 7:** *Money*
- **Lesson 8:** *The Family*

1. I'm Saved, Now What?

So, you got “saved”, “born again”, “redeemed”; whatever terminology you use, it’s the best decision you will ever make! Let’s take a moment to review how and why you got saved;

The Bible tells us that all have sinned (**Romans 3:23**) and the wages, or what we have earned because of our sin is death; physically and eternally (**Romans 6:23**). The good news is that God looked down from Heaven and had pity on mankind and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins (**Romans 5:8 and John 3:16**). Jesus Christ was crucified, buried and rose again the 3rd day, proving He indeed was the Son of God! Romans 10 tells us that if we will believe that Jesus can save us (trust Him), and confess Him as our Saviour, that we “shall be saved”. You may have prayed a prayer something like this:

“God, I know I’m a sinner and I deserve death and hell because of my sins. I acknowledge that you’re right and I’m wrong and I believe that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for my sins and the best I know how I’m trusting Jesus as my Saviour”.

Understand that the words you prayed aren’t nearly as important as what you meant, and trusting in God’s way; salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by _____ are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the _____ of God: Not of works, lest any man should _____.

Think about it: The Bible is clear that salvation is a free gift, so why do so many think they can “do good” to get to Heaven? _____

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have _____ life.



Everlasting means: _____

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may _____ that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

When we “know” something that means we can have confidence in it. We can have confidence that we are going to Heaven after we are saved; if you could lose your salvation, you could not “know” that you have eternal life!

► **THE NEXT STEP: BAPTISM.** Once you’re saved, the next step of obedience is baptism. Baptism has no part in your salvation, but is an outward profession of our faith: it pictures the death, burial and resurrection.

Colossians 2:12 _____ with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.



If someone gets “sprinkled” does that accurately represent being buried in baptism? _____

According to **Romans 6:4-5**, the order of events is; _____, raised, then we should _____ in the newness of life.

Walking is an action and it takes effort. It takes energy and dedication to “walk” as a Christian.

Baptism shows others that you are a Christian and are making a choice to follow Jesus. The correct *sequence* of events is salvation, then Baptism (**Acts 8:36-37 & 18:8**). The correct mode of baptism is by immersion (**Matthew 3:16, John 3:23**).

Think about it: If someone was “sprinkled” instead of immersed, or baptized before they trusted Christ as their savior; should they be “rebaptized”? _____



If someone gets saved, but not baptized, will they go to Heaven? _____

Once we’re saved and realize how good God was to give us salvation through Jesus; we should have a desire to serve and please Him. After all, we were created to please Him. So, here are some other things we should be doing:

► **GET PLUGGED IN!!!** (come to church: Sunday School, Sunday Morning, Sunday Evening and Wednesday Night Bible Study)

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the _____ of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to _____ unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not _____ the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Think about it: Based on the above verses; why is it important to come to church? _____

► **READ THE BIBLE!!!**

God communicates to us through the Bible. He tells Christians exactly what He wants us to know and how we should act now that we are saved.

Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not _____ against thee.

We will look more at the importance of reading and studying your Bible in a later lesson.

Think about it: What are some things you can do to make sure you are reading your Bible every day? _____

► **FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS!!!**

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally _____ together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what _____ hath light with darkness?



Yoked means: _____



Communion means: _____

Now that you are a Christian, there are going to be 2 types of people in your life; those that are supportive of you being a Christian and those that are not. You can't pick your family, but you can pick your friends. Our friends are huge influences in our lives and whether or not we accomplish anything for God. Someone once said that the 3 biggest decisions we will ever make are: What we do with Jesus, who we marry and who our friends are. Christians should seek to be around those people that have a desire to be pleasing in God's sight!

“Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile.” **Billy Sunday**

Think about it: What can you do if you have some “friends” that don’t want to hear about Godly things? _____

► **PRAY!!!**

God communicates to us through the Bible, we communicate to Him through prayer. When we pray, we are simply talking to God.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for _____; but in every thing by _____ and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

We will look at prayer more in depth in a future lesson.

Think about it: How often do you think Christians should pray? _____

The Bible calls becoming a Christian being “Born again”. When you were physically born, you were a baby. When you are spiritually born (born again) you are a spiritual baby. A new born baby cannot do anything for itself; it must be fed, taught and cared for. Through love and someone to help along the way, babies learn to crawl, walk, read and eventually grow up to become young adults. New “babes” in Christ need to be fed (the Word of God), taught (teaching and preaching) and cared for (Christian fellowship) in order to grow spiritually. God saved your soul from an eternity in Hell; it should only be logical that you want to do what pleases Him.

Christianity is a relationship with Christ; you have to decide how strong of a relationship you are going to have with Him; no one can do it for you!

Think about it: We need to get spiritually “plugged in” in order to “grow” as a Christian. So, why are there so many “Christians” that do not make reading the Bible and church attendance a priority?

► Satan is the real enemy of God, and your enemy.

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your _____ the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may _____:



Adversary means: _____

2 things the devil wants for people:

- (1) Stop them from trusting Jesus Christ as their savior, so they will spend eternity in Hell with him.
- (2) If someone gets saved, the devil doesn't want them to learn the Bible and serve God.

You won a victory over Satan when you got saved. Don't let him win the victory over you and keep you from growing in and serving the Lord!



GET GOING CHALLENGE:

-If you are not scripturally baptized; make the commitment to get baptized.

-There are 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs. Read the chapter that corresponds with the day of the week (i.e. if the date is the 12th, read Proverbs 12). Write down a thought about what you read in each chapter (i.e. fear is the beginning of wisdom). *Bring this with you to our next meeting!*

-Make it a priority to be at every church service this week.

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a *new creature*: old things are passed away; behold, *all* things are become new.

2. The Word of God

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” The very first verse of the Bible shows us what an awesome and powerful God we have. It would only make sense that the same God that spoke everything into existence is powerful enough to tell His creation what He expects of them. He did; in the form of the King James Bible (KJB). God inspired (breathed) His holy words and men recorded them. The Bible says exactly what God wants it to say with no errors or contradictions.



Contradiction means: _____

Think about it: What kind of god would we have if He did not tell us how to get to Heaven and what His expectations are for us? _____

The Bible never calls itself the “the Bible”, but it is the most common name for the word of God. The word “Bible, simply means “book”. But it is not just a book, it is *THE* Book of all books and should be the “final authority” in the Christian’s life. The Bible is also referred to as the *Scriptures (Holy Writings)*.



Authority is: _____

It is estimated that about 50 million Bibles are published every year (that’s a stack of bibles about 100 miles high)!

Think about it: Knowing that the Bible is in fact God’s words; how should we treat our Bible? _____

Many men (and women) have set out to disprove the Bible, but there are multiple *proofs* that it is indeed the Word of God:

- *The Bible itself claims to be the words of God.* Over 2,500 times the scripture uses phrases like “God said...the Lord has said...thus saith the Lord”. No other book makes such claims!
- *Marvelous preservation.* No other book has been hated by so many and many have set out to destroy it (millions of copies have been burnt), but it still stands.

“A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world if he has deprived himself of the Bible.” - **Woodrow Wilson**

- *Archaeology.* Biblical cities that were thought to be nonexistent by “skeptical” historians have been discovered by archaeologists. Many that have set out to disprove the Bible have actually uncovered more evidence for its accuracy.
- *Fulfilled Prophecy.* One fourth of the Scripture, when it was written, announced things to take place in the future. Hundreds of these prophecies have come to pass- exactly as God said they would.
- *The Unity of the scriptures.* Written by about 40 different men over nearly 1,600 years, and not a single contradiction.
- *Scientific accuracy.* The Bible revealed many scientific facts before man ever discovered them. Some of them 3,500 years before man brought them to light.
- *Transformed lives.* Millions of lives have been transformed, renewed, saved because of the Word of God. No other book can or ever will have the impact on a life like the Bible is capable of.

Think about it: With so much evidence that the Bible is the Word of God, why do so many reject it and try to disprove it? _____

The Bible is made up of 66 different books.

- The **Old Testament** (OT) has ____ individual books (beginning with Genesis and ending with Malachi).
- The Old Testament is broken down into 3 different types of books:
 - o History (17)
 - o Poetry (5)
 - o Prophecy (17)

The Old Testament (first part of the Bible) tells the story of creation, the history of Israel, the promise of the coming Messiah (Jesus Christ) and ends about 400 years before the birth of Jesus. (Upon completion of the OT, there were 400 years of silence during which God did not inspire anyone.)



Prophecy is: _____

- The **New Testament** (NT) has _____ individual books (beginning in Matthew and ending in Revelation).
- The NT has 3 different kinds of books:
 - o History (5)
 - o Teaching (21)
 - o Prophecy (1)

The NT records the story from the birth of Christ to the culmination of all history and centers on the life of Christ and establishment of His church. The NT covers the time period that we currently are living in and gives specific guidance on what God expects from us now that we're saved.

The Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (first 4 books in the NT) are the account of Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death, burial and resurrection.

The book of Acts records the acts of the apostles, and is a transitional book (from Jesus' death to the establishment of the church).

The books from Romans to Jude are where we get the majority of the doctrine (teaching) for the time (church age) we are currently living in.

Revelation, the final book of the Bible, deals almost exclusively with end time prophecy.



Revelation means: _____

Think about it: As a new Christian, where should you start reading in the Bible? _____

Some reasons we should study the Bible

- **II Timothy 3:16** All scripture is given by _____ of God, and is profitable for doctrine (*teaching*), for reproof (*shows me where I'm wrong*), for correction (*how to get right*), for instruction in righteousness (*so I can have a better standing with God, or how to stay right*)



Inspiration means: _____

- **Psalm 119:11** Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not _____ against thee. (*now that God saved your soul, do you really want to continue to blatantly sin against Him?*)
- **Psalm 119:105** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a _____ unto my path. (*as a Christian you should desire to go where God wants you to go.*)
- **Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the _____. (*the word of God will strengthen your faith.*)

"Be assured, if you walk with Him, look to Him, and expect help from Him, He will never fail you." George Muller

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt _____ therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way _____, and then thou shalt have good success.



Prosperous means: _____



What is a key to success: _____

James 1:22 But be ye _____ of the word, and not _____ only, deceiving your own selves.



Deceive means: _____

► There have been many people that say that they do not understand the Bible, but “God is not the author of confusion”. Look at these verses:

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the _____ man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are _____ discerned.

Nehemiah 8:8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to _____ the reading.

Think about it: Based on the above verses; how can we understand the Bible? _____

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto _____, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly _____ the word of truth.

We should never discard any word, verse or book of God’s Word, but you must get your doctrine by rightly dividing! You need to know who the penman was, who the scripture is addressed to, and what time period is being addressed to get the right application of the scripture.

When we start to understand our responsibilities to God; we quickly realize that God has an expectation for Christians to know and follow His Word.

The Bible shows us exactly what God wants us to know and how He expects us to live. No other book has ever had such an impact on so many people’s lives. If you read it and heed it, it will change your life too! No one is going to force you to read your Bible; you must choose.

► Some Christians live an amazing life for God, and others seem to never get victory in their lives. They are in and out of church and never get to where God

wants them; they are defeated and there is nothing evident in their lives that they are a Christian.

Why?

The answer is simple; they never develop a relationship with God. God desires to speak to us through His word and is in Heaven waiting for us to speak to Him. Communication is vital in having a good relationship with anyone: there is no difference when it comes to God.

Think about it: How do we set ourselves up for success as a Christian? _____

Not all habits are bad- make it a habit to read your Bible daily!

The Bible is an awesome book, with an awesome story, that can lead you to an awesome life for Christ! The catch- you have to read it to get it. The God that saved your soul from Hell, will talk to you and guide your life through His Book. Shouldn't you make reading and learning it a priority in your life?

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is _____ and _____, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the _____ and intents of the _____.

The Old Testament

Genesis	Ecclesiastes
Exodus	Song of Solomon
Leviticus	Isaiah
Numbers	Jeremiah
Deuteronomy	Lamentations
Joshua	Ezekiel
Judges	Daniel
Ruth	Hosea
1 Samuel	Joel
2 Samuel	Amos
1 Kings	Obadiah
2 Kings	Jonah
1 Chronicles	Micah
2 Chronicles	Nahum
Ezra	Habakkuk
Nehemiah	Zephaniah
Esther	Haggai
Job	Zechariah
Psalms	Malachi
Proverbs	

The New Testament

Matthew	1 Timothy
Mark	2 Timothy
Luke	Titus
John	Philemon
Acts	Hebrews
Romans	James
1 Corinthians	1 Peter
2 Corinthians	2 Peter
Galatians	1 John
Ephesians	2 John
Philippians	3 John
Colossians	Jude
1 Thessalonians	Revelation
2 Thessalonians	



GET GOING CHALLENGE:

In addition to the previous challenge; this week read Psalm 119. This psalm is the longest chapter in the Bible and it is about the Word of God. As you read the chapter, list some specific things the psalmist recorded about the Word of God. (Example: verse 24- my delight and my counselors.) You should be able to come up with at least 7 things!

MEMORY VERSE:

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

3. Prayer

Any good relationship is usually established on effective communication. Effective communication is made up of both listening and talking. Our relationship with God is no different; we need to listen to God and we need to speak to God. God speaks to us through the Bible and preaching and teaching of His Word. We speak to Him through prayer.



Prayer is: _____

Think about it: What would it be like to be in a relationship where you could only listen and never talk? _____

When we want to talk to God, the Bible is clear that we can; anytime. We don't need to go to some "special" person or "special" place, we can simply talk to Him.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by _____ and _____ with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

I Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one _____ between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (*this is why we pray in Jesus' name*)



A mediator is: _____

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come _____ unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without _____.

We should be quick to go to God in prayer; He should be our first resort not our last.



When/ how often should we pray? _____

A good example of how we should pray is found in **Nehemiah 1:4-10**.

- Adoration and worship (thanking God for what He's done)
- Confession of sins (admitting what you've done wrong)
- Claiming God's promises (knowing that He can do what we can't)
- Asking for help

► Have you ever wondered why people pray for the food they are about to eat? There is a Bible reason:

1 Timothy 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with _____:

1 Timothy 4:5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and _____.

► Things we should pray for:


Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to _____ for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Think about it: What were they praying for in the above verse? _____

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, _____, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for _____ men;

1 Timothy 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in _____; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

The above verses show us that we are to pray for “all” men.

 **Looking at the above verses; do you think it is safe to say that if it is something we are thinking about, that we can pray for it? _____**

Here are some ideas of things to pray for:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Salvation of the lost | Missionaries | Your church |
| Leaders | Health situations | God’s will for your life |
| Safety while travelling | Wisdom/ knowledge | Revival |

► While Christians have access to God through prayer any place, any time, the Bible is also very clear that there are things that can hinder our prayers.

Psalm 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord _____ hear *me*:

 **Iniquity is:** _____

Isaiah 59: 2 But your _____ have separated between you and your God, and your _____ have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

Think about it: Based on the above verses; Is it reasonable to say that God does not hear everyone’s prayers/ who would He not hear? _____

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not _____.



True or False: Our relationships can affect our prayer life? _____

Another hindrance to our prayers is our attitude when we pray; the motive behind our prayer.

Luke 18:10-14 Two men went up into the temple to _____; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be _____ a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that _____ himself shall be _____.

Think about it: What was the Pharisee's attitude while he prayed? _____

► Even when our standing is right with God, our prayers may not get answered the way we want them to be answered. Simply put; what we want and are praying for may not be God's will/ plan.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your _____ neither are your _____ my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my _____ higher than your ways, and my _____ than your thoughts.

Think about it: What are the possible answers to our prayers? _____

► Sometimes we should just pray and thank God for all that He has done for us and not ask Him for anything. This is more difficult than it sounds, but God has done so much for us that we should take time to thank Him!

Psalms 95:2 Let us come before his presence with _____, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

► Some ideas how to stay faithful in prayer:

-As soon as you wake up, thank God for another day of life and ask Him to direct your day.

-Thank God for the food and ask Him to bless it every time you eat.

-Every time before you drive, ask God to keep you safe on the road.

-Go to prayer meetings.

-Place missionary prayer cards in places around your house (refrigerator, mirrors, etc.). When you see a prayer card stop and pray for that particular missionary (and family).

-Place missionary prayer cards in a box near the kitchen table. When it's time to eat pull a card out of the box and pray for your food and that missionary.

-Make a prayer list and use it to help you pray. When God answers a prayer highlight it or circle it.

► You will find that your flesh will want to make excuses not to pray, but it's important to take time and talk to God.

Don't pray just when you feel like it; make an appointment with the Lord and keep it!



GET GOING CHALLENGE:

-Make a prayer list (you can also use a church prayer list and add to it) and pray over it every day this week, but one. Record your prayer time in your journal, any thoughts you associate with the prayer time and anything God impresses upon your heart.

-The one day that you do not pray using your prayer list; pray at least twice (outside of meals) and don't ask God for anything, just thank Him for what He has done for you. Again, record the time of prayer and your thoughts.

-Make a commitment to attend the next prayer meeting at your church.

MEMORY VERSE:

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

4- Our Triune God

God exists in eternity as 3 separate persons; God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Ghost (Spirit). Although, they are separate, they are the same in unity, thought, and purpose. We are going to take a closer look at what the Bible tells us about our triune God.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, let us make man in _____ image, after _____ likeness.....

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in _____ own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

The above verses can be very confusing if we don't understand that God exists eternally and in unity in the form of 3 persons.



Trinity means: _____



According to I Thessalonians 5:23, man is also made up of 3 parts.

What are they? _____

An example that might help us to better understand the trinity is an atom. An atom is the smallest form of an object and is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons. Each part is independent, but remains one object

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the _____ of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Think about it: Why is it significant that the above verse uses the word "name" instead of "names"? _____

I John 5:7 For there are _____ that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are _____.



According to John 1:1 and 14, the "Word" is another name for:

So, let's take a closer look at each person that makes up our triune God!

► **God the Father**

-He is the creator and sovereign ruler of the entire universe. Everything operates because of, and to fulfill His eternal plan!

The King James Version (KJV) of the Bible is the only version that never addresses God in plural form, but only singular!

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created _____ things, and for thy _____ they are and were created.

-People, Angels, and the Devil answer to God (Job 1, Psalm 47)

-God the Father provided a way for man's redemption:

John 3:16 For _____ so loved the world, that he _____ his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

-God the Father forgives our sin and answers our prayers. (John 16:23)

Think about it: In view of Revelation 4:11, why were you and I created? _____

► ***God the Son; Jesus Christ***

Jesus brought the Father's plan out of eternity and puts it into time; He came to earth as a man, lived a sinless life (II Corinthians 5:21) and allowed himself to be crucified. In doing so, He provides a way of salvation for all people!

-He is the Saviour of the world:

I John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the _____.

-He is the mediator (advocate) between man and God:

I Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one _____ between God and men, the man _____;

**That's why we end our prayers with, "in Jesus' name".*



What is another way of describing a mediator? _____

While Jesus' earthly ministry was only about 3 and a half years long, look at what the Bible says about Him:

John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the _____ itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

► ***God the Holy Ghost (Spirit)***

He makes God's Plan (the will of God) real to men and enables believers to fulfill God's work.

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the _____, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou has not lied unto men, but unto _____.



What does John 14:26 say is another name for the Holy Ghost?

The Holy Ghost has many ministries:

-Helps believers: **John 14:26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall _____ you all things, and bring all things to your _____, whatsoever I have said unto you.

-Convicts sinners: **John 16:8** And when he is come, he will _____ the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:



What does "reprove" mean? _____

-Helps believers to understand the Bible and spiritual truths:

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all _____: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are _____ unto him: neither can he know them, because they are _____ discerned.

-Intercedes for us in prayer: **Romans 8:26-27**

-Gives power to preach (witness): **Acts 1:8**

-Seals us so that we can never lose our salvation:

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were _____ with that holy Spirit of promise,

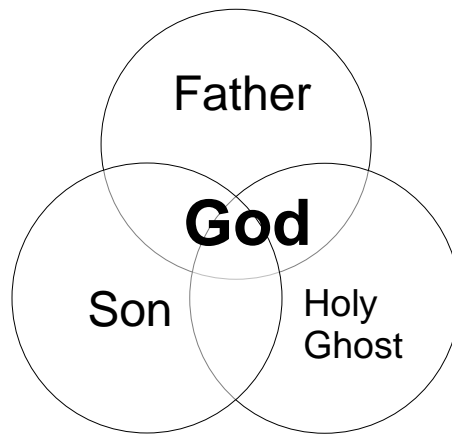
Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are _____ unto the day of redemption.

Think about it: In Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30, how do we know that the verses are a reference to the "Holy Spirit"? _____

As you can see, we have an awesome and somewhat complicated God when it comes to His make-up. I don't think we will ever get the full understanding of our triune God until we get to Heaven. What we must understand is that God is indeed the Great 3 in 1!

There are religions that deny who Jesus really was/is; God in the flesh. They will say that they believe in Jesus Christ, but they do not believe in the Jesus of the Bible. Instead, they will say that He was a great prophet. One of the quickest ways to identify a false religion is ask them this question, "is Jesus God?". If they do not say "yes", then they do not believe the Bible!

II Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the _____, and the Love of _____, and the communion of the _____, be with you all. Amen.



GET GOING CHALLENGE:

-Imagine that you are talking with someone that says that Jesus is not God. List some verses and write a paragraph on how you would show them that Jesus is indeed "God the Son".

MEMORY VERSE:

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

5- The Church

Many people associate the word “church” with a building. However, the church is actually the group of people that meet in the building. When the Bible mentions the church, there are 2 different churches that it is referring to: the local church and the universal church.

The local church is made up of a group of believers in a specific area that are meeting together to perform specific functions.

The universal church (also known as the bride of Christ) is composed of all believers, everywhere.

This lesson will focus on the local church, its purpose and your role in the local church.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the _____: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.



Who is the “he” referring to in the above verse? _____

Think about it: What does Colossians 1:18 show us about Jesus Christ’s place in the church?

► God has very specifically established a plan and make-up of the local church:

-Jesus Christ is to be the head of the church (all local churches).

-The Pastor is to have a physical presence and be the leader of the church.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, _____ and teachers; (the word “bishop” and sometimes the word “elder” is also referring to the position of a pastor.

-The precedence for deacons was established in the book of Acts (6:2-6), and was confirmed again by the Apostle Paul. Deacons are elected by the church to help the Pastor in the work and functioning of the church.

1 Timothy 3:13 For they that have used the _____ of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The Bible also establishes qualifications for church leadership. This will not be discussed in detail in this lesson. However, the Bible is clear that only men qualify for church leadership (not women).

-Many churches also have staff members that assist the Pastor in his duties and have varying responsibilities. Typically, the larger the church, the more staff members there are.

-The church body or congregation is to be made up of baptized believers. The congregation assembles together during service times and then is supposed to serve in ministries through the church to fulfill God's plan.

The Bible describes the church as a "body" in I Corinthians 12.

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is _____, and hath many _____, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:20 But now are they _____ members, yet but _____ body.

Paul describes how the body needs all its parts to function, and the church body is no different. Everyone cannot do the same thing (ministry), but every ministry is important.

The body (church) does not function properly if every part is not doing what it is supposed to. It is great if your hand is functioning at its best, but if your leg isn't working your body is not functioning to the best of its ability.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were _____: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord _____ to the church daily such as should be _____.



Should someone that has not been scripturally baptized be allowed to join the local church? _____

Most denominations believe a little (or a lot) different when it comes to hierarchy and who the pastor answers to. The Bible is clear that Jesus is to be the head of the church. As an Independent Baptist church, we believe that the biblical example of a church is to function independent of any governing body other than the members of our church.

Think about it: What might be some downfalls of having a governing body over the local church?

► In addition to the make up of a local church, God has a plan for what the church is supposed to be doing; why it exists:

-To exalt Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the _____.



What does “preeminence” mean? _____

If the church is giving Jesus Christ the preeminence, they will be exalting Him!

-To evangelize sinners:

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be _____ unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the _____ part of the earth.

The last thing Jesus told His disciples before ascending back to Heaven was to be witnesses, starting where they were at and working their way around the world. Shortly after His ascension the church was established, they evangelized where they were at and then sent out missionaries (Paul, Barnabas, etc.) to reach out farther with the Gospel. The result; from a few obedient believers, to churches being established all over the world. These events are recorded in the book of Acts and throughout the New Testament.

2,000 plus years later, God still expects the church to do the same thing!

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into _____, and preach the gospel to every creature.


Think about it: What are some ways the local church can reach the lost with the Gospel? _____

A local church that is concerned with fulfilling the great commission will have outreach ministries to go and share the gospel where the lost people are, and will support missionaries. They will have a desire and a plan to help new believers grow, so they in turn can win others to Christ (discipleship).

A lot of churches have programs, but few churches are programmed to reach the lost!

Think about it: What are some ways that you can help your church reach the lost with the Gospel?

-To edify the saints

 **What does “edify” mean?** _____

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the _____ of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider _____ to provoke unto love and to good _____: Not _____ the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but _____ one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Think about it: According to the above verses, why should we go to church? _____

In review, the purpose of the local church should be to:

- Exalt Jesus Christ
- Evangelize sinners
- Edify the saints

God’s vehicle to accomplish His will and work on earth is the church!

A properly focused and functioning church edifies its members encouraging them to evangelize sinners, which results in exalting Jesus Christ!

► In Old Testament times, the Sabbath day fell on Saturday and was the day of rest for the Israelites. There are still some denominations that meet for services on Saturday, because they do not rightly divide the Bible. We are not Jewish and are not under the Old Testament law! The precedence set forth in the New Testament is not to meet on Saturday, but:

Acts 20:7 And upon the _____ of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

 **What day is the first day of the week?** _____

While the average person thinks that church is only for Sunday morning; that is not the case. Hebrews 10:25 says that we should not forsake assembling together. You should make it a point to make **every** church service a priority.

The more you are at church, the more you will grow and the more God will be able to use you!

► There are some people in church that think it is only the Pastor's and those in leadership positions responsibility to work in the ministries of the church. That is not God's plan. He wants every believer to be plugged into a local church and serving in a ministry that in some way supports fulfilling the great commission. God wants you to serve Him, and quite honestly we owe it to Him to serve Him. Showing up for Sunday School and all of the services is important, but just showing up is not serving God.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found _____.

God expects you to be faithful, but He also expects you to be a functioning part of the body!

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye _____, _____, always _____ in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Make a decision that going to church and serving the Lord is the priority in your life, not just a possibility!



GET GOING CHALLENGE:

-If you are not a member of the church, make a commitment to join and talk to the Pastor about it.

-If you are not attending every service, make the commitment to.

-Make a list of ministry opportunities in the church and select the one that interests you the most. Make 2 columns and list the pros and cons of serving in that particular ministry.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

6. Godly Standards

There is a definite distinction in how most people live their life and how God wants them to live their life. Now that you are saved; it is important to understand what God's expectations are. The Christian life should not be viewed as a list of rules to follow, but now that you are a new creature in Christ (**II Corinthians 5:17**) you should desire to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

I Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all _____ of evil.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that _____ to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is _____.

Those might be some challenging verses, but if we live our life to heed these verses; we are definitely on the right track to please God.

Think About it: What are some things that might be perfectly acceptable to someone who is not saved, but would be contrary to the above verses? _____

Act 5:29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to _____ God rather than _____.

Think About it: What are some things that are considered "legal" by the government, but are considered wrong/ sin by God?

Let's take a look at some of the "norms" in our society and see what God has to say about them:

► **Dress**

Today's fashions are ever changing, but one thing is sure; by worldly standards it is ok to show as much flesh as you want as long as the "private" areas are covered. Let's take a look at God's view on how we should dress:

Exodus 28:42 And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their _____: from the _____ even unto the _____ they shall reach:

"I believe that a long step toward public morality will have been taken when sins are called by their right names." **Billy Sunday**

Isaiah 47:2-3 Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the _____, uncover the _____, pass over the rivers. Thy _____ shall be uncovered, yea thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.

I Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that woman adorn themselves in _____ apparel.....



Modest means: _____

Think About it: Looking at the above verses, how do you think Christians should dress (be specific)? _____

► **Abortion**

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I _____ thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I _____ thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.



Sanctified means: _____

-Homosexuality-

Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* _____.

Leviticus 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to _____; their blood *shall be* upon them.



Abomination means: _____

Think about it: It's been a long time since the book of Leviticus was written; do you think God changed his mind about homosexuality/ explain? _____

► **Tattoos:**

Leviticus 19:28 Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor _____ upon you: I *am* the LORD.

1Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the _____ of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Think about it: Based on the above verse, does it matter to God what we do with our bodies/ why?

► **Television/ Music/ Internet**

1Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications _____ good manners.



Corrupt means: _____

Think about it: Is television “good” or “bad”/ explain? _____

Ephesians 5:18-20 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and _____, singing and making melody in your heart _____; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;



Is all music pleasing to God? _____

► **Speech**

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him _____ that taketh his name in vain.



Is saying, “Oh my God”, taking the name of the Lord in Vain? _____

Ephesians 4:29 Let no _____ communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister _____ unto the hearers.



Edifying means: _____

Obviously, the topics we covered are not an all-inclusive list; it’s not meant to be. It’s meant to get you to think about the differences between what God says

is right and wrong, and what society says is right and wrong. If you didn't catch on; there are many things that society says is "ok", but God calls sin!

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created _____ things, and for thy _____ they are and were created.

Think about it: According to the above verse why were you created? _____

Think about it: What are some things that you can do to please God? _____

You might be asking, "what's the big deal?" Once you are saved, God is your father. The Bible clearly tells us that God loves His children and will chasten them when they do wrong:

Hebrews 12:5-7 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the _____ of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord _____ he chasteneth, and scourgeth every _____ whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father _____?



Chasten means: _____

Think about it: What does it mean if a "Christian" goes against God's way, but they are never chastened? _____

As a Christian, it is our responsibility to pray, study and obey God. Many times as a Christian, there will be negative influences pushing on us to sin against God and follow the crowd (peer pressure). The Christian life is not always the "easy life", but it is the rewarding life. It should be an easy decision; God saved me, now I'm going to do my best to please Him. Get around other Christians that can be a positive influence in your life and spend some time with them.

Joshua put it like this:

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will _____; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we _____.

Are you willing to make a decision to please God in all areas of your life?



GET GOING CHALLENGE:

-Make a list of things in your life (be specific) that may not be pleasing to God. Once you have made the list, write a specific plan on how you can overcome each issue.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

7. Money

The topic of money is one that many people do not like talking about, but God has plenty to say about it. There are some definite things that Christians need to know about money and what God expects in the area of our finances.

► **Coveting**

Coveting is desiring things that we don't necessarily need, but we pursue after them anyway. It is closely associated with greed.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is _____:

Coveting is chasing after things that we "want", but don't need.

Think about it: What are some things that people spend a lot of money because they think they need it, but it's really a want? _____

The average American family owes between \$7,000-\$15,000 on credit card debt! 14.99% is a fairly common interest rate on a credit card. If you have a \$2,000 balance on a credit card and make the minimum payment (2.08%), it will take 265 months to pay off (**over 20 years!**) and you will actually pay **\$4,944!** Studies indicate that people that pay with credit cards will spend 5%-25% more on a purchase.

Think about it: Is credit necessary/ explain? _____

1 Timothy 6:10 For the _____ of money is the root of all evil: which while some _____ after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many _____.

Think about it: According to the above verse, what is the danger of coveting after money? _____

1 Timothy 5:8 But if any _____ not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.



What is an infidel? _____

Here is the fact: Money is necessary to survive, but there are 2 opposite and extreme views:

1. God will take care of it, we'll just pray and He will provide the need. After all, all the money in the world belongs to Him.
2. If I just get enough money, then I will be happy.

God expects us to earn (not beg for) money to survive, but not to covet after it so it draws us away from Him!

Think about it: What are some possible signs of coveting?

Coveting is focusing on temporal things instead of eternal!

Matthew 6:19-20 Lay not up for yourselves _____ upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in _____, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye _____ the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.



Should someone that is not saved or putting God first expect Him to help with their financial situation? _____

Ecclesiastes 7:12 For wisdom is a defence, and _____ is a _____: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

The Bible says that money is a defense. If you have money saved up and there is an emergency that requires money, the stress level is much lower than if you don't have the money to take care of the problem. Lack of money and financial difficulties result in stress in many people's lives. Financial difficulty is a contributing factor in many divorces. Churches close their doors because of a lack of finances. Missionaries come off of the field because of a lack of finances. Again, money is necessary, but should be earned and used in a way that is pleasing to God.

► **Giving**

The proper view of money is that it is all God's and He enables us to have whatever money we have. He gives it to us and expects us to handle it properly.

There are 3 areas that Christians should invest their money in that please God: Tithes, offerings and missions giving. These 3 areas of giving should all be done through your local church.

Look up **Genesis 28:22**, **Numbers 15:4**, **Hebrews 7:2-4**. According to these verses, a tithe is ____ %.

God expects a Christian to give the first 10% of their earnings back to Him through the local church.

Example: Your paycheck is \$1,000. After taxes and deductions you actually get to keep \$850. The correct way to tithe is off of the gross amount, so your tithe is \$100.

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have _____ me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In _____ and _____.



A tithe is: _____

Think about it: What does the church use the money from tithing for?

Did you know notice that in Malachi 3:8 it says “tithes” and “offerings”? The second area of giving is the offering. This is money given above the tithe. Often times the offerings go towards special projects, guest speakers, etc. If your tithe is \$100 and you give \$150; \$50 is considered the offering.

The third area of giving is to missions: supporting missionaries that are doing the Lord's work around the globe. Missions giving is separate from the tithe and offerings. Some of the verses that set the precedence to support those that are serving on the missions field are:

Philippians 4:15-17 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning _____ and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my _____. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to _____.

Many churches will have a time during the year that they complete a “Faith Promise” card for missions. This is a card where the church members pledge a certain amount of money they are going to give towards the church’s mission’s fund. This is how the pastor and church leadership decide what missionaries they can support. No names go on the pledge cards, but it is important that the members fulfill their pledges. If pledges are not met, there are missionaries serving around the world that may not get the money they thought they were going to get which results in hardship for them and their family. If you make a pledge towards missions: fulfill it!



What should you do before making a pledge to missions? _____

Think about it: Knowing that God commands Christians to tithe and expects us to give offering and to missions, what are some things you should do before making financial decisions?

God does not look down on Christians that are wealthy. There are plenty of wealthy Christians that are giving and serving the Lord faithfully. God expects us to be good stewards of our money, regardless of how much or little we have. If our heart is right with God, giving will be our desire, not a burden!



GET GOING CHALLENGE:

- If you are not tithing and giving to missions, make the commitment to do so.
- Make a list of things that you pay for that would fall into the “want” category. Figure out how much money you spend each week/month on things that you do not necessarily need.

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8. The Family

The world has taken God's plan for the family and completely changed it. They teach that two men or two women can be "married". They believe that it is ok to just live together without being married. They teach that "padding" a child is the worst possible thing you can do, but God has a lot to say about what a family should be and each member's responsibilities in the family.

► **God's directions on marriage:**

God's guidelines on marriage are made clear in His word: marriage is between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:21-24 and Matthew 19:4-6), and a Christian should not marry someone who is not a Christian. God expects the marriage to last until "death do us part". Any plan to get married should be preceded by much prayer and godly counsel!

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally _____ together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?



What does it mean to be yoked together? _____

Think about it: God's Word tells us that a believer should not marry an unbeliever. Why do so many "Christians" marry non-Christians? _____

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee _____. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.



What is fornication? _____

► **God's directions on the relationship between husbands and wives:**

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the _____ of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own _____ in every thing.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the _____, and gave himself for it;

The above verses show us how God expects husbands and wives to treat each other. The husband's most important responsibility is towards his wife and their children. He is expected to be the spiritual leader and head of his home. The husband is responsible for making the decisions that affect his wife and children. He is not a dictator, and should receive input from his wife, but he is supposed to be the authority and decision maker in the home.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not _____ against them.

<p>Think about it: Where does bitterness come from?</p> <hr/> <hr/>
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The philosophy of the world is that women and men have the same responsibilities and women should be in authority, but that was never God's plan!

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the _____.



What does "submit" mean? _____

When a wife does not submit herself to her husband's authority, she is rebelling against God. The husband is supposed to love his wife like Christ loves the church. If he doesn't do this then his relationship is not right with God. If he does love his wife correctly, it makes it easier for the wife to be in submission.

God's plan is for the man to provide for his family and the woman to take care of her home.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if any _____ not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Proverbs 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her _____, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an _____ for him.

<p>Think about it: How would you describe being a help meet?</p> <hr/> <hr/>

Many problems are caused in marriages, because of pride. Your spouse knows you well, to include your faults. This can make it difficult to respect one another, or for a wife to submit to her husband. Our pride won't let us respect someone that "could do something like that". God knew these things long before Adam and Eve and expects us to obey what He says in spite of how we feel.

Often times, our spirituality is tested the most in dealing with our spouses!

Think about it: What can we do if our spouse is not following God's plan for husbands and wives?

► God's directions on the relationship between parents and their children:

It is God's plan for the father to teach his children about the Lord:

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but _____ in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt _____ them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Many "Christian" parents shun the responsibility of teaching their children the Bible. They expect the Sunday school teacher, the youth group leader or the pastor to teach them the Word of God and instill godly character in their children. This is the responsibility of the parents; specifically, the father! The church leadership should enhance and reinforce the teaching that is received at home. Many children from Christian families fall away from the Lord, because their Christianity was limited to one day a week. Parents that do not take time to teach their children about God, should not be surprised if their children go astray.

God expects the Bible to be a priority and a guide in the home. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways: daily Bible reading as a family, daily devotions, memorizing scripture, Bible trivia games, etc. Parents are accountable to God for the spiritual influence they have (or lack of) on their children. A Godly home starts with dad and mom and filters down!

-Disciplining children

A common philosophy in the world today is that parents should try to be their child's friend, instead of being a parent. Children need their parents to act like parents, because they need disciplined. In most families the children control the parents. Parents have disregarded the Bible and don't know how to deal with their children. The world says that paddling your children is child abuse or mean, but God says something completely different:

Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.



What does betimes mean? _____

Think about it: What does it mean if a parent won't paddle their children?

Children are not born "good". They are born with a sin nature and will do foolish things unless they are stopped. God has given us the solution in dealing with their foolishness:

Job 5:7 Yet man is born unto _____, as the sparks fly upward.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the _____ shall drive it far from him.

Many parents will not paddle their children, because they are afraid they will hurt them. The point of paddling a child is so that it will hurt. When a child is properly disciplined, they will learn to do right, because they don't like the pain of the correction. While other forms of discipline may be effective, the rod of correction should be used when necessary.

Proverbs 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the _____, he shall not die.

Proverbs 23:14 Thou shalt beat him with the _____, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

It is important that the parents administer discipline in the correct way. You should never paddle your child when you are angry. When you are angry there is a danger of not being able to control your actions and you can injure your child. A good practice is to let some time pass, pray, then deal with disciplining your child.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, _____ not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.



What does provoke mean? _____

The father is the head of the home and responsible for setting and enforcing standards in the home, but this has to be done with a godly spirit. Demeaning speech and name calling are not a good approach when dealing with problems. Disciplining your child in wrath, instead of in love, can result in anger and discouragement in your child. It is important to explain to your child that you are disciplining them, because you love them and they need to do right. Undisciplined children think that they can do whatever they want, because they suffer no consequences for doing wrong. This is a dangerous thought process that can cause a lot of problems in their life.

Think about it: Why do so many parents think that paddling their child is wrong?

► God's directions on the relationship between children and their parents:

God's plan is for the children to be under the authority and guidance of their parents. Children need and respond to discipline. When children are disciplined the right way they will see that they are cared for and are more likely to listen to and follow their parents' direction.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, _____ your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 _____ thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

Many times the above verses are not followed by the children, because they see how their parents live their lives. A father or mother that does not obey God should not expect their children to obey them. A parent cannot expect their child to obey them and honour them, if they do not obey and honour God.

Think about it: What does it mean to honor someone? _____

God likens children to arrows (Psalm 127:4), make sure you aim them in the right direction!

When someone enters into a marriage, they automatically assume more responsibility. Their life changes and thoughts can no longer be just about themselves. This is a sobering thought and should cause us to seek God more through prayer. Many marriages and families have been destroyed, because God's people have not followed His plan for their family. Determine, as Joshua did (Joshua 24:15), that your house will serve the Lord!



GET GOING CHALLENGE:

-Wives: make a list of ways that you could be more submissive to your husband.

-Husbands: make a list of ways that you could more love your wife the way that Christ loves the church. If you are not praying with your wife, start praying together daily.

-Parents: make a plan for, and begin doing a daily family activity focused on teaching the word of God.

-Children- make a list of ways that you can honor your parents.

MEMORY VERSE:

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.