

Walking with God

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The need for water baptism

Lesson 1

A. Introduction

Read John 3:3

When we are brought into a relationship with God our Father through the blood of Jesus Christ, the Bible says we are "born again". Spiritually we are **new born babies**.

God the Father wants us to grow up now and to learn to walk with Him. In this book we will be discussing tools that God has given us to help us in this walk.

Illustration: Every parent is excited when his child takes his first step. The parent knows that the child will not learn to walk unless it takes those first steps. Our Father in heaven is even more excited when we, His children, begin to walk with Him. If we are to grow up to be strong, healthy Christians, we need to take the steps God has for us.

B. Jesus is our example – He was water baptized

Read Matthew 3:13-15

1. Jesus walked on the earth not only as the Son of God but also as the Son of Man. Everything Jesus did as a man, He did to be an example to us today to show us how we are to walk in the world.
2. Jesus insisted that He be baptized to "fulfil all righteousness". To be a thorough example to us of how we are to walk righteously, He needed to be baptized also.

The first reason we have for being baptized is that Jesus showed us by His example that we are to be baptized.

C. Jesus commanded us to be water baptized

Read Matthew 28:19

Jesus commanded His servants to do three things in this, His great commission to the church.

1. Make disciples.
2. Baptize them.
3. Teach them to obey.

Anyone, anywhere, who comes to Christ, needs to be baptized and to be taught to become a disciple of Christ.

D. We must obey

Read John 14:15

1. Going down into the waters of baptism may seem a bit strange as a first step.

God tests our commitment to Him. We have asked Him to be Lord – we say that we love Him – now will we obey this first command? People may laugh at us! Will we really forsake all and follow Him?

2. We will never grow in faith if we do not act upon His word and do the things that He commands us to do. James 2:17.

If we say that we believe in Jesus, then we should obey Him and take this step of faith and be water baptized.

E. The early church obeyed this command

1. God set a pattern for us today in the New Testament account of the early church.
2. Let us look at some examples of water baptism from the book of Acts.

- a) **Read Acts 2:38, 41.**

Three thousand people responded to Peter's challenge this first day of the church and they were baptized.

- b) **Read Acts 8:12.**

All the way through the book of Acts we see that when the people believed in Jesus, their next step was to be baptized.

- c) **Read Acts 8:38.**

This Ethiopian was one of the first men from Africa to respond to the Gospel, and he was baptized immediately.

- d) **Read Acts 10:47-48.**

These people had already been baptized with the Holy Spirit but Peter made sure they did not miss this important step of water baptism.

- e) **Read Acts 19:3-5.**

Paul also taught the importance of water baptism in Christ.

F. Identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus

Read Romans 6:1-14

1. There are two pictures of the work of the cross that Jesus commanded Christians to act out. One is water baptism. The other is communion.

God so desires that we know the power of what Jesus did on the cross, that He makes the truth real to our hearts by having us act it out.

2. When I repented of my sins and asked Jesus into my heart then my sinful nature was crucified with Christ and buried with Him. I rise to newness of life with sin no longer having power over me, verse 6.

3. Now, as a Christian, I need to "count" myself dead to sin by faith, verse 11. My flesh will try to tell me that it has dominion over me. The devil will try to tell me that my flesh is not dead but still has dominion over me. As I walk by faith that my carnal nature is crucified with Christ, I will walk a victorious Christian life.

Water baptism is a picture of this fact for me. As I go under the waters of baptism, I am identifying my spiritual death, burial and resurrection with Christ.

4. Water baptism brings life to my heart: "I am dead with Christ, I am buried with Christ and I am resurrected with Christ to a new life".

Memory Verse

Acts 2:38, *"Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".*

Teacher's Notes

Let us consider together some common questions concerning water baptism.

1. What are the requirements for baptism?

- a) Acts 2:38, "**Repent** and be baptized".
- b) Acts 8:37, "If you **believe** with all your heart".

Repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus go together and bring salvation. These are the only two requirements indicated in the Bible that are necessary before a person can be baptized. Acts 8:36-39. In the book of Acts we see people being baptized as soon as they had repented and believed in Jesus.

Because baptism is such an important step in our union with Christ – the identification in His death, burial and resurrection – baptism should come as soon as possible after salvation.

It is important, though, that the person receives teaching about baptism before they are baptized. Philip must have been teaching the Ethiopian man about water baptism in order for the Ethiopian to ask to be baptized. We also need to teach people about this important step after they accept Jesus.

2. How should we be water baptized?

The Bible does not give any details on how to baptize people; it simply states that people were baptized. The details of the ceremony have been left to us as the Holy Spirit guides.

We need to keep in mind that the main purpose of the act of baptism is to give the candidate a picture of his death, burial and resurrection with Christ.

3. Where should baptism take place?

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. Matthew 3:13-16. The Ethiopian eunuch was probably baptized in a pond. Acts 8:36-38.

Baptism can take place in a river, a dam, a pool, a pond, the ocean or a bathtub. The only biblical requirement is that there has to be enough water to show the picture of complete burial.

4. Does water baptism save us?

Mark 16:16, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned".

In the early church believing in Jesus and water baptism went together. However, it is not water baptism that saves us but rather believing in Jesus Christ. It is "whoever does not believe" that will be condemned, not "whoever is not baptized". Romans 10:9-10 makes it clear that our salvation is based on faith.

Luke 23:39-43. The man crucified with Christ was saved although he did not have time to be water baptized. This man was saved because he believed in Jesus and asked for his salvation. Many people like this man have accepted Jesus with their last breath and have been saved.

Water baptism is an outward act of obedience that seals the inward work of the cross to the believer's heart. Many are not baptized because of their circumstances or through lack of teaching. For those who can be water baptized and who have the understanding, water baptism will make their salvation more real to them here on earth.

5. Into whose name are we baptized?

Matthew 28:19, "Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

Acts 10:48, "Baptized in the name of Jesus Christ".

In His great commission to the church, Jesus said that the disciples should baptize people in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Yet, in the new church, we see them baptizing people in the name of Jesus Christ. Were the disciples disobeying Jesus' command?

In Colossians 2:9 we are told that all the deity – that is Father, Son and Holy Spirit – dwells in Christ. When we accept Jesus into our hearts, we have the Father, Son and Holy Spirit dwelling in us. Therefore, we can be baptized into Christ or into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The result is the same.

Notice that we are baptized **into** His name. That means that we do not belong to ourselves any longer. We are in Him and now belong to Him. Baptism is a declaration, or a confession, that Jesus is Lord of our lives. We are no longer in control. We are in Him and belong to Him.

Holy Communion

Lesson 2

This Lesson was compiled by Erling Rasmussen and added to this book in January 2010.

A. Introduction

Holy Communion is a 5000 year old meal – but is still celebrated by millions of people all over the world

But

1. Often as an empty religious ritual.
2. A duty we quickly get over with during our service.

But!! ...

B. A powerful action

1. **A sacrament** = “is a holy action with deep spiritual meaning”.

Why these dramatic actions? Because when we hear it – see it – touch it – taste it – we will never forget it!

2. **We only have two sacraments.**

Baptism and Holy Communion. These two holy actions demonstrate very important truths we must never forget:

- a) “I am dead with Christ and raised to a brand new life”. (Baptism)
- b) “The finished work of Christ on the Cross”. (Communion)

3. **Jesus said:** “I have eagerly desired to eat this meal with you”. Luke 22:15.

4. **The early church was very keen:** they did it daily. Acts 2:46.

5. **Paul warns:** “If this is done incorrectly, people can get weak, sick and even die”.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:27

- a) That is not weakness, or failure, or lack of ability to pray and meditate on the Lord’s death.
- b) However, it refers to what will happen if you cause strife, division or disunity in the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:17-22 and 29. “If you eat and drink without considering the Body of Christ”.

- c) If, however, this is done with the right attitude of faith and repentance it has the equally powerful effect of strength, healing and life.

C. An action of remembrance

“Do this in remembrance of Me”.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

1. In this **“action”** we, by faith, partake of all that Jesus did on the cross. 1 Corinthians 10:16-18.
2. As we by faith “take it ... eat and drink it” – we can by grace receive the following from the fountain of Calvary: **redemption – deliverance – healing – victory**.
3. **“In the remembrance of Jesus”** – not just dying on the cross, but also **risen from the dead, sitting on the throne**, praying for us.
4. **Remember, “You died with Him; you are crucified with Christ”**. Galatians 2:20. “For we know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin”. Romans 6:6.

D. A powerful proclamation

“You proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes”.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:26

1. **The three most powerful words that have ever been spoken on planet earth!**
... **“It is finished”** ... We cannot fully comprehend what happened at that moment.
2. **This victory cry rang right throughout the kingdom of darkness.**
What the evil forces thought was their greatest victory: **“Jesus Dead”** (even Satan himself entered Judas – he would not leave this to a demon) ... but ... suddenly it backfired straight at him. 1 Corinthians 2:8.
 - a) All his terrible weapons were suddenly rendered useless.
 - b) He was disarmed ... humiliated ... triumphed over! **By the Name and the Blood of Jesus he is rendered totally powerless.** Colossians 2:14.
3. **This victory cry also rang right throughout all of heaven.**
 - a) Perhaps there was silence in Heaven when Jesus died on the cross? ... But then all heaven broke forth in a mighty **HALLELUJAH!**
 - b) The power of God split the veil in two in the Most Holy Place ... Now, there is free access to God.

4. We are called to proclaim and partake in this great victory by faith.

- a) When you do this (Communion), you proclaim the finished work over your life.
- b) When you do this, you can proclaim with great joy: “All my chains are broken”.
- c) When you do this, you proclaim: “Thank you Jesus for dying for me”.
- d) When you do this, you proclaim to Satan: “I am free to live in His victory”.
- e) When you do this, you proclaim the return of Jesus Christ.

E. It is a covenant meal

“This cup is the new covenant in My Blood”.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:25

1. The blood covenant.

When two tribes or persons made a blood covenant with each other it was a serious ritual: a representative from each tribe would walk between animals killed and cut in half. They would mix their blood and share gifts.

- a) It was the most binding agreement, and one which could never be broken – they would count themselves as one.
- b) Each person would say: “All I have is yours ... I will lay down my life for you”.
- c) It would be done by two equal groups or persons, which meant it carried an equal responsibility.

2. But God, in Christ, through His great mercy did it all.

- a) Jesus Christ the Son of God – true God – God’s representative.
Jesus Christ the Son of man – true man – Man’s representative.
He walked through for God and man. He was nailed to the cross between heaven and earth.
- b) He hands you the cup and says: “Take this and drink, this is My covenant with you”. All He expects from you is to receive by faith and fully commit your life to Him.

3. God actually says to us:

- a) “I lay down My life for you ... all that I have is yours”.
- b) I will bless you, defend you, and bring you through”.

Romans 8:31, “What shall we say to this, if God is for us who can be against us, He did not spare His own Son”.

4. This is the constant reminder of God’s Blood Covenant with us.

- a) Revelation 5:9, “By His blood He purchased us for God”.
- b) This is your “receipt” which you can lift up in the face of your “slave-driver” and say ... “the price is paid for my freedom!”
- c) Hebrews 10:14, “By one offering He has perfected forever those who are sanctified”.
God sees the finished result through the Blood – You are perfect in Christ!

F. Jesus is our Advocate with the Father

Read 1 John 2:2

1. “He is the atonement for our sin”.

Past – Present – and Future!

2. By the Blood the door is open into the presence of God.

- a) Hebrews 10:19, “By the Blood we have confidence to enter into the presence of God”.
- b) Revelation 5:9-10, “By the Blood we will become Kings and Priests to our God”.
What a wonderful result of the covenant He made with us!

3. When you eat and drink of this Covenant meal you actually say to Him:

- a) “Jesus I love you, I lay down my life for you”.
- b) “All that I am, and all that I have is Yours”.

4. He says to you, all that I won for you on the Cross is freely available.

Salvation – Restoration – Healing – Deliverance – Anointing – everything!!!

Memory verse

1 Corinthians 11:25, “*Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me!*”

The importance of prayer

Lesson 3

A. Introduction

Read Revelation 5:8 and 8:3-4

1. Our salvation begins with prayer. We have to call upon the Lord in prayer in order to be saved. **Read Romans 10:13.**
2. Of course prayer does not stop there. To keep walking with God, we need to keep talking to Him in prayer.
3. God hears every prayer from His people. It does not matter how insignificant the prayer may be. It is precious to Him. All prayers rise like a sweet smelling perfume to God's nostrils and bring God great joy.

B. Prayer deepens our relationship with God

Read 1 John 3:1

1. God created man to have a relationship with Himself. We read how Adam and God talked together like two friends who enjoy each other's company. Genesis 3:8.

Illustration: A man and his son enjoyed a close relationship. One day they had a disagreement and their close fellowship was broken. They did not talk to one another for a long time. However, the father soon forgave the son and desired to restore the relationship. The son, on the other hand, was very bitter and refused to talk to his father. Although they lived in the same house and were father and son, there was no relationship. This greatly grieved the father's heart.

2. Sin broke man's relationship with God but the blood of Jesus restored that relationship. We are God's children. God the Father will not force us to relate to Him, but He is longing for us to get to know Him and to develop a close relationship with Him.
3. If two people are friends but they never spend time with each other and talk together, they will not get to know each other. If one person does all the talking but never listens to the other person or gives him a chance to talk, they will not have a close relationship.

Prayer is simply talking to God and it is also listening to God. In this way we will get to know God and develop a close relationship with Him.

C. Prayer establishes God's lordship in our lives

Read Luke 9:23

When we come to Jesus, we ask Him to be Lord of our lives. This means that we are not in charge anymore, but that God is now the boss.

As we come to God in prayer each day:

1. We are surrendering to His Lordship and to His Will.
2. We are asking Him to take control of our lives and to guide us. As we submit to Him in prayer, God can give us direction. John 10:27. He can show us where He wants us to go and what He wants us to do.
3. He can convict us about some area in our life that He wants to change.

D. Prayer releases His power in our lives

Read John 16:23-24

1. God has promised to meet all of our needs. Philippians 4:19. Like a loving father, He desires to meet all our needs and only waits for us to ask Him. Matthew 7:7-11. Prayer releases His power for whatever need we may have.
2. God says that if we ask we **will** receive. Our needs will be met if we pray.

E. Prayer releases God's power in the world

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14

1. We know that God wants to heal the land. We also know that God is all-powerful. He rules in the earth and is able to do anything He desires. Jeremiah 32:17-27.
2. But God has limited what He will do in the earth to the prayers of His people. He has given us the privilege of working together with Him and seeing His will done in the earth as we pray.
3. God does not want us to pray just for our own needs, but also to pray for His will to be done in others.

Memory Verse

John 16:24, *“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete”.*

Teacher's Notes

A. If we pray, God has promised to meet all our needs:

1. Our daily physical needs. Matthew 6:11.
2. Physical and emotional strength. 1 Chronicles 16:11, Isaiah 40:28-31.
3. Power to serve God. Acts 4:31.
4. Power to resist temptation. Matthew 26:41.
5. Deliverance from trouble. Psalm 34:17, 91:15.
6. Understanding and wisdom. Proverbs 2:3-5, James 1:5.
7. Deliverance from Satan's stronghold. Mark 9:29.

B. Read the following verses and see some of the things God wants us to pray for, beyond our own needs.

1. Prayer for our land. 2 Chronicles 7:14, Ezekiel 22:30.
2. Prayer for the government. 1 Timothy 2:1-3.
3. Prayer for nations. Psalm 2:8.
4. Prayer for the church. Ephesians 6:18.
5. Prayer for ministries. Ephesians 6:19-20.
6. Prayer for each other. James 5:16.
7. Prayer for the lost. 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

Our attitude in prayer

Lesson 4

God has given us some keys in His Word to make our prayers more effective.

A. Pray in faith

Read Mark 11:24

1. Faith is being sure of something before we see it.

We should be very clear about what we are asking for. Then we need to exercise faith and believe that we have already received what we have asked for, even though it cannot be seen with our natural eyes.

God says that if we pray with this kind of faith then, in time, we will have whatever we asked for.

Illustration: A pregnant woman knows that she has a baby even though it is not in her arms. It takes nine months for the baby to be seen but she does not doubt it is there. In the same way, we will give birth to the things that have been conceived by faith in us.

2. We should never give up no matter how difficult our circumstances, or how impossible the thing we are asking God for seems. We should keep on trusting God, praying in faith. Luke 18:1-8.

B. Watch out for hindrances

1. Idolatry.

Read Ezekiel 14:3-6

- a) We cannot serve both God and Satan. God is a jealous God.
- b) If we want God to answer our prayers, we have to get rid of all idols and everything to do with witchcraft.

2. Sin.

Read Psalm 66:18

- a) We must be quick to repent of any sin.
- b) Satan fears the power of prayer and so he will try to entangle us in anything that hinders prayer.

Illustration: A man wondered why his prayers were not being answered. One day he asked God, and God reminded him of the things he had been stealing from work. The man asked God to forgive him, and quickly returned the items that were taken. After that, God blessed his time of prayer and answered his requests.

C. In agreement

Read Matthew 18:19

1. Satan knows the power that results from God's people being united in prayer.
2. Satan will do anything to break up the harmony of God's people.
3. We must resist him and stand together in agreement in prayer.

D. In His will

Read 1 John 5:14-15

1. God is the most important person to be in agreement with.
2. He is Lord of our lives.
3. We should wait upon God and ask Him what He wants us to believe for.
4. Now we can pray according to His will.

E. In the Spirit

Read Ephesians 6:18

1. We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit on our prayer.
2. Notice that this is one of our weapons of warfare against the enemy.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to release His power in our prayers.
4. The Holy Spirit will anoint us to pray according to God's will. Romans 8:26-27.

F. In His Word

Read John 15:7

1. God promises that we can ask whatever we wish and it will be given to us, but notice that there is a condition to this promise: We must remain in Him and His Word must remain in us.

God's Word remains in us as we:

- a) Study the Word.
 - b) Memorize the Word.
 - c) Meditate on the Word.
 - d) Put the Word into practice.
2. Faith comes as we meditate on God's Word and keep His Word in our hearts and pray according to His promises.

G. In His name

Read John 14:13

1. We pray **to** the Father **in** Jesus' name **by** the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. To pray in His name is not just saying some words but it means that we come in the authority of Jesus.

Illustration: The traffic policeman can stop a long line of cars and trucks even though he is very small in size compared to the size of the vehicles. He can do it because he stands in the name, or the authority, of the government of the land.

We will pray with authority when we realize the authority that has been given to us in Jesus' name.

Memory Verse

Mark 11:24, *"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours"*.

Teacher's Notes

How should we pray?

Isaiah 56:7

The church would be known for its praying.

Matthew 6:6

We need to pray alone at a set time and place. Here we communicate with God, separated from others.

Matthew 18:19-20

We need to pray together with believers in small groups.

Acts 1:14, 12:12

The church should come together as a large gathering to seek God in prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

We are encouraged to pray at all times.

As we are walking through the day or night, we can be talking to God quietly in our own hearts, or out loud when no one is around.

Praying may take different positions and forms as we are being led by the Holy Spirit; sometimes kneeling, sometimes standing, sometimes shouting or sometimes being quiet. God is not as concerned with the outward position and form of praying, as He is with the heart of the prayer. We should be sure that we are not just going through a religious exercise. We should be communicating with God from our hearts.

Proverbs 21:2 "All a man's ways seem right to him but the Lord weighs the heart".

Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart".

Right now take the time to ask God to examine your heart and anoint you to pray more effectively.

The importance of the Bible

Lesson 5

A. Introduction

Read 2 Timothy 3:16

1. Although men wrote the Bible with their own hands, the Bible is not man speaking; it is God speaking.
2. God has revealed His plan for our lives in the Bible.

The Bible is like a map for our lives, guiding us in the way we should go. To walk with God, we need to be studying His map each day.

B. Listen to the Word

Read Ephesians 4:11-12

Notice that one of the ministries God has given to the church is that of teacher.

What does it say in verse twelve that the ministries are to do? These teachers are to prepare God's people for works of service. We need to take every opportunity we can to receive the teaching and preaching of God's Word, in order to be equipped to do God's work.

C. Read the Word daily

Read Matthew 4:4

1. If we do not eat food each day, we will soon become weak. We will also become weak spiritually if we do not "eat" the Word each day by reading it. The Word will strengthen and satisfy us.
2. To grow up a baby needs to begin to feed itself. If we are to grow strong in Christ, we need to read the Word daily ... and plenty of it.
3. If we read only a few lines of God's Word, we may misunderstand something about our Father in heaven and our relationship with Him.

Illustration: One boy said to another boy, "Your dad is a cruel man who stabs people with a knife". The second boy said, "That is not true. I know my dad; he loves people and I know that he would only cut people if he knew it would help them". You see, the boy's father was a surgeon. The first boy was right when he said the father was cutting people, but he did not have a complete understanding of the father's purpose.

4. It is very important that we read the whole Bible. A good idea to get through the whole Bible in about a year is to daily read a chapter from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a chapter from the Gospels and a chapter from the rest of the New Testament.

In this way, we will not miss any of His Word and we will have a balanced

understanding of His truths.

5. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you read. Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit would lead us into all truth. John 16:13.

D. Study the Word

Read Matthew 22:29

1. It is important to know what we believe. The enemy leads many Christians astray because they do not have a proper understanding of God's Word.
2. As we read God's Word, the Holy Spirit will show us different truths that we need to study.

As we study in other parts of the Bible what God is saying about these truths, we will have a more complete understanding.

3. There are many good books that we can buy which will aid us in our study of the Bible.

E. Memorize the Word

Read Proverbs 7:1-3

1. We store up God's words within us by memorizing them.
2. As we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit will show us verses that we need to memorize. Then we will have these words with us at all times.

Remember the Bible is a road map for us. With God's Word stored up in us we will be kept on the right course.

F. Meditate on the Word

Read Psalm 1:1-3

1. God has wonderful promises for His people if they will not only read the Word but also meditate on it.

To meditate is to read a certain portion of scripture again and again – to ponder on it – to think about it – to pray it – until the truths of it are really settled in our heart.

2. Memorizing verses and passages enables us to meditate on them anytime, day or night. Then we will be like a tree planted by a stream of water always receiving life and bearing much fruit.

G. Share the Word

Read Matthew 28:20

1. We should take every opportunity to share with others the things God has revealed to us from His Word.

Perhaps we are not called to be in leadership in God's church or to speak before a crowd of people, but we can share with others; one or two at a time. In this way we will help each other grow in Christ.

2. Jesus said that according to the measure we give we would receive back, and more. Luke 6:38. As we share God's truths, we will receive even more from Him.

H. Walk in the Word

Read John 13:17

1. God has promised to bless those who will put His Word into practice.

As we read and study His Word, we can get caught up in the glory of God's revelations. We can get excited about telling others what the Word says.

But we should remember that the most important thing we need to do with God's Word is to apply it to our own lives.

2. To love God is to walk in His Word, doing the things that are pleasing to Him.

Memory Verse

Psalm 119:11, *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you".*

Teacher's Notes

A. Notice other scriptures that compare the Bible to food

1 Peter 2:2-3 – milk; Deuteronomy 8:3 – bread; Hebrews 5:14 – meat; Psalm 119:103 – honey.

Read Exodus 16:20

The Israelites had to gather manna each day in the wilderness. Yesterday's manna would go stale. We need to feed upon God's Word daily so that we will have fresh food from Him.

B. More thoughts on obedience to the Word

Read Luke 6:46-49

Verse 46. God wants us to surrender to His lordship; not just calling Him Lord with our lips.

Verse 47. We must do three things to build our lives on a solid foundation:

1. Come to Christ
2. Hear His Word
3. Put His Word into practice

John 14:21 – God promises to reveal Himself to those who obey His Word.

John 7:17 – We need to put God's Word into practice if we want spiritual understanding.

Time alone with God

Lesson 6

A. Introduction

We have considered the importance of praying and reading the Word. Let us now look at how we can make a plan to spend time seeking God in prayer and in His Word each day.

B. Establish a routine

1. Have a set place.

Read Matthew 6:6

We should find a quiet place where we can be alone with God. If our circumstances do not allow us a place alone with God indoors, we have to make a plan – even if it means meeting with God outside.

2. Have a set time.

Read Ephesians 5:15-16

- a) Our good intentions for time with God can be quickly lost in the many demands of the day, but we need to make praying and reading God's Word a daily habit and priority.

Illustration: In Daniel 6:10 we are told that Daniel made a habit of praying at three set times during each day. Daniel, as one of the rulers of the large Babylonian Empire, knew that if he did not set aside time for God each day then the many concerns of the day would keep him from this, his most important task.

- b) If an hour sounds like too much time, then start with ten minutes in the morning and ten at night until it becomes a habit in your life.

You will quickly find that ten minutes is not enough time, and you can slowly increase that time until one hour will seem too short a time to spend in fellowship with God.

- c) Remember to keep in touch with God all through the day, not only at your set times of prayer.

C. Things to include

1. Start with praise and worship.

Read Psalm 100:4

Praise and worship is important in order to enter into intimate fellowship with God.

2. **Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.**

Read Romans 8:26

Invite Him to anoint you and guide you in this time and throughout the day.

3. **Die to your own desires.**

Read Isaiah 55:8

We need to die to our own desires, laying them at the foot of the cross. God's ways are higher than our ways. Ask God to put His desires in your heart, so that you might pray, "Your will be done".

4. **Repent.**

Read Psalm 66:18

We need to repent of any sin. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of anything in your heart that may be blocking your communion with God.

5. **Listen.**

Read John 10:27

Every person who has accepted Christ as his Saviour is one of God's sheep. Our Shepherd has promised to speak with us.

Remember, conversation is two ways. Part of our prayer is talking to God, but we should not monopolise the conversation. Give God time to speak also, and listen to Him.

6. **Pray for personal needs.**

Read Matthew 6:11

Notice that God wants us to ask Him for our needs each day. Talk to God in prayer about the different things you need and are concerned about.

7. **Intercede for others.**

Read Ephesians 6:18

Our time alone with God is not only a time to pray for our own needs. It is also a time to intercede for the needs of others.

8. **Read the Bible.**

Read Psalm 119:169

Take time to receive your daily spiritual food from God's Word.

9. **Give thanks.**

Read Luke 17:11-19

Only one of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus returned to thank Jesus, and the Lord commended him. We have much to be thankful for.

D. Have a plan

Read Proverbs 21:5

1. Prayer.

- a) It is useful to have a plan for praying, otherwise our minds will wander and we will not use this valuable time as productively as we should.
- b) Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to make a list of the different concerns that you should pray for: e.g. nations, governments, ministries, family, missionaries, etc.
- c) Each day, as you pray through the list, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to pray for each item. For example, missionaries: What missionary should you pray for? How should you pray for that missionary?

Keep open to the Holy Spirit. Perhaps one day you will have a special burden to pray for just one or two things on the list. You may also be led to pray for things not on the list.

- d) Another helpful plan is to pray through your daily list and then also plan to give special time to different things on different days. For example: Mondays: pray for the nations; Tuesdays: for family members; ...

Be open to changing the plan. Be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The plan should not bind you but simply help to make the prayer time more productive.

2. The Bible.

- a) It is also useful to have a plan for studying the Bible each day. There are many different plans available to take us through the whole Bible and we should adopt one of these plans.
- b) Many think that it is an impossible task to read the whole Bible. However, if you read three chapters a day and five chapters on Sunday, you will read the whole Bible in a year.
- c) Keep open to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit may lead you to a portion of scripture out of your planned reading or may stop you on a particular passage, and your time will be taken up meditating on a certain verse.

The plan is not there to bind us but to help us read through the whole Bible.

Memory Verse

Proverbs 21:5, *"The plans of the diligent lead to profit".*

Teacher's Notes

Read 1 Timothy 4:12

1. As leaders we are called to set an example for the flock.
2. We know that we will reproduce what we are, rather than what we say.
3. The most important area that we can be an example in is in the area of disciplined daily prayer and study of the Word.
4. As others catch this disciplined prayer lifestyle from us, they will find the source of a victorious Christian walk.

You and the local church

Lesson 7

A. Introduction

Read Hebrews 10:25

In our walk with God, we are not called to walk alone. God wants us to be a part of a local church where we can fellowship and work together with other Christians.

Illustration: A coal that falls from the fire goes out quickly, but a coal that remains with the other coals keeps burning.

We will keep burning for Jesus as we keep meeting together.

B. Jesus meets us there

Read Matthew 18:20

Jesus is not only with us when we meet together as the church. We know that Jesus is with us everywhere we go. However, Christ has promised to meet with us in a special way as we gather together.

C. To receive teaching

Read Acts 2:42a, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...."

Shepherds make sure that the sheep receive the right kind of food. In the local church we will receive good teaching that will feed us and make us strong.

D. To love and encourage one another

Read Acts 2:42b, ".... and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer".

The early church came together in love – caring for and encouraging each other. We are also to join together in prayer and the Lord's Supper as Jesus commanded us to do.

E. God's power is released

Read Acts 2:43

When we join together as His body, God's power is released in a special way. This power brings healing and deliverance to God's people and, through His people, power to touch the world.

F. Needs are met

Read Acts 2:45

1. The love and concern the early church had for each other was practical. They helped each other so that no one in the body was hungry or had any other material need.
2. This concern for one another had a tremendous impact on the world. The love we have for each other should distinguish us as God's people in the world. John 13:34-35.

G. Meet together often

Read Acts 2:46

We are the body of Christ. For Christ to do in the earth through His body what He desires, we should be committed to one another and meet together as much as possible through the week.

H. To praise and worship

Read Acts 2:47a, "With glad and sincere hearts, praising God".

God desires that we join together as His body in praise and worship to Him. In this way, as we are joined together, we bless Him; and He also ministers to us.

I. To reach the lost together

Read Acts 2:47b, "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved".

As we unite and work together, we will be more effective in reaching out and bringing people to salvation in Jesus.

Illustration: One man fishing alone with a line can catch a few fish. However, a group of men working together with a large net can take a large harvest of fish.

Working together we can take a large catch of human souls. Mark 1:17.

J. To receive ministry

Read Ephesians 4:11

God wants to use different ministries within His church to help each member in their walk with the Lord. We need to meet together to receive this ministry.

K. To mature in our ministry

Read Ephesians 4:12, "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...."

1. It is not only the leaders of the church who are called to do the work of the Lord. Every person in the body of Christ has their part to play.
2. As each member receives ministry, they will mature in the work God wants them to do. In this way, the church will be healthy and equipped to complete the task God has called it to.

L. For protection

Read Hebrews 13:17 and Acts 20:28-31

1. Those who are called to be leaders in God's church have been given a great responsibility – to nurture, equip and protect the body of Christ.
2. The sheep that wander off on their own will be destroyed by the wolf. The sheep that keep together, submitting to the leadership of their shepherd, will be protected.

Memory Verse

Romans 12:10, *"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves".*

Teacher's Notes

The church is called "the body of Christ"

Read Ephesians 1:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

1. Each Christian makes up a different part of Christ's body on earth.
2. Each part is equally important if the body is to function properly.
3. For the body to be effective, each part must be joined together. If the hand separates itself from the body, the body will not be as effective and neither will the hand.
4. Different local churches that have Jesus as their head make up the collective body in any area.
5. The church in any area needs to see itself as a part of the body and work together with the whole body to see God's work done.

The church is also called:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. A family | – | Ephesians 3:14-15; Galatians 6:10. |
| 2. A temple | – | Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5. |
| 3. A holy priesthood | – | 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6. |
| 4. The bride of Christ | – | 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7. |
| 5. A golden lamp stand | – | Revelation 1:12, 20; Matthew 5:14, 16. |

Consider how each of these names affects how the members of the church should act.

Tell others the good news

Lesson 8

A. Introduction

Read Mark 16:15

God has a purpose for us in our walking with Him, talking with Him and in getting to know Him better. One of the things He wants us to do is to go and tell the people who do not know Him the good news and lead them to salvation in Christ.

B. God has called us

Read John 20:21

1. God has proven that He loves the world by sending His only Son to die for the world. John 3:16. He loves all the people of this world the same and does not want to see them go to hell.
2. Jesus came to the earth to save the lost. Luke 19:10. With God's heart of love, Jesus walked on the earth telling people the good news of salvation.
3. Christ has called us to this same ministry. His body can take the good news to every part of the earth and to every person. Each of us will come into contact with some unbelievers that no other members of the body will have contact with.

Like a fisherman who is concerned about catching fish, Christians are to be concerned about catching these lost souls for Christ. Matthew 4:19.

C. Christ has given us power

Read Acts 1:8

1. Many times the task of reaching the lost seems too difficult and overwhelming. We may feel that we are not gifted or not clever enough to speak about Christ.
2. We need to realize that God has given us the power of the Holy Spirit for this purpose. As we step out in faith to speak to people, God will release His power and enable us to be effective witnesses for Him.

Illustration: A teenage girl in Zaire accepted Christ. She longed to tell her friends that Christ could set them free also but she felt shy and inadequate. She prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to help her. As she started to tell her friends about Christ, she found boldness to speak and ability beyond her own to tell the good news. She even found scriptures coming to mind that she had not thought of before and wisdom to answer questions.

This has been the testimony of many Christians who are willing to trust God and just step out in faith, telling others the good news.

D. We need to go where the lost are

Read Luke 15:3-4

1. A fisherman would not be a fisherman if he never went where the fish are. Many Christians do not want to be with non-Christians or go where sinners gather.
2. Just like Jesus, who was accused of "eating with sinners", we need to reach out to the lost. Matthew 9:11.

While it is important for Christians to meet together as the church – the body of believers – God has given us another task to do. We need to be careful not to neglect this task of fishing for souls.

E. Tell the good news

Read Romans 10:13-15

Many Christians talk about sin and what the devil is doing and neglect to talk about the good news.

We should rather tell people the good news of what God has done for them. This good news will give them a desire to know Him.

F. Testify to what Jesus has done for you

Read John 15:27

1. We are not called to argue, we are called to testify.
2. A blind man whom Jesus healed was tired of arguing about Jesus. All he finally said was, "One thing I do know – I was blind but now I see". John 9:25. It is hard to argue with that!

You can help others believe the good news by telling them what Jesus has done for you personally.

G. Share the Word

Read Acts 8:4

1. Find scriptures from the Bible that explain the way of salvation.
2. Learn these scriptures and share them as you witness to the unsaved. It is the truth that will set men free. John 8:32. Faith will be imparted as people hear the Word. Romans 10:17.

H. Bring them to Jesus

Read John 1:41-42

1. Jesus is the one whom people need to know in order to be saved. Jesus is the one who saves. We must make Jesus the focus of what we tell those we witness to.
2. Many people are incorrectly led to follow a doctrine, a church, an individual or a formula. Let's be sure we lead people into a relationship with Jesus. John 12:32.

I. Make disciples

Read Matthew 28:19-20

1. Jesus has called us to make disciples not converts. A disciple is a follower of Jesus.
After we introduce a person to Jesus we have to help them learn to follow Jesus.
2. The Bible says that Satan will try to rob the word that has been planted in the person's heart. We should help the new convert to grow strong in Christ and learn to resist the enemy's attack.

J. Our lifestyle a witness

Read Matthew 5:16

1. The action we take speaks louder than what we say. In all we say and do, we need to be a witness of Jesus.
2. Seeing Christ living through our lives will draw people to God.

Memory Verse

Matthew 4:19, *"Come, follow me", Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men".*

Teacher's Notes

Consider the state of man without Christ:

People without Christ

1. Slaves to sin.
Ephesians 2:1; Romans 6:16.
2. Separated from God.
Ephesians 4:18; Isaiah 59:2.
3. Objects of wrath.
Ephesians 2:3; Ephesians 5:6.
4. Under Satan's power.
John 10:10; Acts 26:18.
5. Destined for hell.
Revelation 20:15; Matthew 3:12.

People in Christ

1. Freed from sin's power.
Romans 6:6, 18; Romans 8:2.
2. United with God.
Ephesians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 13:5.
3. Objects of grace.
Romans 5:9; John 1:16-17.
4. Have authority over Satan.
Luke 10:18-19; James 4:7.
5. Destined for heaven.
Matthew 13:40-43; Revelation 7:9.

When we consider the sinner's state, the love of God compels us to tell him the way of salvation.

Leading others to Christ

Lesson 9

A. Introduction

1. There are different ways to share the Gospel.
2. The Gospel is very simple, so be sure you do not make it sound too complicated. Present the Gospel in a way that you are comfortable with and learn some scriptures to back up your statements.

B. The basic Gospel

Your presentation of the Gospel should include the following basic facts:

1. **God loves you.**

Read John 3:16

The good news is that God loves everyone in this world the same, and desires to have a relationship with every one of them so much, that He sent His own Son to die for them.

2. **All have sinned and are separated from God.**

Read Romans 3:23

Because we are all descendants from Adam, we are all born in sin, which has separated us from a love relationship with God, who is holy.

3. **We cannot save ourselves.**

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

Many people think that by going to church or living a good life they can get right with God, but the Bible is clear that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves.

4. **Only the blood of Jesus saves us.**

Read Ephesians 2:13

It is only the blood of Jesus that can cleanse us from our sin. The blood removes that barrier between us and God, and so enables us to enjoy God's love.

5. **We need to receive Jesus.**

Read John 1:12

The blood will not benefit us unless we receive its cleansing power. We must ask Jesus into our life.

C. How to receive Him

Ask the person you are sharing the gospel with if they want to receive Jesus. If they say, "yes", lead them in a prayer that includes these three requests:

1. **Ask Jesus to forgive you and to wash away your sins.**

Read 1 John 1:8-9

Repent of your sins and ask Jesus to forgive you. By faith, receive the cleansing by His blood according to His Word.

2. **Ask Jesus to come into your heart.**

Read Revelation 3:20

Jesus has promised to live inside of us if we invite Him to. Ask Jesus now, by faith, to come into your heart.

3. **Ask Jesus to be Lord of your life.**

Read Romans 10:9-10

Surrender your life to Christ and ask Him to take control of every area of your life. Ask Him to be Lord of your life.

D. What to do now

In Mark 4:15, we see that the enemy is trying to rob the Word from the believer's heart.

We need to take time to help the new believer get the Word of God into his heart where it will bear fruit.

1. **Help the new convert know that:**

- a) Jesus lives inside him now. Revelation 3:20.
- b) He has been forgiven and all his sins have been washed away. 1 John 1:9.
- c) He has become a child of God. John 1:12.
- d) He has become a new person. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- e) He has eternal life. John 6:47.
- f) He has power to resist Satan. James 4:7.
- g) He can trust God to guide him. Proverbs 3:5-6.

2. **Teach him to follow Jesus by:**

- a) Reading the Word daily. Matthew 4:4.
- b) Praying every day. John 16:23-24.
- c) Sharing Christ with others. Mark 16:15.
- d) Attending church regularly. 1 Corinthians 12:27.

- e) Allowing Jesus to be Lord. John 14:15.
- f) Being baptized in water. Matthew 28:19.
- g) Being filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38-39.

Illustration: It would be cruel for a mother to leave her newborn child out in the cold, alone and helpless. This is what we often do with newborn babes in Christ.

We need to keep in contact with the new babes in Christ if possible. Pray for them, encourage them and see that they get good spiritual food. Help them until they are old enough to stand on their own.

Memory Verse

Romans 10:13, *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"*.

Teacher's Notes

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you, this week, to someone with whom you can share the Gospel.
2. Begin to memorize scriptures that present the Gospel: e.g. John 3:16; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 2:13; and John 1:12.
3. Tell people the good things God has done and is doing in your life.
4. **Lead someone to Christ.**