

THE 2:7 SERIES
COURSE 3

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TMS VERSES 121

Completion Record

Ask others in your study group to check you on your completion of the requirements in this course and have them initial and date each section.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	Initial	Date
<i>Be Christ's Disciple</i> , TMS C 1-12, memory verses:		
"Put Christ First"—Matthew 6:33		
"Put Christ First"—Luke 9:23		
"Separate from the World"—1 John 2:15-16		
"Separate from the World"—Romans 12:2		
"Be Steadfast"—1 Corinthians 15:58		
"Be Steadfast"—Hebrews 12:3		
"Serve Others"—Mark 10:45		
"Serve Others"—2 Corinthians 4:5		
"Give Generously"—Proverbs 3:9-10		
"Give Generously"—2 Corinthians 9:6-7		
"Develop World Vision"—Acts 1:8		
"Develop World Vision"—Matthew 28:19-20		
Quoted all of <i>Be Christ's Disciple</i> , C 1-12.		
Reviewed all of <i>Proclaim Christ</i> , B 1-12, for seven consecutive days.		
Reviewed all of <i>Live the New Life</i> , A 1-12, for seven consecutive days.		
Completed "Self-checking Quiz" on page 35.		

QUIET TIME

Completed Bible Reading Highlights Record for fourteen consecutive days.		
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BIBLE STUDY

Session 3—"The Ministering Disciple"		
Session 4—"Managing Your Resources"		
Session 5—"How to Use a Five-point Application"		
"Co-Laboring with God and Others"		
Session 7—"The Authority and Sufficiency of Christ"		
Session 9—"World Vision"		

EVANGELISM

Completed Activities Record for two people.		
Completed at least one activity with two different people on your Evangelism Prayer List.		

Updated Evangelism Prayer List for five to ten people.		
Gave testimony or <i>The Bridge Illustration</i> to a non-Christian and reported the results to the class.		
Role-played <i>The Bridge Illustration</i> to another class member.		
Read “Influencing Your Relatives for Christ” (pages 60-64).		
Studied “Handling Questions Non-Christians Ask” (pages 77-81).		

BIBLE STUDY LEADING

Studied “How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group— Part 1” (pages 10-15).		
Studied “How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group— Part 2” (pages 22-27).		
Studied “How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group— Part 3” (pages 36-39).		
Prepared six understanding questions on “The Authority and Sufficiency of Christ” (pages 65-69).		
Led at least one Bible study.		

OTHER

Studied <i>Born to Reproduce</i> (pages 41-48).		
Studied <i>Christlikeness</i> (pages 70-77).		
Spent a half day in prayer.		

Session 1

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Discuss “Review the Goals of Course 2” (page 7).
2. Preview Course 3 by looking over the Completion Record (pages 5-6).
3. Survey the “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week One” (page 8).
4. Read “The *Topical Memory System* in This Course” (page 8).
5. Read and discuss “Scripture Memory Review Techniques” (page 8).
6. Discuss “The Ministering Disciple” (page 10).
7. Discuss “How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group—Part 1” (pages 10-15).
8. Select Bible study leaders for the course.
9. Read the “Assignment for Session 2” (pages 15-16).
10. Pray.

Review the Goals of Course 2

The goals of Course 2 were

1. To experience a more consistent and meaningful quiet time by
 - a. Combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer.
 - b. Succeeding in having fourteen consecutive quiet times during the course.
 - c. Recording daily quiet time thoughts and how they impressed you on a Bible Reading Highlights Record.
 - d. Growing in your ability to share key quiet time thoughts with others in the group during the course.
2. To quote accurately the twelve passages of *Proclaim Christ*.
3. To maintain the twelve *Live the New Life* passages and the five *Beginning with Christ* passages.
4. To give *The Bridge Illustration* effectively to a classmate and to someone outside the 2:7 group.
5. To learn the basic principles for setting and fulfilling priorities, and how these can be applied.
6. To learn and practice effective ways to meditate on the Scriptures.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week One

You're Well Under Way

At this point you have completed the first two units of the *Topical Memory System* (Series A and Series B) in Courses 1 and 2. In this course you will memorize the next unit (Series C) and learn some additional Scripture memory review

techniques. Each week read the comments “About the Verses” and follow the instructions in the section “Your Weekly Plan.” You will also find it very helpful to review the Scripture memory instructions given in Courses 1 and 2.

The Topical Memory System in This Course

In the first two courses of *The 2:7 Series* you learned twenty-four verses in the *Topical Memory System*. This includes Series A, *Live the New Life*, and B, *Proclaim Christ*. The three remaining series are C, *Be Christ's Disciple*; D, *Grow in Christlikeness*; and E, *Rely on God's Resources*. During Course 3 you will memorize the following twelve passages:

C. Be Christ's Disciple

Put Christ First	Matthew 6:33	Luke 9:23
Separate from the World	1 John 2:15-16	Romans 12:2
Be Steadfast	1 Corinthians 15:58	Hebrews 12:3
Serve Others	Mark 10:45	2 Corinthians 4:5
Give Generously	Proverbs 3:9-10	2 Corinthians 9:6-7
Develop World Vision	Acts 1:8	Matthew 28:19-20

Scripture Memory Review Techniques

You have now memorized twenty-nine excellent Scripture passages and are continuing to review them from memory cards. By the end of Course 5 you will have accumulated sixty-five cards (see chart below). It becomes increasingly important that you use proven Scripture memory review techniques.

COURSE	NEW VERSES	TOTAL
<i>Growing Strong in God's Family</i>	5	5
<i>The 2:7 Series, Course 1</i>	12	17
<i>The 2:7 Series, Course 2</i>	12	29
<i>The 2:7 Series, Course 3</i>	12	41
<i>The 2:7 Series, Course 4</i>	12	53
<i>The 2:7 Series, Course 5</i>	12	65

During Course 3 you will use review patterns that will (with minor modification) be effective in Courses 4 and 5 as well. These proper review patterns will enable you to continue to quote these valuable verses word perfectly, yet without investing a lot of time.

PREPARING TO USE THE NEW REVIEW PATTERN

There are three things you need to understand or do to make the new Scripture memory review pattern work for you.

1. Think of your verses as three units:

Series **A+BWC** (Think of these as one unit)

A=*Live the New Life*, twelve verses from Course 1.

BWC=*Beginning with Christ*, five verses from *Growing Strong in God's Family*.

Series **B** (Think of these as another unit)

B=*Proclaim Christ*, twelve verses from Course 2.

Series **C** (These make up the third unit)

C=*Be Christ's Disciple*, the twelve verses you are learning during Course 3.

2. Follow the weekly memory instructions.

The weekly memory instructions will continue to be helpful to you. Each week during Courses 3-5, you will be carrying some of the passages in your verse pack and leaving some of them in your verse box.

3. Obtain a verse box or other card holder.

What can you use as a verse box? Find a wooden, plastic, or cardboard box that is a little wider than a verse card. Some people put their verses in a business card holder. Shaving lotion or cologne sometimes comes in a wooden gift box that is the right size. A box that personal checks come in can work. In this box or holder you will keep:

- a. Verses you will not be reviewing during the coming week.
- b. Series C verses you will be memorizing in the future, but not during the coming week.

THE NEW SCRIPTURE MEMORY AND REVIEW PATTERN

Each week you will carry only one unit of verses (Series **A+BWC** or Series **B**) for daily review and will leave the other unit of verses in your verse box. The following week you will reverse the two units. In the weekly Scripture memory assignments you can check to see which unit of verses you will be reviewing daily. Here are the more specific details about the next two weeks so you can see how the pattern works. Between Session 1 and Session 2 you will

1. Keep the Series A and *BWC* passages in your verse box.
2. Carry the Series B passages for daily review.
3. Put Matthew 6:33 and Luke 9:23 in your verse pack window. When each passage is memorized it becomes a part of daily review.

Between Session 2 and Session 3 you will

1. Keep the Series B passages in your verse box.
2. Carry the Series A and *BWC* passages for daily review. Matthew 6:33 and Luke 9:23 are

now a part of daily review.

- Put 1 John 2:15-16 and Romans 12:2 in your verse pack window. When each passage is memorized it becomes a part of daily review.

It is important during Course 3 for you to feel increasingly comfortable with this pattern of memory and review. In Courses 4 and 5 you will grow into a slightly more complex verse review pattern.

*Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise;
apply your heart to what I teach,
For it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart
and have all of them ready on your lips.
So that your trust may be in the LORD,
I teach you today, even you.*

—Proverbs 22:17-19

The Ministering Disciple

Courses 1 and 2 focused on “The Growing Disciple,” and the look was more “inward” than “outward.” Courses 3-5 focus on “The Ministering Disciple,” and the emphasis is more “outward.” During these three latter courses you will have the opportunity to participate in ministry through

- Leading 2:7 Bible studies.
- Sharing Christ with others.
- Helping another Christian grow.
- Learning how to use Investigative Bible Studies (IBS).

A valuable part of Course 3 is learning principles and methods for leading Bible study discussion groups.

How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group—Part 1

THREE TRAINING SESSIONS

During the first three class sessions in this course you will study and discuss principles and guidelines for leading effective Bible study discussion groups. You have probably experienced most of the things that are presented in these training segments because of your participation in *Growing Strong in God’s Family* and the first two courses in *The 2:7 Series* and perhaps other previous small groups.

YOUR ROLE DURING COURSE 3

During Course 3, your 2:7 group leader will lead the first Bible study. You will want to give attention to how the leader guides the group toward careful observation, interpretation, and application of the Bible study, and how he or she keeps the discussion moving. Beginning with Session 4, members will lead the Bible studies.

After each Bible study, there will be a brief discussion concerning the leadership of that particular study. The purpose of this evaluation is to learn methods and principles of effectively leading a group discussion.

THE UNIQUE VALUE OF SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Research and experience in Christian and secular education show that adults like to discover for themselves and then talk about what they have learned. They prefer not to “be told” information. The small-group discussion, therefore, meets adults at their point of motivation and interest.

A group discussion is most effective when each person has done his homework before participating in the discussion. It directly influences the vitality of the group. The combined study of several people creates a tremendous pool of information and insights which can have significant impact on each person involved in the ensuing discussion.

Here are some of the benefits of being in a regular small-group Bible study discussion.

1. Creates an environment for dynamic Christian fellowship.
2. Provides motivation to do personal Bible study.
3. Encourages personal accountability.
4. Offers an opportunity to express ideas and insights.
5. Provides a place to ask questions.
6. Develops individual verbal skills.
7. Causes accelerated growth and learning.
8. Broadens one’s perspective and thinking.
9. Helps develop personal friendships and unity.
10. May provide an opportunity to gain group leadership experience.

TWO EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR LEADING A BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION

There are two general approaches for leading an effective Bible study discussion group:

1. Question-by-question
2. Section-by-section

The Question-by-Question Method

This method is only used when the Bible study group has prepared a question-and-answer type of study. A question-and-answer Bible study can be identified by its concentration on a topic. The format is to ask a question, give a Bible verse where the answer can be found, and provide some lines on which to write an answer.

In *Growing Strong in God’s Family* and the first three courses of *The 2:7 Series*, the Bible studies are all question-and-answer studies. In Courses 4 and 5 you will be studying a short New Testament book.

Question-and-answer Bible studies are excellent for several reasons:

1. They require less preparation.
2. They are a convenient way to study a topic that appears in many scattered locations in the Bible.
3. They can be designed very simply for new believers or can be structured to challenge mature Christians.

4. A great deal of material can be discussed in a short time.
5. They are easy to lead.

There are three options for how you will lead the question-by-question method:

1. Sharing in sequence
2. Sharing at random
3. Using prepared questions

1. *Sharing in Sequence.* In this method, go around the circle of group participants in sequence. The first person gives an answer to question 1, the next person answers question 2, and so on. On each question, other group members are free to make additional comments after an answer has been given by the one responsible for answering the question.

This method provides an excellent way to get young Christians started in Bible study discussion. It gives them a sense of security and confidence. They can see where the discussion is and where it is going.

2. *Sharing at Random.* In this method the questions are still answered in order, but anyone in the group is free to answer. The leader may say, “Who will take question 5 for us?” Whoever volunteers will read the question and his answer. Others may then make additional comments on question 5. To keep things moving, the group leader may occasionally read the question aloud and ask, “Who would like to answer this question?”

A possible drawback to this method is that some may tend to dominate the discussion while others sit back quietly. Sometimes the leader may need to ask a quieter person, “Jane, would you answer question 9 for us please?”

3. *Using Prepared Questions.* Using this method you may have the participants share their answers either in sequence or at random. In addition to what is done in the sharing-in-sequence and sharing-at-random methods, the leader has on hand some prepared questions to ask about some of the answers. These understanding questions draw out a deeper response and often stimulate a more active discussion than the first two methods. You will learn more about understanding questions later.

The Section-by-Section Method

This method produces more discussion and involvement. It requires a more skillful leader than the methods mentioned above, but is probably the most effective way to lead a Bible study discussion group. You will be using this method exclusively for the rest of *The 2:7 Series*.

As you have observed, question-and-answer Bible studies are divided into sections. For example, in the study on “The Ministering Disciple” (pages 27-33), there are three sections and a summary. The section titles (subtopics) are

- “Jesus’ Definition of a Disciple,”
- “Ministering to People,”
- “The Cost of Discipleship.”

During Course 3, you will sharpen your ability to use this method with a question-and-answer Bible study.

THREE TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

As participants prepare a question-and-answer Bible study, the printed material will ask them to answer questions that fall into three categories:

1. Discovery: What does it say?

Discovering what the Bible says in a particular passage or on a certain subject.

2. Understanding: What does it mean?

Understanding the meaning of the facts and how they relate to one another.

3. Application: What can I apply?

Seeing some practical ways these facts can apply to my life—remembering, doing, and using.

It is important for a group leader to be able to identify each of these three types of questions, to understand their purpose, and to know how to work with all three of them during a discussion.

GROUP LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES AND TECHNIQUES

The group leader has three main responsibilities during the group Bible study discussion. The group leader will

Launch—Open the discussion of a section.

Guide—Guide the discussion through the section.

Transition—Transition the discussion into the next section.

1. Launch

The launch question opens the discussion for one section of the Bible study. The formula for preparing a launch question is easy to apply. It is:

“From your study what . . .
 did you discover . . .
 did you learn . . .
 did you observe . . .
 impressed you . . .
 about _____?”

(Put in here the exact wording or a paraphrase
 of the section title.)

Look at the Bible study “The Ministering Disciple” (pages 27-33). As the leader of this study you would use one launch question for each section (or subtopic). The first section, “Jesus’ Definition of a Disciple,” covers questions 1-3. Your launch question for this section could be (using the formula):

“From the study, what did you discover about Jesus’ definition of a disciple?”

A launch question opens the discussion of a section. It gives the participants the green light to share their answer to any question in that section.

2. Guide

Skilled group leaders facilitate discussion. They are in control, but they do not dominate their group. They get people to think and talk by asking appropriate questions. From time to time they step in with questions or brief statements in order to keep the discussion on track and moving. You can say things like:

- “Thank you. Someone else?”
- “What other thoughts?”
- “Who else?”
- “What other insights?”
- “What does someone else think?”
- “Thank you . . . maybe one more.”

The more discussion experience the group members have, the less continuous involvement the group leader needs to provide. If the group is on the right road, the leader can continue to be a participant and let things go. When there is a fork in the road, the leader must step in and make it clear which direction the group will go, no matter how experienced they are.

One of the key guiding tools is the effective use of understanding questions. You are somewhat familiar with them because of your experience in previous 2:7 Bible study discussions and perhaps elsewhere. In Session 2 we will discuss them in detail. To use understanding questions effectively, you need to prepare them in advance.

3. Transition

The group leader moves the group discussion from one section to the next by making a brief transition statement. You might say something like:

“We have looked at ‘Jesus’ Definition of a Disciple’; let’s go on to discuss the section ‘Ministering to People.’”

Then go right into your launch question for the next section. For example: “From your study, what impressed you about ministering to people?”

SEVERAL PRACTICAL DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

1. *Sit in a circle.* This is the best seating arrangement. Each person has eye contact with most of the people in the group. It creates an informal and warm atmosphere. The group leader is considered more a peer because he or she is not placed in a dominant physical location.
2. *Don’t dominate.* As the leader, you are both a facilitator and a participant in the group. As the facilitator you give direction and ask questions. As a participant you share your insights and study answers along with everyone else. Share humbly, not as an expert.
3. *Don’t be an authority.* Avoid becoming the authority figure in the group. You don’t want all the questions directed to you with the others thinking that you should be able to answer them. Direct questions back to the group. Say something like, “That is an interesting question. What thoughts do some of you have that might help us answer that question?” You might recruit a volunteer to take the question to the pastor or associate

- pastor. The answer could be shared by the volunteer the following week.
4. *Work together.* Your role as group leader is not a teaching responsibility, just as the students' role is not to sit, listen, and take notes. You and the group members are working together to find answers and to clarify issues.
 5. *Acknowledge answers.* Thank people when they participate. Thank them for reading a paragraph or answering a question. This is particularly important with those who tend to be quiet. An acknowledgment doesn't have to be verbal. Many times it can be a nod of the head or eye contact that communicates approval. As you apply this, others in the group will follow your example and begin to do it.
 6. *Ask the group.* Usually you address your questions to the group, not to an individual. (An exception to this would be to ask a quiet person a specific question.) As you ask a question, let your eye contact sweep around the group. Don't let your eyes lock in on one person.
 7. *Discuss application questions.* Be careful not to rush over these questions. Application questions need to be given a high priority. Occasionally an application question may be so important that you will ask everyone to share an answer. Always allow people to say, "I pass," when they have an answer that is too sensitive to share.

THE "THINK ABOUT" QUESTIONS

You have observed that there is a "think about" question at the beginning of most 2:7 Bible studies. Each person will give two or three minutes of thought to the "think about" question before starting to prepare his or her Bible study. Its purpose is to get the mind moving in the direction that the Bible study is going.

You will notice that there is no correct or "school" answer to "think about" questions. They are designed to stimulate discussion and to make people think more deeply about what they are learning. When you lead the Bible study group, discuss the "think about" question before going into the contents of the first section.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 2

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete "Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Two" (page 17).
Memorize the two passages on "Put Christ First"—Matthew 6:33 and Luke 9:23.
 - b. Review daily the passages of Series B, *Proclaim Christ*. Also review the new verses after you learn them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer.
3. Bible Study:
 - a. Complete the Bible study "The Ministering Disciple," questions 1-6 (pages 27-30).
 - b. Study "How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group—Part 2" (pages 21-25).
 - c. Complete the exercise "Practice Writing Understanding Questions" (pages 26-27).
4. Evangelism:
 - a. Read evangelism material in Session 2 (pages 18-20).

- b. Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week—giving personal testimony, presenting *The Bridge Illustration*, or involvement in relational activities.
- c. Update your Evangelism Prayer List so you have your five to ten most responsive friends listed on it.

Session 2

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and review passages on “Put Christ First,” Matthew 6:33 and Luke 9:23.
2. Share some quiet time thoughts from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Discuss evangelism material in this lesson (pages 18-20).
5. Briefly discuss the five to ten people on your Evangelism Prayer List.
6. Discuss “How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group— Part 2” (pages 22-26).
7. Discuss questions 1-6 of “The Ministering Disciple” and evaluate your understanding questions (pages 26-30).
8. Read the “Assignment for Session 3” (page 33).
9. Pray.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Two

During this course you will continue to have three things to work with each week:

1. *Your memory materials*—twelve verse cards on the subject *Be Christ’s Disciple* (Series C). You may use the same verse pack you had in Courses 1 and 2 or you may wish to purchase the large, more durable pack from NavPress. You may still need to locate a verse box or verse card holder.

2. *Comments about the verses*—to help you understand and apply the Scriptures.

3. *Your weekly plan*—to help you progress steadily and to assist you with practical suggestions.

About the Verses

SERIES C: BE CHRIST’S DISCIPLE

Next to His redemptive work on the cross, Jesus’ primary ministry was raising up a band of dedicated disciples who would multiply and make an impact on the world.

Jesus ministered to the multitudes, but at times He seemed to discourage people from fol-

lowing Him. He was not looking for nominal followers, but for truly committed disciples who had counted the cost and on whom He could depend. This series of verses presents six imperatives that characterize the disciples Jesus seeks.

TOPIC 1. PUT CHRIST FIRST

Jesus Christ must be Lord of our lives—He must be first in every life situation, having no rival for our love and loyalty. The psalmist wrote, “Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you” (Psalm 73:25).

Matthew 6:33—Jesus requires that we give priority to the things that are on His heart. When we do, He takes care of our physical needs. We need to check our priorities continually to ensure that He is in fact first in our lives.

Luke 9:23—Self is the greatest rival of Christ in our lives. Jesus said that anyone who follows Him must say no to self, daily putting to death selfish desires. We cannot do this in our own strength. He will help us, but we must have a mind-set that Christ and His purposes are our first priority.

Your Weekly Plan

1. Carry the Series B verses in your pack and review them daily. Leave the Series A and BWC verses in your verse box.
2. Place the first two verses of Series C (Matthew 6:33 and Luke 9:23) in the window of your verse pack.
3. Learn your first new verse on the first two days after your 2:7 Series class, and the second verse on the next two days. Continue to review both verses daily.
4. After you have memorized your two new verses, write them out or quote them to someone to make sure you have learned them correctly. Do this with each of your new verses as you go through Course 3.

Evangelism: Continuing the Process

Christian Business Men's Committee (CBMC) has provided some excellent materials on lifestyle evangelism. The charts on this page and the next are from CBMC's *Lifestyle Evangelism Seminar*. These charts can help you identify where you and your friends are in the process of evangelism and should be an encouragement as you see people moving one step closer to Christ.

An excellent chart depicting the whole process of evangelism is shown below. Keep in mind which phase you are in—cultivating, sowing, or harvesting—as you plan your activities with your non-Christians friends.

	CULTIVATING	SOWING	HARVESTING
the ELEMENTS	The soil = Human hearts	The seed = God's Word	The crop = Converted life
the EXPLANATION	Speaks to the heart through a relationship. Focus is on caring.	Speaks to the mind with revelation. Focus is on communication.	Speaks to the will for a response. Focus is on conversion.
the EMPHASIS	Presence of the believer building a friendship bridge over the unbeliever's objections.	Proclamation of truth giving understanding of the gospel.	Persuasion, encouraging a decision of faith.
the ENEMY to overcome	Isolation	Ignorance	Indecision
some EXAMPLES	Nicodemus, John 3	Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8	Philippian jailer, Acts 16

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Building Friendships with Non-Christians

As we build friendships with non-Christians we earn the right to help them take steps toward understanding who Jesus Christ is and what claim He has on their lives. We must recognize that evangelism is *not* an event. *Evangelism is a process*. It involves “cultivating the ground” and “sowing the seed” as well as “harvesting.”

Developing and deepening a friendship is the cultivation part of the process of evange-

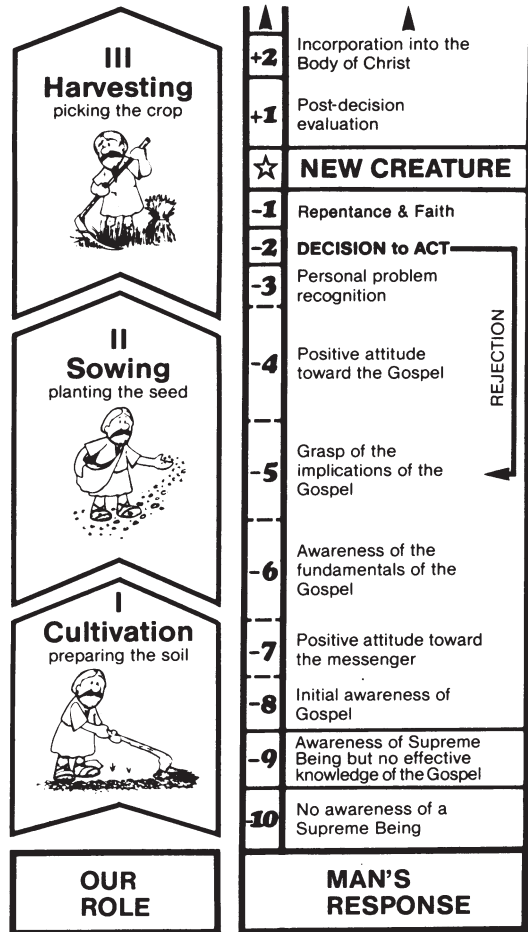
lism. Sharing your personal testimony or leading a person or small group in an Investigative Bible Study is sowing the seed. The Holy Spirit can then perform the harvesting at the right time through the right person. *The Bridge Illustration* is an excellent tool to use in the harvesting process. We must keep in mind that it is our responsibility to help a person understand what the Bible says about Christ. It is the Holy Spirit's function to convict and to convert.

The *Lifestyle Evangelism Seminar* designed by Christian Business Men's Committee does an excellent job in presenting the concept of evangelism as a process. They define successful evangelism as **"Taking the initiative to help a person move one step closer in the process."**

The chart to the right indicates the various distances people can be from a true conversion. It is important to identify where the person is so you can help him move "one step closer in the process."

Notice that -7, "Positive attitude toward the messenger," precedes -4, "Positive attitude toward the Gospel." If non-Christians do not feel accepted by you, they might not want to listen to your message.

The Apostle Paul demonstrates this in his ministry. "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us" (1 Thessalonians 2:8).



The author acknowledges permission to use excerpts from *Personal Development Seminar on Lifestyle Evangelism*, © 1982, Christian Businessmen's Committee of U.S.A.

The Relationship Evangelism Activities Record

All growing relationships require time and effort. In our fast-paced society, we need to be more "intentional" in our efforts to get to know others. We also need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading as we build friendships with people God brings into our lives.

For several months you have used your Evangelism Prayer List. You have spent time with the people on your list as well as having prayed for them many times. The Activities Record is a very helpful tool to use in conjunction with your Evangelism Prayer List. First, it helps you plan activities for strengthening relationships. Secondly, it provides a written record of lessons you have learned and results you have seen in the lives of your non-Christian friends. This record is not intended to make "projects" out of your friends. The

purpose is to prompt you to be more actively involved in building friendships.

STEPS FOR ESTABLISHING YOUR ACTIVITIES RECORD

1. Look over the names on your Evangelism Prayer List.
2. Pray and think about each person using the “Who Is Priority?” checklist below.
3. Decide which two or three people are the highest priority.
4. Fill out the top part of an Activities Record for each of them.
5. Recruit prayer for these people and pray for them daily.
6. Use the Activities Record to help you plan specific activities you can do with them over the next few weeks.

WHO IS PRIORITY?

You need guidelines for determining to which people you will give more attention as you are “cultivating” and “sowing.” The following checklist can be valuable to you when you are trying to decide who is priority.

1. Those you think are closest to coming to Christ.
2. Those with whom you have open communication.
3. Those who have shown spiritual interest.
4. Those whose respect and friendship you have.
5. Those who have a Christian spouse.
6. Those for whom the Holy Spirit has given you a recurring spiritual concern.
7. Those God seems to repeatedly bring across your path.

During Course 3, you have a Completion Record requirement to

1. Fill out an Activities Record for at least two people on your Evangelism Prayer List.
 - a. Write down their name, address, phone number, and the day’s date on the “From” line. (You fill in the “To” date when you run out of space on your Activities Record and need a new one. Keep your old ones.)
 - b. Think through three possible activities you would like to do with each person in the near future. List them on your Activities Record.
2. Complete at least one activity with two different people on your Evangelism Prayer List. Write down results and/or lessons learned after you have completed each activity.

RELATIONSHIP EVANGELISM ACTIVITIES RECORD

Name: _____
(my friend or acquaintance)

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____
Work _____

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. . .” 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Dates: From _____ To _____

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

Fun/recreation

Mutual interests

Discuss part or all of the Gospel.

Serve him/her.

Let him/her serve me.

Do something with another Christian.

Share part or all of my testimony.

Other

DATE	ACTIVITIES (planned or completed)	RESULTS (or lessons I learned)

How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group—Part 2

THE SEQUENCE OF LEADER PREPARATION

Whenever it is your turn to lead one of the Bible study discussions, you will use the following preparation process.

1. Prepare the Bible study yourself for your own challenge, encouragement, and benefit.
2. Jot down some of your own questions and observations about the study content.
3. Think about what your group needs. Go back through the completed study and write down some things that your group
 - a. Will need to explain or clarify.
 - b. Can move through fairly quickly because the answers will be clear and self-evident.
 - c. Must move through more slowly because of the complexity or importance.
4. Choose the answers for which you want to prepare an understanding question.
5. Prepare (write down) and evaluate several understanding questions. (You will practice doing this later in Session 2.)
6. Choose the understanding questions you will probably use during the discussion and write them into the margin of your completed Bible study.

UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

An understanding question is a question asked about a previous answer. We can also say that it is a question asked about a specific answer—or part of an answer. It is one of the key tools for stimulating and guiding a discussion.

The Purpose of Understanding Questions

The primary purpose of an understanding question is to help the participants in the group to understand more clearly and deeply a biblical truth being discussed. These questions help the group leader by

1. Helping stimulate discussion.
2. Enabling him or her to emphasize specific important truths.
3. Clarifying an issue which the group could misinterpret or misunderstand.
4. Helping evaluate the needs, spiritual level, and degree of understanding of those in the group.

Guidelines for Using Understanding Questions

When you lead the discussion of a Bible study section, you may choose to use several understanding questions. Make this determination during your preparation time. You will probably use an understanding question for 25%-40% of the answers in the lesson.

Understanding questions generate a variety of answers. Therefore, when you ask this type of question, you will expect several people from the group to share their answers. Some people may share more than once during the group's discussion of such a question.

The key thing to remember about an understanding question is that it is asked about an answer that has been shared by someone in the group.

PREPARING EFFECTIVE UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

During the rest of this course you will prepare your own understanding questions for the Bible studies you lead. It is important that you learn how to do a good job preparing them.

Types of Understanding Questions

Below are examples of twelve types of understanding questions. These samples will be valuable to refer to when you are preparing your own.

1. Synonyms
 - a. What are some words or phrases that describe “abundant life”?
 - b. Can you think of another word for “grace”?
 - c. What is another way of saying “living sacrifice”?
2. Definitions
 - a. What are some implications of the word *truth*?
 - b. What is your concept of the word *Lord*?
 - c. What do you think the term *laborer* really means?
3. Differences
 - a. What is the difference between “praise” and “thanksgiving”?
 - b. What do you think is the difference between “fear” and “anxiety”?
 - c. What difference is there between “unity” and “uniformity”?
4. Similarities
 - a. What are some attributes of a physical child that might parallel those of a spiritual child?
 - b. How are “light” and “purity” alike?
 - c. In what ways is the written Word like a seed?
5. Opposites
 - a. What is the opposite of truth?
 - b. What are the opposite traits to these characteristics we have listed?
 - c. What words or phrases describe the opposite of “peace of mind”?
6. Relationships
 - a. How do you think patience is a part of claiming the promises of God?
 - b. How are “lordship” and “obedience” related?
 - c. What is the relationship between “pride” and “being teachable”?
7. Examples
 - a. What would be some examples of how the Holy Spirit helps someone understand the Bible?
 - b. What are some examples of two being better than one?
 - c. What are some biblical examples of impatience?
8. Why
 - a. Why do you think the word *race* is used in Hebrews 12:1?
 - b. Why do you think Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem?

- c. Why do you think an attitude of thankfulness is important?
9. Explain
- What is the meaning of the 2 Timothy 3:16 diagram on page 68?
 - How would you explain a Christian's spiritual immaturity if he is in an excellent church?
 - What is J. Oswald Sanders saying in his quotation on page 76?
10. Extremes
- Which of these attributes of God do you think most exalts Him?
 - Which of the six elements of *The Wheel* do you think is most important for you?
 - What kind of praying do you think takes the least effort?
11. Quantity/Quality
- How many of our sins should we talk about with another Christian?
 - How long-range can our understanding of God's will be?
 - How important is the eyewitness element of the biblical record?
12. How
- How do you think we sharpen one another as Christians?
 - How can we press toward the future and still live in the present?
 - How does this work?

The Actual Preparation Process

Here is the sequence you will use for preparing understanding questions:

- Briefly review each question and answer. What word, phrase, or idea in the answer could you use as the basis for an understanding question?
- Mark each Bible study answer for which you plan to prepare an understanding question. It should be a subject that
 - Is important,
 - Could be misunderstood, or
 - Should be discussed in more depth.
- Choose one of the twelve types of understanding questions into which the word, phrase, or idea might fit.
- Write and rewrite your question until it fits the C-O-S-T-S pattern for evaluating understanding questions (see page 26).

Follow this pattern until you have written at least one understanding question for each Bible study answer that you marked.
- Select your best questions and write them in the margin of your own Bible study. Write in a few more than you think you might use.

For Example . . .

Let's illustrate the process by looking at the section "Jesus' Definition of a Disciple" that covers the first three questions in the Bible study "The Ministering Disciple (pages 27-28).

Questions 1b and 3 are already a form of an understanding question. Let's assume that in addition to those two, you want to write one or two understanding questions for 1a and one for 2a, John 15:8.

Question 2a, John 15:8, is easier, so we will look at it first.

1. Most people will answer something like, “We show that we are His disciples when we bear much fruit.” The word, phrase, or idea choices are:
 - “bear much fruit”
 - “much fruit”
 - “fruit”
2. The subject is important and may need to be discussed in more depth.
3. Probably the synonyms or definitions types of understanding questions would best fit this one.
4. Two or three minutes of “write and rewrite” might look like this on paper.
 - draft 1: What does “much fruit” refer to?
 - draft 2: “Bearing much fruit” means what?
 - final: What does it mean to “bear much fruit”?

Question 1a is a little more difficult to work with. We can’t predict as accurately how people will answer it. So, we have to prepare several understanding questions in order to be prepared for some variety in answers.

1. Some of the words, phrases and ideas might be:
 - “hates his father, mother, etc.”
 - “hates his own life”
 - “carry his cross”
 - “follow me”
 - “estimate the cost”
 - “give up everything”
 - “cannot be my disciple”
2. “Hate” and “give up everything” could be misunderstood. Some other ideas are important or need application. These subjects are difficult enough that you may need to ask two or three people to do further reading and research. If you wish to take the time, you can do further study yourself.
3. You may end up using several of the twelve types of understanding questions.
4. Some of your first drafts might look like this:
 - How can we “hate” people we are supposed to love?
 - What do you think is the difference between “giving up everything” and “being a good steward”?
 - How is the word *disciple* used here compared to its use in other places in the gospels?
 - In what ways is the story of the tower similar to the story of the armies?

HOW TO EVALUATE UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

Any thorough preparation is costly. It costs time, thought, and effort to prepare effective understanding questions. The acrostic C-O-S-T-S makes it easy for you to remember how to evaluate them.

- C—CONSTRUCTIVE It does not raise unnecessary problems or questions. It leads to profitable discussion.
- O—OPEN Answers to it are not limited to narrow boundaries.
 1. It cannot be answered yes or no.
 2. It does not have a single “pat” answer.
- S—SIMPLE The question is brief and clear.
- T—TIMELY It is the right question at the right moment.
 1. It logically follows the answer to a discovery question.
 2. It blends into the normal flow of the group discussion.
- S—STIMULATING It stimulates deeper understanding and enthusiastic discussion.
 1. It helps the familiar take on a deeper meaning.
 2. It triggers interest and responsiveness.

PRACTICE WRITING UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

Now you will prepare at least three understanding questions from the first two sections in the Bible study “The Ministering Disciple.”

1. For which answer in the Bible study are you preparing this understanding question? _____
On which word, phrase, or idea will you focus your understanding question?

Which one of the twelve types of understanding questions do you think best fits your word, phrase, or idea?

Write and rewrite your understanding question on scratch paper and then enter your final rendition here.

2. For which Bible study answer? _____
Using which word, phrase, or idea? _____

Using which of the twelve types? _____

Your understanding question: _____

3. For which Bible study answer? _____

Using which word, phrase, or idea? _____

Using which of the twelve types? _____

Your understanding question: _____

HOW TO USE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Application questions usually appear at the end of a Bible study. The group members should apply only one thing at a time. To emphasize everything is to emphasize nothing.

LEADER EVALUATION CHECKLIST

You will want to use the following checklist during your leader preparation so you will have these issues in mind before you go into the group to lead. After you have led the study, look through the checklist and evaluate your performance.

1. Did you deal with the material?
2. Did you know your material thoroughly enough to be at ease leading?
3. Did you keep the group from wandering?
4. Did you talk too much?
5. Did you use understanding questions effectively?
6. Did you do too much or too little guiding?
7. Did you draw everyone into the discussion?
8. Did you lead or were you led?
9. Did people share freely and openly?
10. Did you stop on time?

THE MINISTERING DISCIPLE

The simplest definition of a disciple is a “learner” or “follower.” Socrates had disciples, John the Baptist had disciples, and Gandhi had disciples. But to be a disciple of Jesus Christ involves more than following any human leader. To be a “ministering disciple” means to walk close to Christ but also to be ministering to the needs of people around us.

THINK ABOUT: How can a person maintain a balance in walking with God, family, job, and ministering to people?

JESUS' DEFINITION OF A DISCIPLE

1. Read Luke 14:25-35.

a. According to these verses, what characterizes a disciple?

(In order to more fully understand the use of the word *hate*, read Matthew 10:37.)

b. Do you think these are external actions, internal attitudes, or both? Explain your answer.

2. From the following verses, what actions does Jesus say should characterize the lives of His disciples?

a. John 8:31-32 _____

John 13:34-35 _____

John 15:8 _____

b. How can you put these actions into practice?

3. Using the scriptures in questions 1 and 2, write a brief definition of a disciple.

MINISTERING TO PEOPLE

We have not been called to be Christ’s disciples just for our own enjoyment and to reap personal benefits. Jesus expects His disciples to minister in the lives of others.

4. Read Mark 10:45. What example did Jesus set for those who want to follow as His disciples? _____

5. In his closing remarks to the church at Colosse, Paul mentions several people by name. What does he say about their ministries? Colossians 4:10-17 _____

6. Carefully read the passages below.
a. List the attitudes and actions of the early disciples as they were involved in various aspects of ministry.
Acts 2:43-47 _____

Acts 4:32-37 _____

Acts 6:1-7 _____

Acts 9:36-42 _____

b. From your study of the above passages, make a list of the ministries that your church currently has and some it could add. _____

c. In which of these do you feel you could make a contribution?

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

7. Those who follow Jesus Christ will not always find it easy. What do the following verses say about hardships and opposition?

2 Timothy 3:1-12 _____

1 Peter 5:6-9 _____

8. Read Luke 9:23-26.

a. After Jesus made the statement “If anyone would come after me,” He gave three conditions. List and briefly explain them. Verse 23 _____

b. What other comments did Jesus make about those who would follow Him? Verses 24-26 _____

9. In Luke 9:57-62, Jesus encountered three men who wanted to follow Him.

a. What kept them from pursuing their goal? _____

b. What would be some current-day situations that could keep people from following Jesus Christ? _____

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

—Jim Elliott

10. In the New Testament, the Christian life is compared to running a race. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

a. How does Paul say we should run the race? _____

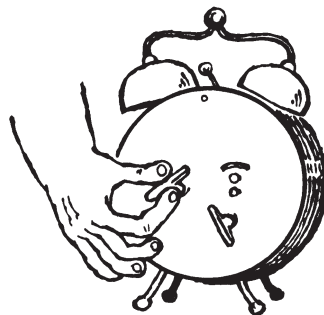
b. List other important factors in running a race. How can these principles be applied to the “race” of a disciple? _____

11. What additional insights does Hebrews 12:1-3 provide about running the race?

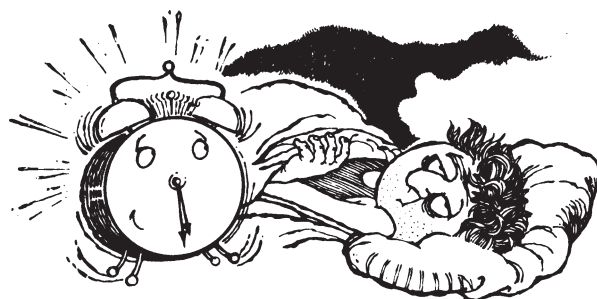
There are four steps in completing a course of action: (1) desire, (2) decision, (3) determination, and (4) discipline. For example, consider a person who desires to meet with God in a quiet time before going to work. He realizes that in order to do this he must get up in time, so he decides to get up at 6:30 a.m.



The next day he oversleeps because his desire and his decision alone could not get him out of bed. He then *determines* to use an alarm clock to help him get up.



But the real test comes when the alarm goes off. To shut off the alarm and get up is an act of *discipline*.



Good habits can be developed as a result of consistent discipline. Consistency requires thought and effort on a daily basis.

12. Spend a few minutes evaluating your life in light of this study, “The Ministering Disciple.”

- a. What are some things you are doing well? _____

- b. What is one area in which you would like to grow or improve? _____

SUMMARY

Using the chapter subtopics as an outline, write your own summary of this Bible study.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 3

- 1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Three” (pages 34-35). Memorize passages on “Separate from the World,” 1 John 2:15-16 and Romans 12:2 (page 34).
 - b. Review daily Series A and *BWC*, and the new passages after you learn them.
 - c. Take the “Self-checking Quiz” (page 35).
- 2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer.
- 3. Bible Study:
 - a. Complete the Bible study “The Ministering Disciple,” questions 7-12 (pages 30-33).
 - b. Study “How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group—Part 3” (pages 36-39).
 - c. Choose leaders for remainder of this course.
- 4. Evangelism:
 - a. Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
 - b. Come prepared to share what you have written for one person on your Activities Record.

Session 3

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and review the two passages on “Separate from the World,” 1 John 2:15-16 and Romans 12:2.
2. Share some quiet time thoughts from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Share what you have written for one person on your Activities Record.
5. Discuss the Bible study “The Ministering Disciple” (pages 27-33).
6. Discuss “How to Lead an Effective Bible Study Discussion Group—Part 3” (pages 36-39) and evaluate leadership skills.
7. Schedule Bible study leaders for the remainder of the course.
8. Briefly discuss the Self-checking Quiz (page 35).
9. Read the “Assignment for Session 4” (page 39).
10. Pray over outstanding thoughts from the Bible study discussion.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Three

About the Verses

TOPIC 2. SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD

The world we are to be separate from is not the physical world nor the people in the world. It is the world system and worldly values which would motivate us to act contrary to the will of God. This world system is energized by Satan, whom Jesus called “the prince of this world” (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11) and whom Paul called “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4). The world’s standards are so warped that Jesus said, “What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight” (Luke 16:15). To separate ourselves from the world’s way of thinking and living does not mean to withdraw from frequent contact with unbelievers. God has us here for the purpose of reaching them.

1 John 2:15-16—John warned that love of the world and the things in the world cannot coexist with love for the Father. The world’s attraction is defined as: “the cravings of sinful men”—the desire to indulge; “the lust of his eyes”—the desire to possess; and “the boasting of what he has and does”—the desire to impress.

Romans 12:2—Paul instructed us not to conform to this world, but to be transformed by renewing our minds. Meditating on God’s Word can have a strong influence on remolding our minds from within.

Your Weekly Plan

1. Carry your Series A and *BWC* verses in your pack and review them daily. Leave the Series B verses in your verse box.
2. Place 1 John 2:15-16 and Romans 12:2 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series C cards in your verse box.
3. Learn your first new passage on the first two days after your *2:7 Series* class, and the second passage on the next two days. Continue to review both passages daily.
4. After you have memorized your two new passages, write them out or quote them to someone to make sure you have learned them correctly.
5. Matthew 6:33 and Luke 9:23 are now a part of daily review. Each Series C verse becomes a part of daily review as soon as it is memorized.

Self-checking Quiz

Before taking this quiz, review all the material in all seven weeks of “Scripture Memory Instructions” in Course 2 and in the first three weeks of this course. The quiz will help you check your grasp of the material covered in those sessions.

1. In which of these areas of Christian experience are the verses in Series **B** most helpful? (Check the correct answer.)
 - a. Knowing the will of God.
 - b. Fellowship.
 - c. Knowing how to witness.
 - d. Knowing how to overcome anxiety.
 - e. Prayer.
 - f. Overcoming temptation.

2. It will help you learn your new verses if you repeat them aloud occasionally.
T F

3. Why is it helpful to memorize Scripture with one or a few friends? (Check three best answers.)
 - a. It provides mutual encouragement.
 - b. You can show others how well you are doing.
 - c. It provides opportunities to discuss difficulties in memorization.
 - d. It allows you to compare yourself with others.
 - e. You have someone with whom to share how God is using the verses in your life.

4. The key to spiritual maturity is (Check the correct answer.)
 - a. knowing Bible facts.
 - b. applying God’s Word to your life.
 - c. being able to quote the Bible.

5. You should not concern yourself about words you do not understand in the verses.
T F

6. A first step toward applying God’s Word to your life is to (Check the correct answer.)
 - a. first straighten out your life as best you can.
 - b. know a lot about the Bible.
 - c. meditate on the Word of God.

7. Complete the following statements by writing the number of the correct answer in the blank space before each statement.
 - _____ a. Meditation is
 - _____ b. One way to mediate on a passage of Scripture is
 - _____ c. Visualizing a verse of Scripture is
 - _____ d. The window of your pack is
 - _____ e. Your verse box is
 - _____ f. A good way to vary your review is
 - (1) used to store verse cards for the verses you have already memorized.
 - (2) to have someone give you the first words of your verses instead of the topics or references.
 - (3) going over a phrase or verse of Scripture in the mind, considering it from every angle, with the object of gaining new insight, some practical benefit, or reaching new understanding.
 - (4) especially helpful for verses you find difficult to remember by ordinary means.
 - (5) to ask yourself questions about the passage.
 - (6) used for learning new verses.

Correct answers:
1-c; 2-T; 3-a,c,e; 4-b; 5-F; 6-c; 7-a-3, b-5, c-4, d-6, e-1, f-2

How to Lead on Effective Bible Study Discussion Group—Part 3

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL BIBLE STUDY GROUP

A successful group

- Provides an incentive for each member to complete his personal Bible study on a regular basis.
- Enables each person to go beyond the limits of his own personal findings by exposing him to the ideas of others and by stimulating further thoughts.
- Creates an atmosphere of love and acceptance which stimulates honest talk of personal discoveries, questions, problems, or need. This acceptance builds the confidence of group members and allows them the freedom to speak about the Bible without fear of embarrassment or criticism.
- Fosters positive Christian fellowship in which group members can develop close personal relationships in an informal setting. They learn how to pray together, and how to bear the burdens of others. Most people are hurting today. A Bible study group can often meet needs that can be met in no other way.
- Equips growing Christians with a method for helping others grow spiritually. Small Bible study groups are one of the most effective tools to help Christians fulfill Christ's Great Commission to make disciples in every nation.

LEADER OBJECTIVES

As a good leader, you should always begin with at least one clear objective for each session. You shouldn't fall into the trap of "playing it by ear" and hoping everything will work out fine.

An objective will summarize what the group should understand and apply by the end of the discussion period. It can be stated in one or two short sentences.

A clear objective will help you

- Know where you want to proceed with the discussion and give you direction for your questions.
- Evaluate progress at any point during the discussion. After this evaluation, you can make needed adjustments.
- Make decisions during the session as to what to discuss. If a tangential or unrelated issue arises, you can direct the group back to the main point.

TURNING PROBLEMS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

How to Control the Talkative

Calling for contributions from others often helps—"What do the rest of you think?" In very difficult situations you may have to take control of the discussion and call for a show of

hands before anyone responds. Then you can call on the group members in turn.

Sometimes it may be necessary to speak privately with the “talker,” explaining how group participation is imperative. You may enlist him to draw in others. This may not only solve the problem of his dominating the discussion, it will also help him become more sensitive to other people.

How to Get Back on Track

A verbal recognition of the problem usually helps—“This is interesting. However, we have left our topic. Perhaps we could discuss this further after we finish our topic.” Or you can present a thought-provoking question to draw the discussion back to the initial thought.

At times, you can suggest tabling the question or idea until after the discussion when those who want to may return to it. Your attitude toward the tangent is most important.

How to Handle Wrong Answers

Don’t tell a person he is wrong. You may want to ask the group the question you asked him. For example, “Okay, what do others think?” or “Does someone else have something to say about this?” You may want to restate the question or ask another question which would help clarify or stimulate further thought. Help others keep from becoming embarrassed because of a wrong answer.

How to Handle Silence

You don’t have to feel uncomfortable during pauses in the study. People may need time to think about how to answer one of your questions. If there is too much silence it may be because you have not given them clear directions.

How to Handle Difficult Questions

Don’t be afraid of saying, “I don’t know.” You can always find the answer later or have someone else research it. A member of the group may have a good answer. There is no merit in being considered a know-it-all. If you always have the answer, your discussion will turn into a lecture.

How to Cover the Passage or Chapter

Make a determined effort to cover all material you had planned to discuss. Continually getting bogged down in details and falling behind can have a very demoralizing effect on the group. Moving ahead gives a feeling of accomplishment and success. If you have trouble getting through the material, you may have tried to cover too much and may need to cut back.

How to Lead a Lethargic Group

Generally, the group will respond to the attitude of the leader. Pray for enthusiasm for yourself and the group. If you want them to be a little enthusiastic, you may have to be overly enthusiastic. The source of enthusiasm is a desire for the Lord Himself and for His Word. The leader, by example, will have to demonstrate these attitudes. You cannot expect excitement from the group if you are not excited yourself.

How to Handle Controversial Subjects

To smother honest questions and convictions is detrimental to the growth of the members and to the study. A Bible discussion marked only by the smile, the pious utterance, or the literary, well-verbalized prayer is unproductive.

Even when a group is seriously looking for truth, you may be tempted to skirt the difficult issues and rely on superficial answers. The best way to handle controversial topics is to see what the Scriptures have to say and rest the verdict on the principles and commands of the Bible that apply to the situation. God's Word is the utmost authority.

MAXIMIZING THE IMPACT

How to Elicit Good Applications

Pray that God will speak through His Word so the members will realize it applies to them. The Holy Spirit will use passages to cause them to think about their lives.

Be direct in your approach where the Word is direct. You can help people see the relevance of the Scriptures for themselves by asking them application questions such as, "What does this mean to you?" or "Is there anything you can do about this today?" Learn how to share your own applications with honesty and humility. If you are open, they will be open also.

How to Give Reinforcement

It's important for you to give approval or reinforcement to the group members as they respond. You can do this by acknowledging an answer with comments like "good," "that's right," or giving a positive nod of the head or a smile of approval.

How to Increase Listening Ability

Listening is not only being able to hear what people really say but also what they can't and won't say. This ability requires sensitivity, concentration, and attention to the other members of the group.

Some members tend to think more about what they want to say than about what the others are saying. They often become preoccupied with their own thoughts. One way to end this lapse in listening is to have each person in turn summarize what had been said by the previous person. Doing this requires the members to concentrate on every contribution to the discussion.

Keeping Morale High

Maintaining good standards in Bible study helps keep the morale high and results in an expectation of excitement and eagerness toward the Word. The leader will be encouraged if he or she focuses on "what is right" with the study. Students will be encouraged if the leader's attitude is "catching them doing something right." They will want to keep studying and sharing.

We are to be workmen rightly handling the Word of Truth.

—2 Timothy 2:15

Our goal—to be growing in God’s grace, becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

—2 Peter 3:18

COMMON ERRORS IN LEADING BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSIONS

1. *Asking an understanding question about a question in the study before someone in the group has answered the latter.* If, for example, you want to ask an understanding question about question 5 and no one has yet answered it, you should request someone to read his answer to question 5, and then ask your understanding question.
2. *Not making the questions sound conversational.* Even though you are asking prepared questions, you can ask them in a conversational tone. Be yourself. Use your own vocabulary.
3. *Limiting yourself to asking questions and leading.* As the leader, you are also a participant in the group. You should share some of your own insights during discussion but not dominate the discussion.
4. *Combining two understanding questions into one.* Be careful to ask only one question at a time.
5. *Trying to maintain too much control.* If the group “takes off,” don’t worry as long as it is in a direction you want to go. You may need to step in occasionally to clarify direction.
6. *Not explaining what you expect the group to do.* You are in charge. Don’t hesitate to ask someone to read a verse, to answer a specific question, or call on someone to pray.
7. *Asking a question which can be answered either yes or no.* This type of question hinders discussion. How and why questions are excellent. Who, what, where, and when questions can also stimulate discussion.
8. *Asking too complex a question.* State the question simply and clearly.
9. *Tending to stress your own personal applications.* The Holy Spirit will speak to each person a little differently from the same study.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 4

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Four.” Memorize verses on “Be Steadfast,” 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Hebrews 12:3 (page 40).
 - b. Review daily the passages of Series B and the new passages after you learn them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer.
3. Bible Study: Complete the Bible study “Managing Your Resources” (pages 48-52).
4. Evangelism: Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
5. Other:
 - a. Study and mark *Born to Reproduce* (pages 41-48).
 - b. Complete the *Born to Reproduce* exercise (page 48).

Session 4

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and review verses on “Be Steadfast,” 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Hebrews 12:3.
2. Share some quiet time thoughts from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Discuss *Born to Reproduce* and the *Born to Reproduce* exercise (pages 41-48).
5. Discuss the Bible study “Managing Your Resources” (pages 48-52).
6. Read the “Assignment for Session 5” (page 53).
7. Pray.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Four

About the Verses

TOPIC 3. BE STEADFAST

No matter how demanding the task, a disciple shows perseverance and patiently completes the things God desires him to do. He does not look back, but presses on. He keeps on keeping on.

1 Corinthians 15:58—The Bible promises that our efforts and work will not be in vain if we are steadfast in the jobs the Lord gives us. He will crown unflagging persistence with both results and rewards.

Hebrews 12:3—At various times in our lives we will probably experience ridicule or persecution from unbelievers. We are not to react violently or become disheartened, but rather follow the example of Jesus, who steadfastly endured the unjust hostility heaped on Him by sinful men.

Your Weekly Plan

1. Carry the Series B verses in your pack and review them daily. Leave the Series A and *BWC* verses in your verse box.

2. Place 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Hebrews 12:3 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series C cards in your verse box.

3. Learn the first new verse on the first two days after your 2:7 *Series* class, and the second verse on the next two days. Continue to review both verses daily.

4. After you have memorized your two new verses, write them out or quote them to someone. This will strengthen your grip on them.

Born to Reproduce

By Dawson Trotman

In 1955, Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators, spoke at a conference sponsored by “Back to the Bible Broadcast.” His message was fresh and poignant and it is now clear that his address, “Born to Reproduce,” was timeless. In June 1956, Dawson Trotman drowned while saving the life of a young person who could not swim.

As you read Dawson Trotman’s message, may you commit yourself anew to being a part of a spiritual chain reaction across the country and around the world. You were “born to reproduce.”

A few years ago, while visiting Edinburgh, Scotland, I stood on High Street just down from the castle. As I stood there, I saw a father and a mother coming toward me pushing a baby carriage. They looked very happy, were well dressed and apparently were well-to-do. I tried to catch a glimpse of the baby as they passed and, seeing my interest, they stopped to let me look at the little, pink-cheeked member of their family.

I watched them for a little while as they walked on and thought how beautiful it is that God permits a man to choose one woman who seems the most beautiful and lovely to him, and she chooses him out of all the men whom she has ever known. Then they separate themselves to one another, and God in His plan gives them the means of reproduction! It is a wonderful thing that a little child should be born into their family, having some of the father’s characteristics and some of the mother’s, some of his looks and some of hers. Each sees in that baby a reflection of the one whom he or she loves.

Seeing that little one made me feel homesick for my own children whom I dearly love and whose faces I had not seen for some time. As I continued to stand there I saw another baby carriage, or perambulator as they call it over there, coming in my direction. It was a second-hand affair and very wobbly. Obviously the father and mother were poor. Both were dressed poorly and plainly, but when I indicated my interest in seeing their baby, they stopped and with the same pride as the other parents let me view their little, pink-cheeked, beautiful-eyed child.

I thought as these went on their way, “God gave this little baby whose parents are poor everything that He gave the other. It has five

little fingers on each hand, a little mouth and two eyes. Properly cared for, those little hands may someday be the hands of an artist or a musician.”

Then this other thought came to me, “Isn’t it wonderful that God did not select the wealthy and the educated and say, ‘You can have children,’ and to the poor and the uneducated say, ‘You cannot.’ Everyone on earth has that privilege.”

The first order ever given to man was that he “be fruitful and multiply.” In other words, he was to reproduce after his own kind. God did not tell Adam and Eve, our first parents, to be spiritual. They were already in His image. Sin had not yet come in. He just said, “Multiply. I want more just like you, more in My own image.”

Of course, the image was marred. But Adam and Eve had children. They began to multiply. There came a time, however, when God had to destroy most of the flesh that had been born. He started over with eight people. The more than two billion people who are on the earth today came from the eight who were in the ark because they were fruitful and multiplied.

Hindrances

Only a few things will ever keep human beings from multiplying themselves in the physical realm. One is that they never marry. If they are not united, they will not reproduce. This is a truth which Christians need to grasp with reference to spiritual reproduction. When a person becomes a child of God, he should realize that he is to live in union with Jesus Christ if he is going to win others to the Saviour.

Another factor that can hinder reproduction is disease or impairment to some part of the body that is needed for reproductive purposes.

In the spiritual realm sin is the disease that can keep one from winning the lost.

One other thing that can keep people from having children is immaturity. God in His wisdom saw to it that little children cannot have babies. A little boy must first grow to sufficient maturity to be able to earn a living, and a little girl must be old enough to care for a baby.

Everyone should be born again. That is God's desire. God never intended that man should merely live and die—be a walking corpse to be laid in the ground. The vast majority of people know that there is something beyond the grave, and so each one who is born into God's family should seek others to be born again.

A person is born again when he receives Jesus Christ. "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God. . . . Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12,13)—the new birth. It is God's plan that these new babes in Christ grow. All provision is made for their growth into maturity, and then they are to multiply—not only the rich or the educated, but all alike. Every person who is born into God's family is to multiply.

Spiritual Babes

Whenever you find a Christian who is not leading men and women to Christ, something is wrong. He may still be a babe. I do not mean that he does not know a lot of doctrine and is not well informed through hearing good preaching. I know many people who can argue the pre-, the post- and the amillennial position and who know much about dispensations, but who are still immature. Paul said of some such in Corinth, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual (or mature), but as unto carnal, even as unto babes . . ." (1 Corinthians 3:1).

Because they were babes, they were immature, incapable of spiritual reproduction. In other words, they could not help other people to be born again. Paul continued, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it. . . ye are yet carnal (or babes): for . . . there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions. . ." (1 Corinthians 3:2,3). I know a lot of church members, Sunday school

teachers and members of the women's missionary society who will say to each other, "Have you heard about so and so?" and pass along some gossip. Such have done an abominable thing in the sight of God. How horrible it is when a Christian hears something and spreads the story! The Book says, "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him . . . a lying tongue . . ." (Proverbs 6:16,17). Oh, the Christians I know, both men and women, who let lying come in!

" . . . he that soweth discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:19) is another. This is walking as a babe, and I believe that it is one of the basic reasons why some Christians do not have people born again into God's family through them. They are sick spiritually. There is something wrong. There is a spiritual disease in their lives. They are immature. There is not that union with Christ.

But when all things are right between you and the Lord, regardless of how much or how little you may know intellectually from the standpoint of the world, you can be a spiritual parent. And that, incidentally, may even be when you are very young in the Lord.

A young lady works at the telephone desk in our office in Colorado Springs. A year and a half ago she was associated with the young Communist league in Great Britain. She heard Billy Graham and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. Soon she and a couple other girls in her art and drama school were used of the Lord to win some girls to Christ. We taught Pat and some of the others, and they in turn taught the girls whom they led to Christ. Some of these have led still other girls to Christ, and they too are training their friends. Patricia is a great-grandmother already, though she is only about a year and four months old in the Lord.

We see this all the time. I know a sailor who, when he was only four months old in the Lord, was a great-grandfather. He had led some sailors to the Lord who in turn led other sailors to the Lord, and these last led still other sailors to the Lord—yet he was only four months old.

How was this done? God used the pure channel of these young Christians' lives in their exuberance and first love for Christ, and out of their hearts the incorruptible seed of the Word of

God was sown in the hearts of other people. It took hold. Faith came by the hearing of the Word. They were born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They observed those Christians who led them to Christ and shared in the joy, the peace and the thrill of it all. And in their joy, they wanted someone else to know.

In every Christian audience, I am sure there are men and women who have been Christians for five, ten or twenty years but who do not know of one person who is living for Jesus Christ today because of them. I am not talking now about merely working for Christ, but about producing for Christ. Someone may say, "I gave out a hundred thousand tracts." That is good, but how many sheep did you bring in?

Some time ago I talked to 29 missionary candidates. They were graduates of universities or Bible schools or seminaries. As a member of the board I interviewed each one over a period of five days, giving each candidate from half an hour to an hour. Among the questions I asked were two which are very important. The first one had to do with their devotional life. "How is your devotional life?" I asked them. "How is the time you spend with the Lord? Do you feel that your devotional life is what the Lord would have it to be?"

Out of this particular group of 29 only one person said, "I believe my devotional life is what it ought to be." To the others my question then was, "Why is your devotional life not what it should be?"

"Well, you see, I am here at this summer institute," was a common reply. "We have a concentrated course. We do a year's work in only ten weeks. We are so busy."

I said, "All right. Let's back up to when you were in college. Did you have victory in your devotional life then?"

"Well, not exactly."

We traced back and found that never since they came to know the Saviour had they had a period of victory in their devotional lives. That was one of the reasons for their sterility—lack of communion with Christ.

The other question I asked them was, "You are going out to the foreign field. You hope to be used by the Lord in winning men and women to Christ. Is that right?"

"Yes."

"You want them to go on and live the victorious life, don't you? You don't want them just to make a decision and then go back into the world, do you?"

"No."

"Then may I ask you something more? How many persons do you know by name today who were won to Christ by you and are living for Him?"

The majority had to admit that they were ready to cross an ocean and learn a foreign language, but they had not won their first soul who was going on with Jesus Christ. A number of them said that they got many people to go to church; others said they had persuaded some to go forward when the invitation was given.

I asked, "Are they living for Christ now?" Their eyes dropped. I then continued, "How do you expect that by crossing an ocean and speaking in a foreign language with people who are suspicious of you, whose way of life is unfamiliar, you will be able to do there what you have not yet done here?"

These questions do not apply to missionaries and prospective missionaries only. They apply to all of God's people. Every one of His children ought to be a reproducer.

Are you producing? If not, why not? Is it because of a lack of communion with Christ, your Lord, that closeness of fellowship which is part of the great plan? Or is it some sin in your life, an unconfessed something, that has stopped the flow? Or is it that you are still a babe? "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again . . ." (Hebrews 5:12).

How to Produce Reproducers

The reason that we are not getting this Gospel to the ends of the earth is not because it is not potent enough.

Twenty-three years ago we took a born-again sailor and spent some time with him, showing him how to reproduce spiritually after his kind. It took time, lots of time. It was not a hurried, 30-minute challenge in a church service and a hasty good-bye with an invitation to come back next week. We spent time together. We took care of his problems and taught him not

only to hear God's Word and to read it, but also how to study it. We taught him how to fill the quiver of his heart with the arrows of God's Word, so that the Spirit of God could lift an arrow from his heart and place it to the bow of his lips and pierce a heart for Christ.

He found a number of boys on his ship, but none of them would go all out for the Lord. They would go to church, but when it came right down to doing something, they were "also rans." He came to me after a month of this and said, "Dawson, I can't get any of these guys on the ship to get down to business."

I said to him, "Listen, you ask God to give you one. You can't have two until you have one. Ask God to give you a man after your own heart."

He began to pray. One day he came to me and said, "I think I've found him." Later he brought the young fellow over. Three months from the time that I started to work with him, he had found a man of like heart. This first sailor was not the kind of man you had to push and give prizes to before he would do something. He loved the Lord and was willing to pay a price to produce. He worked with this new babe in Christ, and those two fellows began to grow and spiritually reproduce. On that ship 125 men found the Saviour before it was sunk at Pearl Harbor. Men off that first battleship are in four continents of the world as missionaries today. It was necessary to make a start, however. The devil's great trick is to stop anything like this if he can before it gets started. He will stop you, too, if you let him.

There are Christians whose lives run in circles who, nevertheless, have the desire to be spiritual parents. Take a typical example. You meet him in the morning as he goes to work and say to him, "Why are you going to work?"

"Well, I have to earn money."

"What are you earning money for?" you ask.

"Well," he replies, "I have to buy food."

"What do you want food for?"

"I have to eat so as to have strength to go to work and earn some more money."

"What do you want more money for?"

"I have to buy clothes so that I can be dressed to go to work and earn some more money."

"What do you want more money for?"

"I have to buy a house or pay the rent so I will have a place to rest up, so I will be fit to work and earn some more money." And so it goes. There are many Christians like that who are going in big circles. But you continue your questioning and ask, "What else do you do?"

"Oh, I find time to serve the Lord. I am preaching here and there." But down behind all of this he has the one desire to be a spiritual father. He is praying that God will give him a man to teach. It may take six months. It need not take that long, but maybe it takes him six months to get him started taking in the Word and giving it out and getting ready to teach a man himself.

So this first man at the end of six months has another man. Each man starts teaching another in the following six months. At the end of the year, there are just four of them. Perhaps each one teaches a Bible class or helps in a street meeting, but at the same time his main interest is in his man and how he is doing. So at the end of the year the four of them get together and have a prayer meeting and determine, "Now, let's not allow anything to sidetrack us. Let's give the Gospel out to a lot of people, but let's check up on at least one man and see him through."

So the four of them in the next six months each get a man. That makes eight at the end of a year and a half. They all go out after another and at the end of two years there are 16 men. At the end of three years there are 64; the 16 have doubled twice. At the end of five years there are 1,024. At the end of fifteen and a half years there are approximately 2,147,500,000. That is the present population of the world of persons over three years of age.

But wait a minute! Suppose that after the first man, A, helps B and B is ready to get his man while A starts helping another, B is sidetracked, washes out and does not produce his first man. Fifteen and one-half years later you can cut your 2,147,500,000 down to 1,073,750,000 because the devil caused B to be sterile.

God promised Abraham "... in Isaac shall thy seed be called" (Genesis 21:12), so Abraham waited a long, long time for that son.

God's promise to make Abraham the father of many nations was all wrapped up in that one son, Isaac. If Hitler had been present and had caused Isaac's death when Abraham had his knife poised over him on Mount Moriah, Hitler could have killed every Jew in that one stroke.

I believe that is why Satan puts all his efforts into getting the Christian busy, busy, busy, but not producing.

Men, where is your man? Women, where is your woman? Where is the one whom you led to Christ and who is now going on with Him?

There is a story in 1 Kings, chapter 20 about a man who gave a prisoner to a servant and instructed the servant to guard the prisoner well. But as the servant was busy here and there the prisoner made his escape.

The curse of today is that we are too busy. I am not talking about being busy earning money to buy food. I am talking about being busy doing Christian things. We have spiritual activity with little productivity. And productivity comes as a result of what we call "follow-up."

Majoring in Reproducing

Five years ago Billy Graham came to me and said, "Daws, we would like you to help with our follow-up. I've been studying the great evangelists and the great revivals and I fail to see that there was much of a follow-up program. We need it. We are having an average of 6,000 people come forward to decide for Christ in a month's campaign. I feel that with the work you have done you could come in and help us."

I said, "Billy, I can't follow up 6,000 people. My work is always with individuals and small groups."

"Look, Daws," he answered, "everywhere I go I meet Navigators. I met them in school in Wheaton. They are in my school right now. (He was president of Northwestern Schools at that time.) There must be something to this."

"I just don't have the time," I said.

He tackled me again. The third time he pled with me and said, "Daws, I am not able to sleep nights for thinking of what happens to the converts after a crusade is over."

At that time I was on my way to Formosa and I said, "While I am there I will pray about it, Billy." On the sands of a Formosan beach I

paced up and down two or three hours a day praying, "Lord, how can I do this? I am not even getting the work done You have given me to do. How can I take six months of the year to give to Billy?" But God laid the burden upon my heart.

Why should Billy have asked me to do it? I had said to him that day before I left for Formosa, "Billy, you will have to get somebody else."

He took my by the shoulders and said, "Who else? Who is majoring in this?" I had been majoring in it.

What will it take to jar us out of our complacency and send us home to pray, "God, give me a girl or a man whom I can win to Christ, or let me take one who is already won, an infant in Christ, and try to train that one so that he or she will reproduce!"

How thrilled we are to see the masses fill up the seats! But where is your man? I would rather have one "Isaac" alive than a hundred dead, or sterile, or immature.

Beginning of Follow-up

One day years ago, I was driving along in my little Model T Ford and saw a young man walking down the street. I stopped and picked him up. As he got into the car, he swore and said, "It's sure tough to get a ride." I never hear a man take my Saviour's name in vain but what my heart aches. I reached into my pocket for a tract and said, "Lad, read this."

He looked up at me and said, "Haven't I seen you somewhere before?"

I looked at him closely. He looked like someone I should know. We figured out that we had met the year before on the same road. He was on his way to a golf course to caddy when I picked him up. He had gotten into my car and had started out the same way with the name "Jesus Christ." I had taken exception in his use of that name and had opened up the New Testament and shown him the way of salvation. He had accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour. In parting I had given him Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." "God bless you, son. Read this," I said, and sped on my merry way.

A year later, there was no more evidence of

the new birth and the new creature in this boy than if he had never heard of Jesus Christ.

I had a great passion to win souls and that was my great passion. But after I met this boy the second time on the way to the golf course, I began to go back and find some of my “converts.” I want to tell you, I was sick at heart. It seemed that Philippians 1:6 was not working.

An Armenian boy came into my office one day and told me about all the souls he had won. He said that they were all Armenians and had the list to prove it.

I said, “Well, what is this one doing?”

He said, “That one isn’t doing so good. He is backslidden.”

“What about this one?” We went all down the list and there was not one living a victorious life.

I said, “Give me your Bible.” I turned to Philippians and put a cardboard right under the 6th verse, took a razor blade out of my pocket and started to come down on the page. He grabbed my hand and asked, “What are you going to do?”

“I’m going to cut this verse out,” I said. “It isn’t working.”

Do you know what was wrong? I had been taking the 6th verse away from its context, verses 3 through 7. Paul was not just saying, “All right, the Lord has started something, He will finish it.” But you know, that is what some people tell me when they win a soul. They say, “Well, I just committed him to God.”

Suppose I meet someone who has a large family and say to him, “Who is taking care of your children?”

“My family? Oh, I left them with the Lord.”

Right away I would say to that one, “I have a verse for you: ‘But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he . . . is worse than an infidel’ (1 Timothy 5:8).”

Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, “Take heed . . . to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers . . .” (Acts 20:28). You cannot make God the overseer. He makes you the overseer.

We began to work on follow-up. This emphasis on finding and helping some of the converts went on for a couple or three years

before the Navigator work started. By that time our work included fewer converts but more time spent with the converts. Soon I could say as Paul said to the Philippians, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:3-5). He followed up his converts with daily prayer and fellowship. Then he could say, “Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). In keeping with this the 7th verse reads: “Even as it is meet (or proper) for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart. . . .”

Before I had forgotten to follow up the people God had reached through me. But from then on I began to spend time helping them. That is why sometime later when that first sailor came to me, I saw the value of spending three months with him. I saw an Isaac in him. Isaac had Jacob, and Jacob had the twelve, and all the rest of the nation came through them.

It Takes Time to Do God’s Work

You can lead a soul to Christ in from 20 minutes to a couple of hours. But it takes from 20 weeks to a couple of years to get him on the road to maturity, victorious over the sins and the recurring problems that come along. He must learn how to make right decisions. He must be warned of the various “isms” that are likely to reach out with their octopus arms and pull him in and sidetrack him.

But when you get yourself a man, you have doubled your ministry—in fact, you have more than doubled your ministry. Do you know why? When you teach your man, he sees how it is done and he imitates you.

If I were the minister of a church and had deacons or elders to pass the plate and choir members to sing, I would say, “Thank God for your help. We need you. Praise the Lord for these extra things that you do,” but I would keep pressing home the big job—“Be fruitful and multiply.” All these other things are incidental to the supreme task of winning a man or woman to Jesus Christ and then helping him or her to go on.

Where is your man? Where is your woman? Do you have one? You can ask God for one. Search your heart. Ask the Lord, “Am I spiritually sterile? If I am, why am I?”

Don’t let your lack of knowledge stand in the way. It used to be the plan of The Navigators in the early days that whenever the sailors were with us for supper each fellow was asked at the end of the meal to quote a verse.

I would say it this way, “Quote a verse you have learned in the last 48 hours if you have one. Otherwise, just give us a verse.” One evening as we quoted verses around the table, my little three-year-old daughter’s turn came. There was a new sailor next to her who did not think about her quoting Scripture, so without giving her an opportunity, he began. She looked up at him as much as to say, “I am a human being,” then she quoted John 3:16 in her own way. “For God so loved the world, dat He gave His only forgotten Son, dat *whosoever* believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” She put the emphasis on the “whosoever” because when she was first taught the verse she could not pronounce that word.

Days later that sailor came over and said to me, “You know, I was going to quote that verse of Scripture. It was the only one I knew. But I didn’t really know it, not until little Ruthie quoted it. When she said ‘whosoever,’ I thought, ‘that means me.’ Back on the ship I accepted the Lord.” Today that young man is a missionary in South America.

Until several years after we were married, my wife’s father did not know the Lord. Here again God used children to reach a hungry heart. When Ruthie was three and Bruce was five, they went to visit Grandpa and Grandma. Grandpa tried to get them to repeat nursery rhymes. He said, “Mary had a little lamb” and “Little Boy Blue,” but the children just looked at him and asked, “Who is Little Boy Blue?” He thought they did not know very much.

Their mother said, “They know some things. Quote Romans 3:23, Bruce.” This Bruce did. Then he asked, “Shall I quote another one, Grandpa?”

“Sure,” said Grandpa.

Bruce began to quote verses of Scripture, some 15 in all, and Ruth quoted some in

between. This delighted Grandpa. He took them over to the neighbors and to the aunts and uncles, showing them how well these children knew the Scriptures. In the meantime the Word of God was doing its work. It was not long before the Holy Spirit, through the voices of babes, planted the seed in his heart. “Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength . . .” (Psalm 8:2).

Soulwinners are not soulwinners because of what they know, but because of the Person they know, how well they know Him and how much they long for others to know Him.

“Oh, but I am afraid,” someone says. Remember, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25). Nothing under heaven except sin, immaturity and lack of communion will put you in a position where you cannot reproduce. Furthermore, there is not anything under heaven that can keep a newly born again one from going on with the Lord if he has a spiritual parent to take care of him and give him the spiritual food God has provided for his normal growth.

Effects obey their causes by irresistible laws. When you sow the seed of God’s Word you will get results. Not every heart will receive the Word but some will and the new birth will take place. When a soul is born, give it the care that Paul gave new believers. Paul believed in follow-up work. He was a busy evangelist, but he took time for follow-up. The New Testament is largely made up of the letters of Paul which were follow-up letters to the converts.

James believed in it. “But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only,” he said in James 1:22. Peter believed in it. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). John believed in it. “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 4). All the writings of Peter, Paul, James and most of John’s are food for the new Christian.

The Gospel spread to the known world during the first century without radio, television or the printing press, because these produced men who were reproducing. But today we have a lot of pew-sitters—people think that if they are faithful in church attendance, put good-sized

gifts into the offering plate and get people to come, they have done their part.

Where is your man? Where is your woman? Where is your boy? Where is your girl? Every one of us, no matter what age we are, should get busy memorizing Scripture. In one Sunday school class a woman 72 years of age and

another who was 78 finished *The Navigators Topical Memory System*. They then had something to give.

Load your heart with this precious Seed. You will find that God will direct you to those whom you can lead to Christ. There are many hearts ready for the Gospel now.

List several things that impressed you as you read *Born to Reproduce*.

MANAGING YOUR RESOURCES

Stewardship involves managing someone else’s property. The Christian is steward of both his life and his possessions. As those who are accountable to God, we need to become responsible stewards of our time, money, body, mind, gifts, and abilities.

THINK ABOUT: What is the difference between “investing” various types of resources and “using them up”?

RESOURCES IN PERSPECTIVE

We must look at life both from a broad perspective and in very specific, tangible terms. In this study, you will examine a small slice of the whole.

1. What does Matthew 6:19-34 indicate about our
 - a. Perspective? Verses 19-24 _____
 - b. Provision? Verses 25-32 _____
-
-
-

c. Priority? Verses 33-34 _____

2. What are some areas in which God expects you to be a faithful steward?

Proverbs 3:9-10 _____

Romans 12:6 _____

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 _____

Colossians 4:5 _____

3. Write down at least two observations about managing resources that you see in

Matthew 25:14-30. _____

USE OF TIME

You have heard people say something like, “Time seems to pass more quickly every year!” For most people, along with age comes a keener awareness of the transitory nature of life. “What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes” (James 4:14). Life is relatively short.

Every man, woman, and child has been entrusted with 168 hours each week. How you use your time indicates your real priorities.

4. Read Psalm 90:10,12.

a. What insights does the prayer of Moses, the man of God, give us about wisely using our time on earth? _____

b. List some specific ways to apply these verses. _____

It is well in thinking of our days to recollect they will be quite long enough for us if God helps us to use them well.

—C.H. Spurgeon

5. Read Ephesians 5:15-17.

a. What does Paul say about use of time? _____

b. List some specific ways to apply these verses. _____

6. Read John 17:4. What do you think is significant about this part of Jesus' prayer to His Father not long before the crucifixion? _____

How to make wise use of your time:

Prayerful planning—Ask God for wisdom. Think; don't rush. Then, list the things you plan to complete during the next week. (Keep in mind: You can't do everything. Don't let the good crowd out the best.)

Priority participation—List things to be done in their order of priority. Discipline yourself to keep focusing your energies on the most important job you have left to do. (Keep in mind: The Lord has given you enough hours each day to be able to do what is His will for your life for that day.)

Persevering performance—Do each task you select wholeheartedly! Do one thing at a time and stay with it until it is finished. (Keep in mind: Hard work is a means to an end; your goal is to have a series of completions.)

USE OF MONEY

One of the most exciting experiences for a committed believer is to support Christian ministries and then to see or hear of God’s blessing.

7. Why is it important to have the proper attitude toward money? 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Many Christians have found that a regular plan for giving is both scriptural and practical. Planning ensures against irregular or unwise giving or neglect. Having a plan or format for giving will help you do what you want to do.

The plan should include these steps:

1. Thoughtfully decide what percentage of your income you will return to the Lord—a minimum below which you will not go.
2. Set aside the Lord’s portion first whenever you receive money. Once set aside, it is His and should not be used for other purposes.
3. Give on the basis of facts, not emotion. Give on a regular basis—that might be either weekly or monthly.

8. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. What principles of giving can you discover in each of the following verses?

Verse 6 _____

Verse 7 _____

Verse 8 _____

Verse 12 _____

Verse 13 _____

Verse 15 _____

Give additional gifts and increase your percentage of giving as God increases your faith, and as He prospers you. As you trust God with your material resources, He will trust you with His spiritual resources—He has committed Himself to this principle. See Luke 16:9-12 and Philippians 4:17.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 5

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Five.” Memorize verses on “Serve Others,” Mark 10:45 and 2 Corinthians 4:5 (page 54).
 - b. Review daily Series A, *BWC*, and the new passages after you learn them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer.
3. Bible Study:
 - a. Study “How to Use a Five-point Application” (page 55).
 - b. Study “Co-Laboring with God and Others” (pages 56-59).
4. Evangelism:
 - a. Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
 - b. Come prepared to share progress you have made with the people listed on your Activities Record.

Session 5

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote verses on “Serve Others,” Mark 10:45 and 2 Corinthians 4:5.
2. Share some quiet time thoughts from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Share progress you have made with the people listed on your Activities Record.
5. Discuss the five-point application you have made (page 55).
6. Discuss the Bible study “Co-Laboring with God and Others” (pages 56-59).
7. Read the “Assignment for Session 6” (page 59).
8. Pray.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Five

About the Verses

TOPIC 4. SERVE OTHERS

Just before the crucifixion, some of the twelve disciples were arguing about which of them would be greatest in Christ’s Kingdom. Jesus reminded them that, contrary to the world’s thinking, the greatest in His Kingdom is the one who serves.

Mark 10:45—Jesus Christ Himself set the example in serving others—to the point of giving up His life. He “made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant” (Philippians 2:7).

2 Corinthians 4:5—Paul was committed to the lordship of Christ, and though he was brilliant and in a position of leadership, he showed concern for the needs of others. He was truly a servant to those to whom He ministered.

Your Weekly Plan

1. Carry the Series A and *BWC* verses in your pack and review them daily. Leave the Series B verses in your verse box.
2. Place Mark 10:45 and 2 Corinthians 4:5 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series C cards in your verse box.
3. To make each verse more meaningful, read the context as you begin to memorize it.
4. Learn your first new verse on the first two days after your *2:7 Series* class, and the second verse on the next two days. Review both daily.
5. After you have memorized your two verses, write them out or quote them to someone before coming to class.
6. Continue daily review of all the Series C verses you have memorized.

How to Use a Five-point Application

The most valuable personal result of consistent Bible study is not acquiring more biblical knowledge, but seeing our lives enriched and changed through personal application of what we learn. The format described here is a practical approach for writing a specific and concrete application. You will prepare a five-point application for Sessions 6 and 10.

1. Verse

Record the reference of the verse or passage from the study on which you will base your application.

2. Truth

Briefly state the truth of the verse or passage.

3. Need

State how you feel you have fallen short in relation to the truth in the verse or passage. Since you may be reading this in your group, state the need frankly but discreetly. You don't want to dredge up all kinds of past failures and difficulties. Keep some of those details between you and God.

4. Intent

State specifically what you intend to do toward having your life changed in this area of need. Keep the action simple. It should be a simple step toward improving your life in the area of need.

5. Checkup

State how you will make sure you accomplish the simple goal you have set. You may want to jot a note and put it in a prominent place in your office or home until you have completed your application. You may want to tell a friend, your husband or wife, or a relative what you intend to do and have this person check up on you.

SAMPLE: A FIVE-POINT APPLICATION

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

CO-LABORING WITH GOD AND OTHERS

In 1624, the Anglican preacher John Donne (pronounced “Duhn”) wrote: “No man is an island, entire to itself...” In Romans 14:7, the Apostle Paul states, “For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone.” God did not intend for us to be loners. Each of us is an important part of the Body of Christ—a part of a larger team. We need people and we need God. As we live life, we need to co-labor both with God and with other committed believers.

THINK ABOUT: Do you think trained, experienced disciples tend to be less dependent on God or more dependent?

CO-LABORING WITH GOD

- 1. What are some ministry functions only God can perform?
 Colossians 4:2-4 _____

 John 6:43-45 _____

 John 16:7-11 _____

 John 10:27-29 _____

- 2. What are some areas in which God assists us?
 James 1:5 _____

 Isaiah 40:29-31 _____

 Psalm 32:8 _____

3. How did Jesus show His reliance on His Father during His ministry?

John 5:17-30 _____

John 8:25-30 _____

Luke 6:12-13 _____

4. What do the following verses say about the necessity of God’s involvement in our ministry?

John 15:3-8 _____

Ecclesiastes 3:14-21 _____

CO-LABORING WITH OTHERS

5. With what size ministry groups was Jesus involved?

a. Mark 3:14 _____

b. Mark 5:37 _____

c. Luke 6:17 _____

d. Luke 10:1 _____

e. John 3:1-2 _____

6. Read Luke 8:1-3. What sort of ministry team traveled with Jesus?

7. Read Mark 6:7-13.

a. What observations do you have about the ministry assignment on which the Twelve were sent?

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 6

2. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Six.” Memorize the first passage on “Give Generously,” Proverbs 3:9-10 (page 60).
 - b. Review daily Series B and the new passages after you learn them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in a five-point application.
3. Evangelism:
 - a. Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
 - b. Read and mark “Influencing Your Relatives for Christ” (pages 60-64).
 - c. Come prepared to role-play *The Bridge Illustration* with another member of your group.

Session 6

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the first passage on “Give Generously,” Proverbs 3:9-10.
2. Share some quiet time thoughts from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Share progress you have made in completing your five-point application.
4. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this last week.
5. Discuss “Influencing Your Relatives for Christ” (pages 60-64).
6. Role-play *The Bridge Illustration* with another class member.
7. Read the “Assignment for Session 7” (page 65).
8. Pray.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Six

About the Verse

TOPIC 5. GIVE GENEROUSLY

God so loved that He gave. A true disciple of Christ will also give—generously. The believers of Macedonia set the pattern: “They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability” (2 Corinthians 8:3). This happened after they “gave themselves first to the Lord” (verse 5).

Proverbs 3:9-10—Using the illustration of a farmer, Solomon taught a basic principle of giving: We cannot out give God. He promises to see that we have everything that we need, and more. We don’t want to be foolish or presumptuous, but we want to be generous.

Your Weekly Plan

1. Carry the Series B verses in your pack and review them daily along with Series C verses you have memorized.
2. Place Proverbs 3:9-10 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series C verses in your verse box.
3. Memorize your new passage in the first three days following your 2:7 *Series* class. Be sure to review it daily for the rest of the week.
4. After you have memorized your new passage, practice writing it out or quote it to someone before coming to the next class session.

Influencing Your Relatives for Christ

In this generation, we may be neglecting one of the most viable evangelism strategies available to Christians today. This is to focus a significant portion of our outreach toward our relatives who are not yet believers. They may be our parents, children, aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents, or others. Missionaries in many cultures are finding that their best

evangelism opportunities lie within the network of close friends and relatives of their Christian contacts. This could be equally true in our culture. What can we learn from the Scriptures about God's dealing with families?

THE HOUSE AND HOUSEHOLD

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

—Joshua 24:15

The Scriptures describe instances of God's dealing with families as well as with individuals and nations. God dealt with whole households. When the Bible speaks of "household" or "house," it usually refers to an extended family. It speaks of not only parents and children, but also other relatives and servants—all those relatives and others who lived in that household.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were involved in family evangelism. They were freed from their prison chains by an earthquake, and the prison doors flew open. The jailer was about to take his own life, but Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here" (verse 28). The jailer fell trembling before Paul and Silas and asked, "What must I do to be saved" (verse 30). They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household" (verse 31). Paul and Silas did not only attempt to influence the jailer, they presented the Gospel to the whole household.

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house...then, immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

—Acts 16:32-34

The Passover, in Exodus 12, was a family affair. In verse 3 it says, "Each man is to take a lamb *for his family*, one *for each household*." Jewish families ate the Passover together. They were spared from the angel of death together. They worshiped together.

There seems to be little doubt that the earliest churches were simply Christian families. "The church which is thy house." This did not merely mean that the church used a house as a meeting place, but that the household was the church: parents, children, relatives and slaves, although other individuals sometimes joined them. The idea of churches as corporations of individuals, or of families meeting in a building dedicated to that purpose, was a much later development.

—James H. Jauncey

In Acts 20:20 those in the ministry "taught publicly and *from house to house*." They visited households for the purpose of ministry. In 1 Timothy 3, the standard for a male Christian leader is that he "manage *his own family well*" (verse 4) and that he "manage his children and his household well" (verse 12). God is obviously concerned about the salvation and spiritual growth of people in families and households.

GIVING RELATIVES PRIORITY

In acts 10:24-27, it is interesting to see what Cornelius did when he knew that Peter and some of the brothers were coming to visit his home. “Cornelius was expecting them and *had called together his relatives and close friends*. . . . Peter went inside and *found a large gathering of people*.” In verse 33, Cornelius says to Peter, “So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now *we are all here* in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.” It was the most natural thing in the world for Cornelius to demonstrate a concern for his relatives and close friends. His encounter with Peter and the others was not a lonely, independent quest for spiritual answers. He brought those he loved under the influence of the Gospel.

In John 1:29, Andrew heard John the Baptist say of Jesus, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” He and another disciple of John followed Jesus and spent several hours with him. Verse 41 says, “The first thing Andrew did was to find *his brother Simon* and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ).” Andrew’s priority was to go to a close relative with the news. As you know, these two brothers became part of the Twelve.

Among the Twelve, James and John were also brothers. Mark 1:19-20 says, “When he had gone a little farther, he saw *James son of Zebedee and his brother John* in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.” We know from Luke 5:8-10 that Simon and these two brothers were partners in the fishing business—evidently close friends. They came to Christ together and ministered together.

After Jesus had healed the demon-possessed man in Mark 5, the man wanted to travel with Jesus. Jesus said to him in verse 19, “*Go home to your family* and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” The rest of the world could wait; there was work to be done at home.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Timothy had a wonderful family background. In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul said of Timothy, “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your *grandmother* Lois and in your *mother* Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” Lois and Eunice were part of a spiritual heritage. The impact can be far reaching if we see that our own children are brought to Christ and disciplined. We don’t do it all alone, but we see to it that our children are impacted by other positive Christian influences in addition to our own. Children—what a valuable investment!

Who has not been impacted by a sermon from Luke 10:38-42 about the *two sisters*, Mary and Martha? As we review these five verses, it is easy to get caught up in the story and to forget the more expansive story about them and *their brother* Lazarus in John 11. John 11:5 says, “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” Two sisters and a brother who knew and loved Jesus. What spiritual influence do you suppose they had on each other? Jesus cared about them individually. He cared about them as a family. A famous London pastor said about reaching relatives for Christ:

Though grace does not run in the blood and regeneration is not of blood or birth, yet doth it very frequently—I was about to say almost always—happen that God, by means of one of the household draws the rest to Himself.

—Charles Spurgeon

RELATING TO YOUR RELATIVES

A warm, positive relationship with relatives can be a wonderful open channel for furthering the Kingdom of God. Friendship evangelism is at its finest when done with people with whom we have years of mutual love and respect. Our close relatives are often prime candidates for outreach and discipling.

Here are several important suggestions for developing and maintaining close friendships with relatives:

1. *Keep communication channels open.* Stay in touch. Everything else builds on this issue. Talk to them on the phone once in a while. Drop a postcard or a letter in the mail occasionally. It is best to discuss spiritual matters in person after you are up to date on everyday activities.
2. *Don't be a know-it-all.* You need to be learning from them and listening to them. It may be about their hobby, family history, or some other area in which they have some expertise. If they have been “teaching” you, they will be more likely to give you equal time to help them understand spiritual matters.
3. *Gain their respect.* Relatives may still think of you as a child. Be around them long enough to gain acceptance as an adult and a peer. This is more difficult when you are young and single. Yet, even such things as getting good grades and succeeding in your job can help. People listen to those they respect.
4. *Take an interest in what interests them.* Talk together about the things they like to talk about. It might be golf, sewing, gardening, football, flying, woodworking, music, or some other area. Mail them a clipping out of the newspaper or a booklet on the subject when you run across one.
5. *Spend time with them.* When you travel through their part of the country, plan to spend time with them. A friendship can be maintained at a distance, but it is difficult to build it without spending time together.
6. *Think and pray about how to deepen your friendship.* God can give you wisdom and discernment. He can give ideas. God has also given you a good mind. Think and evaluate. Work on outreach plans with other Christian relatives.

DAMAGED RELATIONSHIPS

The current high incidence of divorce, child abuse, battered women, alcoholism, and drug dependency simply points to the conclusion that fewer and fewer people come from a background and environment in which relationships with relatives were happy, friendly experiences.

You might have a parent who has hurt you very deeply. You may have somehow offended your brother or sister. To think of one relative may bring back horrible memories. There may be another relative who has fallen so low you don't even want to expose your

family to that kind of person. To show any interest in relative A may close the door to any type of communication with relative B.

For you, the network of family relationships may not be an open channel but a lot of dead-ends at this point in time.

It is good to keep in mind with your difficult relatives that the last chapter has not yet been written. Pray for them. Keep in touch with those relatives with whom you feel comfortable relating. There are no simple answers. Do what you feel God is leading you to do.

DON'T NEGLECT RELATIVES

Don't neglect the relatives of people to whom you are ministering. They provide an excellent network of people you can influence for Christ. In fact, we sometimes pull individuals away from these close relationships and keep them busy in a flurry of Christian activities and Christian relationships. From there the person is often thrust into time-consuming ministries with strangers. In a few years (through neglect) the individual's friendship with relatives and close friends has drastically eroded. Pray and evaluate what priority you should give to influencing your relatives for Christ. Others have done it—so can you, as God gives you wisdom and enables you!

List several things that impressed you as you read "Influencing Your Relatives for Christ."

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 7

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete "Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Seven" (page 65).
Memorize the second passage on "Give Generously," 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.
 - b. Review daily Series A, *BWC*, and the new passages after you learn them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer.
3. Bible Study:
 - a. Complete the Bible study, "The Authority and Sufficiency of Christ" (pages 65-69).
 - b. Prepare six understanding questions on "The Authority and Sufficiency of Christ" study.
4. Evangelism: Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Session 7

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the second passage on “Give Generously,” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.
2. Share some quiet time thoughts from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Discuss the Bible study “The Authority and Sufficiency of Christ” (pages 65-69).
5. Discuss the six understanding questions on “The Authority and Sufficiency of Christ” study.
6. Read the “Assignment for Session 8” (page 69).
7. Pray.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Seven

About the Verse

TOPIC 5. GIVE GENEROUSLY

Paul gave of himself generously, and the churches he founded were often generous givers as well. He commended those who gave of themselves and of their means.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7—In this passage, Paul compares giving to sowing (planting) seed. Only if we sow generously can we expect to reap an abundant crop at harvest time. What we give to the Lord is a personal matter. Each of us should pray for wisdom and guidance, knowing that cheerful giving pleases God.

Your Weekly Plan

1. Carry the Series A and BWC verses in your pack and review them daily. Leave the Series B verses in your verse box.
2. Place 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 in the window of your pack.
3. Learn your new passage in the three days following your 2:7 *Series* class. Review it daily.
4. After you have memorized your new passage, write it out or quote it to someone before coming to class.
5. Continue daily review of all the Series C verses you have memorized.

THE AUTHORITY AND SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to disciples He had lived with for nearly three years. They were given the enormous task of discipling all nations. Jesus preceded the giving of this task to His disciples with a declaration about Himself. “All authority in heaven

and on earth has been given to me,” He said. Then he proceeded with the instruction, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:18-19).

THINK ABOUT: How do you respond to an authority figure?

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY DECLARES THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS, THE MESSIAH

- 1. Read about the Messiah in Psalm 2 and answer the following questions.
 - a. When the authority of God’s Anointed Servant (Jesus) is opposed by earthly kings and rulers, what is God’s response? Verses 1-6

- b. What is God’s declaration about the Anointed One? Verses 6-9

- c. What are God’s instructions to men who oppose the rule of His Son? Verses 10-12

- 2. Another psalm dramatizes the authority of the Messiah as a warrior-king. Read Psalm 110.
 - a. Write a brief paragraph describing the picture of the Messiah presented there.

- b. How does Jesus use this psalm to assert His authority when confronted by the Pharisees in Matthew 22:41-46?

c. Psalm 110 is quoted six more times in the New Testament. What point was the Apostle Peter trying to make when he quoted this passage in Acts 2:34-37?

THE NEW TESTAMENT REVELATION OF THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST

3. In what areas did Jesus claim to have authority as revealed in the following passages?

Matthew 9:1-8 _____

John 5:26-27 _____

John 10:17-18 _____

Matthew 28:18-20 _____

4. What actions of Jesus impressed people with His authority?

Matthew 7:28-29 _____

Mark 1:21-28 _____

Mark 4:35-41 _____

5. How would you describe the position held by Jesus in the following passages?

Acts 5:30-31 _____

Colossians 1:15-20 _____

Colossians 2:9-10 _____

6. What is your impression of Jesus Christ from the Apostle John’s description of Him in Revelation 19:11-21?

7. From the passages below describe the response to Jesus’ authority that He expects.

Psalm 2 _____

Matthew 7:24-29 _____

Matthew 28:18-20 _____

THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST TO FULFILL HIS MINISTRY THROUGH US

8. When Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission, He also promised them something that should have alleviated all doubt and fear about their ability to carry out His command. He promised His presence.

Jesus was the “I AM” of the Old Testament (John 8:56-59). He came to Moses at the burning bush with a commission to go back to Egypt and deliver the people of Israel. Read the account in Exodus 3:1–4:17. What did God promise Moses when He told him to go to Egypt?

9. Jesus made it clear to the disciples before His death and resurrection that He would be sufficient for all their needs, even after He ascended into Heaven.

What truths about Christ’s sufficiency do you find in John 15?

10. Fill in the following statements from the verses listed:

2 Corinthians 12:9—When I am _____

He _____

1 Timothy 1:13—When I am _____

He _____

2 Timothy 2:13—When I am _____
He _____

How do these concepts encourage you as you think about your life and about ministering in His name?

11. How are you currently drawing upon Christ to help you as you are obedient to the Great Commission?

SUMMARY

Review the chapter subtopics, and use them as an outline to write your own summary of the chapter.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 8

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Eight.” Memorize the first verse on “Develop World Vision,” Acts 1:8 (page 70).
 - b. Review daily Series B and the new passages after you learn them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer.
3. Evangelism:
 - a. Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
 - b. Come prepared to share progress you have made with people listed on your Activities Record.
 - c. Study “Handling Questions Non-Christians Ask” (pages 77-81).
 - d. Choose three of the nine questions and be ready to share your answers with the group. All should fill in questions 10 and 11.
4. Other: Read and mark the article *Christlikeness* and answer the questions at the end (pages 70-77).

Session 8

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the first verse on “Develop World Vision,” Acts 1:8. Work on getting anything signed that you can on your Completion Record.
2. Share some quiet time thoughts from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Share progress you have made with people listed on your Activities Record.
5. Discuss the article *Christlikeness* (pages 70-77).
6. Discuss “Handling Questions Non-Christians Ask” (pages 77-81).
7. Read the “Assignment for Session 9” (page 81).
8. Pray.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Eight

About the Verse

TOPIC 6. DEVELOP WORLD VISION

Christ’s last words to His disciples reveal what was uppermost on His heart and mind—the people of the whole world. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we need to reach out to people in our own neighborhood, our nation, and beyond.

Acts 1:8—Jesus’ disciples were to witness, beginning with people in their immediate vicinity and eventually reaching out to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit would give the power and strength to carry out the mandate.

Your Weekly Plan

1. Carry the Series B verses in your pack and review them daily. Leave the Series A and BWC verses in your verse box.

2. Place Acts 1:8 in the window of your pack.

3. Learn your new verse in the first three days following class and review it daily.

4. After you have memorized your new verse, write it out or quote it to someone before you come to class.

5. Continue daily review of all the Series C verses you have memorized.

Christlikeness

By Jim White

I was talking with a young man in the student union of a major American university one day, and as we became acquainted, he told me that he was raised in a Christian home. His father was an engineer, he said. He also shared some other

things about himself that are typical of most college students. But when I asked, “Dan, what is your objective in life?” I got a very untypical answer.

“I want to be like my dad.”

“You mean an engineer like your father?” I asked.

“No,” he answered, and now he looked me right in the eye. “A Christian like my dad.”

I don’t hear that too often, so I asked, “Do you think your father is a real Christian?”

And just like that he replied, “The greatest Christian in the world.” Then he paused, and said, “Well, I guess that’s a little presumptive, since I don’t know all the Christians in the world. But of all those I do know, my dad is the greatest!”

At this point, I started looking for a pen and paper to take notes on, because I was a father with young children growing up, and if there was any chance my son would someday say that about me, by God’s grace I didn’t want to miss it. So I asked Dan, “What is it about your father that makes you say he is the greatest Christian in the world?”

He scratched his head, thought a while, and finally replied, “I’ve never had anybody ask me that before, so I don’t really have an answer. But I’ll tell you this . . .” And he began to tell me story after story about his father—experiences he had at home and things he had seen his father do.

After he had recounted six or seven stories, I had listed several qualities his father had displayed. I looked it over, and to my surprise there was only one quality, possibly two, that we would call “spiritual.” But to one of the roughest judges a father will ever face—his son—this man was “the greatest Christian in the world.” Why? Because he was a Christlike man.

E. Stanley Jones once said, “If God isn’t like Jesus Christ, then God isn’t as good as He could be.” He may have meant it facetiously, but he was so enamored with the life and character of Christ that he was unable to conceive of anyone being better. And one of the most amazing things in Scripture is the promise that we are to be like Him. The Apostle Paul said that it is God’s intention for us “to be conformed to the likeness of His Son” (Romans 8:29). And that is one of the reasons God sent Jesus into this world: to show us the pattern of what He wants us to be like. We’re in the process right now of becoming like Him, and someday we will be *exactly* like Him. “We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

What is involved in this? What are the essential features of our becoming like Jesus Christ? One night my wife and I were sitting in a restaurant waiting for our order. “Honey,” I said, “Let’s do something. Let’s make a list of the people whom we have known who have made the greatest impact on our lives.”

We listed eight people, both men and women, and then began going through the list, telling what it was about each of them that made him or her so special. Without exception, it wasn’t their abilities or talents, or their gifts in leadership, or even their knack of getting things accomplished that impressed us. In every case it was some statement they made, some look in their eyes, or the way they responded to a question that reminded us of Jesus Christ.

The world is hungry today for this kind of person, one in whom Jesus Christ is patently visible. This has always been the case. In Jesus’ day the “sinners” were attracted to Him. They didn’t get along too well with the Pharisees and others of the religious in-group, but they came to eat with Jesus and listen to Him. He did not condone their sins, but He loved them, and they knew it.

In trying to be Christlike, we must avoid two errors. One is that we try to be like Christ second hand. This is when we take for our example some successful Christian leader, and try to be like him. We copy him because he is successful and because we want to be successful as Christians ourselves. But this gets us off the track, because our example must be Jesus—alone. He is all we need.

The Apostle Paul in his writings sometimes said, “Follow me,” and advised the churches to follow the faith of leaders, but it was always with the qualifier, “Follow me, *as I follow Christ.*” Men can be a great influence on us, but it is Jesus Christ whom we are trying to imitate.

The second error we can make is to display our disciplines in front of people. That is, to so live that when people see us, talk to us and live around us, their biggest impression of us is, “That man sure studies his Bible. He’s always memorizing Scripture, and he gets up at 5:00 every morning for his quiet time.”

A friend of mine said to me one day, “I’ve been studying the Wheel (the Wheel is a Navigator diagram that portrays the balanced

Christian life. The hub of the Wheel is Christ, and the spokes are the Word, Prayer, Fellowship and Witnessing), and I've noticed that when a wheel is turning quickly you don't see the spokes. All you see is the hub. When it is standing still, the spokes take up a lot of room, and are very evident, but the minute that wheel begins to move, the spokes seem to vanish. They're still there, but you don't see them. The hub becomes pre-eminent. *When people look at our lives, and it's our spokes that impress them, we're not moving!*"

Is that what people notice about our lives—our spokes? Do they see our three verses a week, our praying, the fact that we create good fellowship, or that we're a dynamic witness? Or do they see Christ? Now the spokes need to be there, because they are the things God uses. But they should not be obvious.

Africans are susceptible to a horrible disease called "elephantiasis." It is usually found in villages where the worm that causes it may go unnoticed. It may produce an itch on the leg, the victim will scratch himself, get the leg infected, and it eventually will grow to an enormous size. It becomes a monstrosity. It's horrible to look at because it's so out of proportion.

Like the infected leg, the "flesh," or the old nature, in our lives is ugly when magnified. But other things are made more beautiful by magnification, such as the inside of a flower, or the gauze-like structure of a butterfly's wing. Magnification allows us to appreciate the detail that is there. This is precisely what Paul wanted in his life—for Christ to be magnified. "As always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body" (Philippians 1:20, KJV).

This word *magnified* is used four times in the New Testament, always with God as the object. And this is what Paul desired—to magnify Christ and not himself. This can happen only when certain aspects of Jesus' life become set characteristics of our lives.

Transparency

When we lived in Nairobi, Kenya, we had a huge plateglass window in our living room that faced west. When my wife cleaned the house, she would wash this big window with ammonia and paper towels. Our little girl was a baby then, and she would follow her mother around and

wipe her fingers on everything. But it wasn't till late afternoon when the sun began to pour through the window that you could see the marks she had made. When the sunlight came through, every little imperfection on the glass showed up clearly.

When the sun of men's critical examination shone on Jesus, they could see no imperfections. Jesus so lived in the light of God's truth and knowledge that when people were around Him, they could see that He was real. They could *see right through Him*. This is why the disciples were so attracted to Jesus. They knew they weren't looking at a counterfeit.

One of the disciples who was the closest to Him on earth later said we should "walk in the light, as He is in the light" (1 John 1:7).

On the night before He went to the cross, Jesus said to His disciples, "You are those who have stood by Me in my trials" (Luke 22:28). All through Jesus' life He had heartaches, temptations, and struggles, rough times that He didn't keep to Himself. The writer to the Hebrews records an interesting insight into Jesus' earthly life: "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission" (Hebrews 5:7).

I've always known that when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He suffered a great deal. But the more I have studied the Scriptures on this, the more convinced I have become that this suffering was not just an isolated incident, but a characteristic of Jesus' life. Satan knew that if he could get Jesus to sin just once, it would destroy the plan of salvation. So Christ was constantly being bombarded with all the temptations we face. Sometimes they must have gotten so strong that Jesus would have to pray to His Father with "loud cries and tears." Jesus was transparent with His disciples in His sufferings and with His Father in His praying.

I once received a letter from a man who had gone to Southeast Asia as a missionary. He wrote me telling about a problem he was having, and I wrote back saying, "I can sympathize with you, because I've failed in the same thing."

When he wrote back to me, I was chagrined to find this sentence, "Jim, during all those years that we were together on the East

Coast, I often wanted to confide in you, but you were so happy and cheerful around the fellowship that I got the impression you never had any problems, and wouldn't understand mine." God forgive us for how often we deceive our brothers and sisters by not being transparent.

There is a sense in which we don't want to unload our problems on other people. We don't want to mope around with our complaints and trials. But there's a wonderful sense in which our honesty and reality will help lift the burdens from other people.

One night at Glen Eyrie, the headquarters of The Navigators, one of the top leaders in the organization began his message to the staff with this statement: "Tonight I want to share with you the failures of my life." And for the next hour and a half he went through his life to relate incident after incident where he had failed and "dropped the ball" for God.

A revival almost broke out! I could hardly hold back the tears. And to this day I'm still not sure if they were tears of sorrow for this man, or tears of joy and relief to find that godly men have problems too.

Four passages in the New Testament urge us to make transparency a quality of our life. To the church in Philippi Paul wrote, "I want you to be able always to recognize the highest and the best, and to live sincere and blameless lives until the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10, PH). The word *sincere* comes from a Greek term which means "as perceived through the illumination of sunlight." It is better translated "transparent."

A transparent person is not threatened by people. He is not insecure. He is willing to be himself by the grace of God, and let people get to know him. He does not raise barriers. One of the reasons we have trouble leading blameless lives is that we're not transparent. We've got an image to maintain, and in trying to be something we're not, we make many mistakes.

In his first letter to the Corinthian church, while Paul was upbraiding them for immorality, he said in the same context, "Therefore, let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:8). The festival referred to was the love feast that Christians celebrated around the Lord's Table. It was the high point of their

fellowship. Paul admonished the Corinthians not to disgrace it with malice, but to celebrate it with the sincerity of a transparent life. There is something cold and hard present when a fellowship of believers meets with facades and barriers between each other. Where there is no honesty, sincerity or transparency, there is no real celebration.

In his second letter to these same Corinthians, Paul shared some of the heartaches and pains he had experienced in his ministry, but he said, "Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God" (2 Corinthians 1:12). One of the secrets of joy in the Christian life is being transparent. If, instead of keeping barriers between yourself and the world, you decide you're just going to be *you*, it releases something in your life.

LeRoy Eims once told me that for years, when he first began to minister with The Navigators, he tried to be like Dawson Trotman and Lorne Sanny. But one day he was so tired of trying to be like them that he said to God, "I can't be like these men; I'm going to quit trying. I'm just LeRoy Eims from Iowa, and if The Navigators like me the way I am—fine. But if they don't they'll have to lump it." And LeRoy tells me that when he made that decision, a wave of joy and relief flooded over him. As it turned out, it was that very day The Navigators began to take real interest in his ministry, a ministry that has since reached into every corner of the globe.

The fourth time the word *sincerity* (or *transparency*) is used, it is again to the Corinthians. Paul was writing about his commission as a minister of the new covenant. Speaking of the Christian witness to unbelievers, he said, "We are the aroma of Christ to the world." This is because "unlike so many, we do not peddle the Word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God" (2 Corinthians 2:17). A power is released in our lives and witness when we are so honest with our message that God is able to approve of it.

When we lived and ministered in Africa, I heard about a man named William Nyganda. People said that he was the most godly man they

had ever met. This man's younger brother told me of times when his brother had gone into a pulpit to preach, and before he had spoken a dozen words people would begin to weep with tears of repentance. I'd been wanting to meet him for a long time. One day, driving down a road outside Nairobi with my family, I saw a man walking who I thought might be him. I stopped the car, rolled down the window and asked, "Pardon me, sir, are you William Nyganda?"

"Yes, I am, but who are you?"

"I'm Jim White." As I climbed out of the car to greet him, I said, "You don't know me, but I know your brother Dan. We often pray together and I've wanted to meet you, sir, for years."

He got into the front seat of our car, and we talked for a few minutes. Then he turned around and, looking right into my five-year-old daughter's eyes, said, "Hello, little girl, what's your name?"

"Valerie."

"Valerie, do you love Jesus?"

And Valerie answered, "Uh-huh," in the smallest voice I've ever heard her use.

After a few minutes, William Nyganda dismissed himself and left. I started the car, and we drove on. For the next few miles the rarest event in the White family history occurred—five minutes of total silence. Then, very shyly, Valerie crawled over into her mother's lap, looked up into my wife's eyes, and said, "Mommy, when I grow up, I want to be a woman of God."

You would have to know my daughter to appreciate as much as I do the power of that African. It was the transparency of William Nyganda's godly life that released the tremendous power to make a little girl say such a thing.

Meekness

One of the most misunderstood words in the Bible is *meekness*. The 20th-century definition of a meek person is someone who is so wishy-washy and afraid that he can't stand up for himself. When Christ is portrayed in such a way, people turn away in disgust. But that's not the definition of meekness as it is used in the Bible. Biblical meekness is best described as "an attitude that submits to God's dealings without rebellion, and to man's injustices without retaliation."

Like most people, I get riled up at injustice, especially when it's aimed at me. But

meekness was a trademark of Jesus' life. When He was opposed He didn't even open His mouth. Peter says the same should be true of us: "How is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called [to a life of meekness], because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.' When they hurled insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly" (1 Peter 2:20-23).

Meekness was also a characteristic of Moses. "The man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3, KJV). Miriam and Aaron had challenged Moses' authority over the Israelites: "You're not the only one God speaks to. Why are *you* leading this people? God speaks to us too!" But Moses didn't say a thing. He let God deal with this challenge, and as the record clearly shows, God did (see Numbers 12:1-15).

Most people think that meekness is a characteristic normally found in Christian leaders. Sometimes it is, but you can find it sometimes in some of the most unsuspecting places. I was in a church in a suburb outside Philadelphia a few years ago on a Saturday afternoon, planning for a conference we were going to have in the building. There is nothing more lonely and quiet and dead than a church on Saturday afternoon. Another man and I were looking into all the rooms, measuring each for size to know how many people we could fit where. We walked into the auditorium where the janitor was sweeping between the aisles. He looked up as we came in, and we introduced ourselves and said, "How are you?"

"Oh, not so bad; probably better off than most people."

I remember thinking, *Isn't that wonderful. What a cheerful outlook on life. Happy with his job and family, even though he must not be making much money.*

We began to talk, and I asked him, "Are you married? Do you have a family?"

"Well, yes, I have a wife, but she's sick."

I said, “Oh, that’s too bad, what’s the problem?”

Then he told me the story of how six months ago his 12-year-old son had been struck by a careless driver while riding his bicycle, and killed instantly. Some neighborhood kids had come running up to the door, told him what happened, and he had run down to the accident. Seeing immediately that his son was dead, he looked over and noticed the driver of the car sobbing uncontrollably. He went over to the driver, and as he was trying to comfort him, a policeman came up and said, “Who are you?”

“Well, why aren’t you crying? That’s your son over there! What are you doing comforting him?”

The man replied, “Sir, if this had happened two weeks ago I would be crying. But last Sunday night at church, when the minister said, ‘Those of you who would like to receive Christ as your personal Savior and know that you have eternal life can make it public at this moment,’ I sat in my seat and watched my son get up from the back row and walk all the way to the front to profess Christ as his Savior.”

Then the man told the policeman, “I know where my son is today, but this man here has problems!”

The janitor continued his story: “But my wife didn’t have the faith that God had given me. She was a Christian, but not a strong one. And she cracked under the strain, so she’s in a mental institution now. It’s so expensive to keep her there that it takes everything I earn, and since the state didn’t feel that I could take care of my daughter on my salary, I had to put her in a foster home. And the painful part, what is really hard, is to know that my daughter is calling some other man ‘Daddy.’ But,” he continued, “I work here during the day, and visit my wife at night, pick up her laundry and take it home, wash out her clothes, iron them, fix my supper, and by then it’s time to go to bed. I get up the next morning and come to work here, and that’s my life.”

“Sir,” I finally managed to stammer out, “what could Jerry and I pray for you?”

“Well,” he said, “would you pray that God would reunite my family?”

I couldn’t pray. I wanted to, but didn’t think I’d be able to without breaking into tears. So I said, “Jerry, would you pray?”

So Jerry began to pray, but before he finished three sentences, he broke into tears. By then, I was able to finish the prayer.

Here was a man who submitted to God’s dealing with him without rebellion. Living daily under the pain of having a son killed by a careless driver, a wife in a mental hospital, all his salary taken up to keep her there, doing her laundry, living alone, having his daughter call another man “Daddy,” yet he could say, “Oh, not so bad; probably better off than most people.” That’s meekness. This is the life and character to which God has called us.

Love

The greatest characteristic of Jesus Christ was that He was a Man of love. Paul exhorted the Ephesian Christians to follow Christ in this characteristic: “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering” (Ephesians 5:1-2). The kind of love Paul is speaking of here is exactly the kind Jesus demonstrated. If we want to be characterized by love, we first need to figure out what it is.

On Judgment Day God is going to determine whether we have loved or not by this test: “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come you who are blessed by My father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me. . . . Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me” (Matthew 25:34-36,40).

How long has it been since you did some act of kindness for someone? Maybe just doing the dishes for your wife? If you get convicted that you should, maybe you’ll do them a few times, but the thing about Jesus was that you didn’t have to preach at Him to get Him to do kind acts. Kindness was a way of life for Him. It was the little things of life that were important to Him.

A successful businessman learned this a few years ago. He was so involved in making his business profitable, that he found himself with

very little time in which to get alone with God, and was frustrated by his inability to grow spiritually. When he was about to give up, he decided to give it one more try. “God,” he prayed on his way to work, “today, I’ll try again to be a Christian.”

Since he commuted to work in the city, he had to drive to the train station and leave his car in the parking lot. The station’s lot was full that day so he had to park a few blocks away, and rush to the ramp before the train pulled out. Just as he was crossing the platform, and about to step onto the train, a little boy, walking across the platform with his suitcase in one hand and a big jigsaw puzzle box under the other arm, stepped right in front of him. The businessman ran into the boy and spun him around, causing the box to fly out from under his arm and the puzzle to scatter all over the platform.

The conductor called out, “All aboard!” the train began to move, and the businessman was faced with one of those split-second decisions that can so often make such a profound influence on our lives, though they seem so insignificant at the moment. He thought, *Should I get on the train, and be on time for work, or . . .* and there was the kid standing with tears streaming down his face.

The man looked at the boy, the puzzle, the train, back at the boy, the puzzle, the train, and thought, *Here’s my chance*. As the train pulled out, he looked at the boy, smiled, and then stooped down and began to pick up the pieces and put them in the box. When he finished, he put the top on the puzzle box, tucked it back under the boy’s arm, looked him right in the eye, and said, “Sonny, I’m sorry; here you are.”

The little boy then looked at him, and blurted out, “Mister, are you Jesus?”

As that man turned to go and wait for another train, his heart practically flooded with joy as he realized, *Yes, he had been Jesus*.

The love that Jesus demonstrated toward the people of His time was a love that gave of itself. It was a love that did not think of itself first, but always of others. It is a love that He wants to give to the world through us today.

Putting It Into Practice

One of the hardest things about looking at the characteristics of Jesus is that we end up think-

ing, *Wow, I’ll never be able to be like that*.

Fortunately, we’re not expected to develop these things overnight, nor to achieve perfection. The Scriptures don’t give us a one-two-three program for developing Christlikeness. But it is clear that God wants to transform us into the image of His Son. And the whole of Scripture does give us some practical principles.

If I want to become like Christ, I should first take heed of James’ admonition, “You do not have, because you do not ask God” (James 4:2). I first need to ask God to work these qualities into my life, and keep me increasingly concerned about them.

Second, I need to remember that whatever I meditate on, that’s what I will become. Jesus said, “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done” (John 13:15). I would suggest that if you have never done so, you embark on an exhaustive study of the person, life, and ministry of Jesus Christ . . . and that you continue it as long as you live. It will make a permanent difference in your life.

Third, I can observe and emulate transparency, meekness, and love in the lives of Christians who cross my path, but only as these characteristics reflect Jesus Christ. Someone who would know once said, “Example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the *only* means.”

Though we want to avoid becoming critical and “pharisaical” over the shortcomings of others, negative examples can also be a means of keeping us on the right path. An outstanding Christian leader remarked to me one day, “Some of the greatest lessons I have learned over the years in observing Christian leaders is not what to do, but *what not to do!*”

Fourth, I need constantly to seek my security and sufficiency in Christ alone. Only then will I be able to make myself transparent. Only then will I be able to help others. If Christ is my security, then He is also my “boss”—the one who evaluates my employment. Paul said, “I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore, judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness

GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH QUESTIONS

1. Determine whether or not the question is in fact an honest question or simply an excuse or “smoke screen.” If you can answer it briefly, do so. If it will interfere with the continuity of your presentation, attempt to postpone it until after you have finished. You could say something like, “That’s a good question. Let’s discuss it after the study.”
2. Keep in mind that for most people Christianity is not an intellectual problem, but a moral one. If a person cannot change the way he lives to conform to his beliefs, then he must change his beliefs to justify the way he lives. Many questions reflect that conflict.
3. Be honest. If you don’t know the answer to a person’s question, say so. If you are leading a group study, ask others to answer if they can. If the question is important to the inquirer, let him know you will find an answer by next week.
4. Don’t be quick to give a smug, pat answer. Try to answer what the person is *really* asking. Many times the initial question asked is not what the person is really asking. You may have to ask him additional questions to uncover the real issue.
5. Keep in mind that being able to answer questions is not an end in itself and does not bring people to Christ. But you need to try to answer sincere questions in order to satisfy the person enough to continue in sharing the Gospel. Sometimes a person needs the answer to a question before he is willing to go any further in his investigation.
6. Be patient with people. Don’t argue over moral or theological issues. Stick to the central theme of your presentation—the person and work of Jesus Christ.

WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS DO THEY ASK?

What are the most common questions asked by non-Christians? In the book *Know and Tell the Gospel*, by John C. Chapman, the following answer is given:

Since our Department of Evangelism commenced Dialogue Evangelism home meetings, we have kept a list of the questions people asked. From a survey of five hundred meetings, the following questions were asked almost every time:

- How do you know God exists?
- Can you trust the New Testament documents?
- Why does God allow suffering?
- What happens to those who have never heard the Gospel?
- What about other religions?
- Aren’t all good people Christians?
- Do you have to go to church to be a Christian?
- Isn’t faith only psychological?
- Hasn’t science disproved Christianity?

As these questions are asked so often we use them as a basis of a training program in apologetics.

Your 2:7 group may come up with more questions that non-Christians have asked. It is imperative that you use the Scriptures in formulating your answers. But, do not use the

Bible as a “club” in sharing your answers with non-Christians. Remember, your goal is to share the message of God’s love, not to impress the non-Christian with your knowledge.

QUESTION RESEARCH EXERCISE

This exercise will help you think through some questions non-Christians ask and formulate a possible answer. Consider each question and the Scripture passages provided, then write your answer. Complete at least three of the prepared questions (1-9) and two of your own (10-11).

1. Question: “How do you know God exists?”

References: Psalm 19:1 Romans 1:20-21

Possible Answer: _____

2. Question: “Can you trust the Bible?”

References: 2 Timothy 3:16 2 Peter 1:20-21
 Luke 1:14

Possible Answer: _____

3. Question: “Why does God allow suffering?”

References: James 4:1-3 Genesis 3:16-19

Possible Answer: _____

4. Question: “What happens to those who have never heard the Gospel?”

References: Jeremiah 29:13 Romans 1:18-23
 Romans 2:14-16

Possible Answer: _____

5. Question: “What about other religions?”

References: John 14:6 Acts 4:12

Possible Answer: _____

6. Question: “Aren’t all good people Christians?”

References: Ephesians 2:8-9 Titus 3:5

Possible Answer: _____

7. Question: “Do you have to go to church to be a Christian?”

References: Acts 2:42,46-47 Hebrews 10:24-25

Possible Answer: _____

8. Question: “Isn’t faith only psychological?”

References: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Possible Answer _____

9. Question: “Hasn’t science disproved Christianity?”

References: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Luke 1:1-4

Possible Answer: _____

There may be other questions you have been asked by non-Christians. Think of two additional questions and do the necessary research on them so you can briefly discuss them in class.

10. Question: _____

References: _____

Possible Answer: _____

11. Question: _____

References: _____

Possible Answer: _____

There is nothing wrong with being caught without an answer to a non-Christian’s question the first time, but you should never be caught by the same question twice!

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

—1 Peter 3:15

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 9

- 1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Nine” (page 82).
Memorize the second passage on “Develop World Vision,” Matthew 28:19-20.
 - b. Review daily Series A, BWC, and the new passages after you learn them.
- 2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer.
- 3. Bible Study:
 - a. Complete the Bible study on “World Vision” (pages 82-88).
 - b. Complete the five-point application from this study.
- 4. Evangelism: Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Session 9

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the second passage on “Develop World Vision,” Matthew 28:19-20. Work on getting anything signed that you can on your Completion Record.
2. Share some quiet time thoughts from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Discuss the Bible study “World Vision” and the five-point application (pages 82-88).
5. Read the “Assignment for Session 10” (page 88).
6. Close in prayer regarding your priorities.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Nine

About the Verse

TOPIC 6: DEVELOP WORLD VISION

Dawson Trotman defined world vision as having on our heart what is on the heart of God—the world.

Matthew 28:19-20—A true disciple keeps Christ’s Great Commission in his thinking, letting it affect the entirety of his life. Your part in reaching all nations with the Gospel can include making disciples where you are, praying for missions, giving to the support of your church and missionaries, and keeping informed about world missions.

Your Weekly Plan

1. Carry the Series A and BWC verses in your pack and review them daily. Leave the Series B verses in your verse box.
2. Place Matthew 28:19-20 in the window of your pack. Memorize this passage the first three days following your 2:7 Series class. Continue daily review of this passage for the rest of the week.
3. After you have memorized this passage, write it out or quote it to someone before coming to class.

WORLD VISION

God is concerned individually for every person from every nation in every generation. With the billions of people in the world today, you might wonder how it is possible to have an effective part in communicating God’s love to so many. God’s way for us to do this is to be disciples who will multiply and penetrate all the world with the verbal and demonstrated message of God’s good news.

THINK ABOUT: What is something you have seen or heard about that makes you feel encouraged about the possibility of impacting the world for Christ during our generation?

GOD'S CONCERN FOR THE WORLD

World vision is getting on your heart what is on God's heart—the world.

—Dawson Trotman

1. How does God show the breadth of His concern for people?

John 3:16-18 _____

2 Peter 3:9 _____

2. What are the essential components of the Great Commission in the gospels?

Matthew 28:19-20 _____

Mark 16:15 _____

Luke 24:47 _____

John 20:21 _____

3. Many people think that God's concern for the whole world began with the coming of Christ in the New Testament. What do the following Old Testament passages say?

Genesis 12:2-3 _____

Psalms 107:3 _____

Malachi 1:11 _____

THE WORLD TODAY

4. From these passages, write a summary of how the Word of God describes world conditions in the last days.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 _____

2 Timothy 3:1-5 _____

What are some specific world problems that concern you? _____

5. How does Ephesians 2:1-3,12 describe the spiritual condition of unbelievers? _____

List several current newspaper or magazine captions that illustrate this passage. Bring one with you. _____

The Bible tells us what God wants to do in the world; the newspaper tells us where He needs to do it and where we need to be prayerfully involved.

—J. Christy Wilson

6. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10.

a. What future awaits unbelievers? _____

b. Why? _____

Enemy occupied territory—that is what the world is. Christianity is the story of how a right king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in the great campaign of sabotage—starting a sort of secret society to undermine the devil. God could and would invade in force. In the meantime, He was accepting volunteers who would meet Him when He landed.

—C.S. Lewis

IMPACTING THE WORLD

Jesus loved the world and helped thousands, but He closely trained only twelve men. The ministry of multiplying disciples comes through individuals. This is the way Paul communicated his life to Timothy (see 2 Timothy 2:2 and 3:10). We reach the masses through the individual.

7. Read Matthew 9:35-38.

a. What was the condition of these people? _____

b. How did Jesus respond to their dilemma? _____

c. How would Jesus' strategy in verses 37 and 38 resolve this dilemma? _____

8. Read Acts 1:6-8.

a. What four ministry targets were the disciples commissioned to reach? _____

b. What do you think is the significance of this order? _____

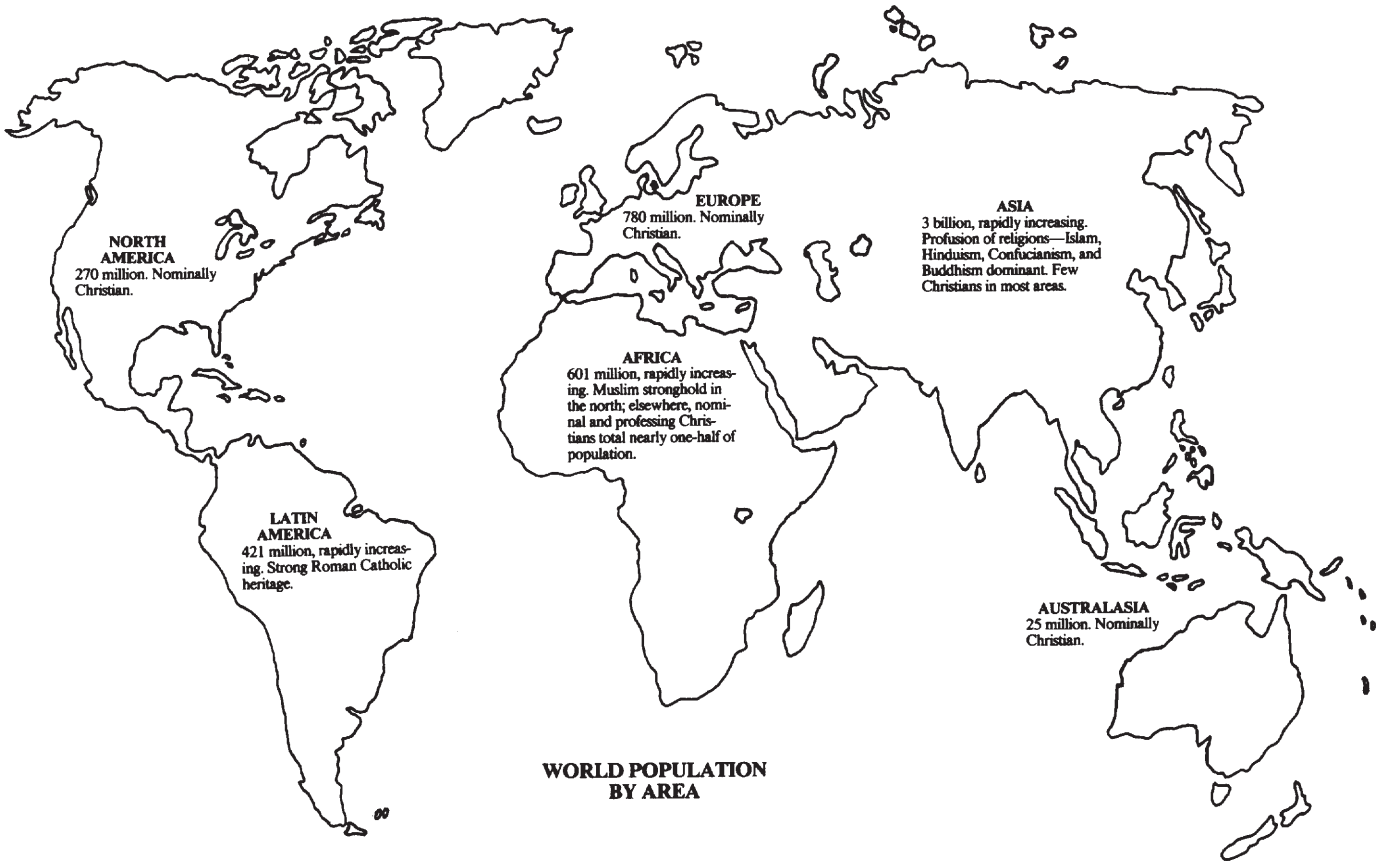
c. What would be comparable targets for you? _____

d. What are some ways a person can minister beyond his "Jerusalem"? _____

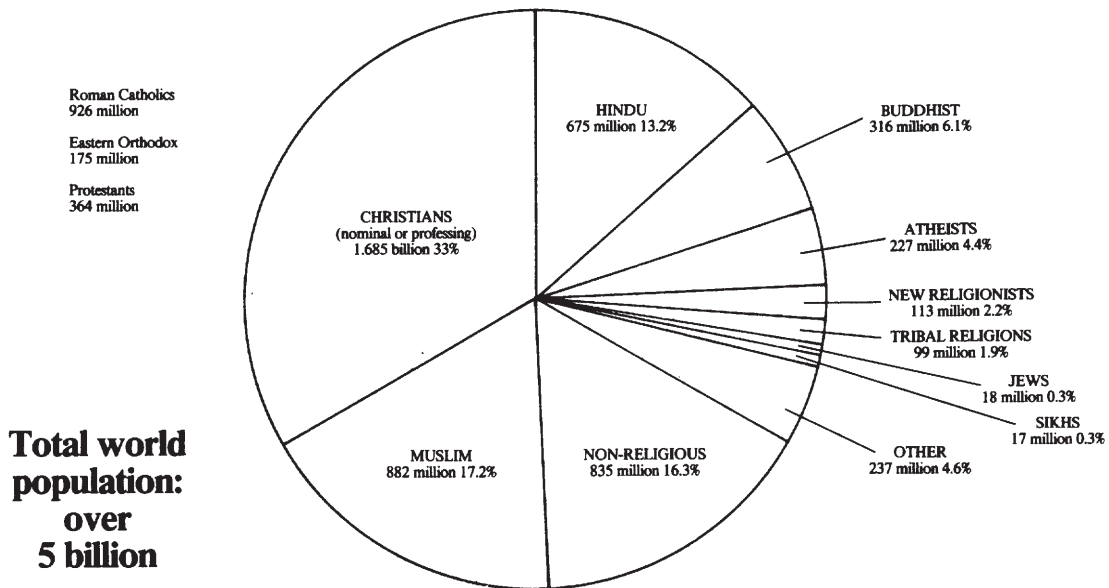
Prayer is action. By it we step out in advance of all other results. . . . Praying is an activity upon which all others depend. By prayer we establish a beachhead for the kingdom among peoples where it has never been before. Prayer strikes the winning blow. All other missionary efforts simply gather up the fruits of our praying.

—David Bryant
Missions Specialist, I.V.C.F.

“God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:19).



“The field is the world” (Matthew 13:38).



World map is from *World Christian Encyclopedia*, edited by David Barrett (Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1982) population figures are as of 1985. Pie chart figures are from *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* (Ventnor, New Jersey: Overseas Ministries Study Center, January 1988). Other figures are from *Operation World*, 4th edition (Waynesboro, Georgia: STL Books, 1986).

9. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10. How did the ministry of the Thessalonians parallel the concepts Christ gave His disciples in Acts 1:8? _____

10. The combination of various Christian ministries should meet both physical and spiritual needs in the world. Describe two examples when Jesus ministered to a person or group both physically and spiritually. _____

How might you or the members of your 2:7 group minister in a similar way?

Do you not say, "Four months more and then the harvest?" I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

—John 4:35

Practical ways to stay involved with "the harvest":

- Maintain friendships with non-Christians.
• Befriend international students. They may be key to helping reach their country for Christ when they return. Less than half of 1% of them visit a Christian home while they are in America.
• Pray over current events in the news.
• Correspond with missionaries.
• Use a world map and pray for various countries.
• Read missionary biographies, periodicals, and books about missions.
• Support Christian workers at home and overseas.

Session 10

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the twelve *Be Christ's Disciple* passages you have learned in this course. Work on getting anything signed that you can on your Completion Record.
2. Share some quiet time thoughts from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Role-play *The Bridge Illustration* with another class member.
5. Confirm the time and place for the session "Your Half Day in Prayer."
6. Read the "Assignment for Session 11."
7. Pray.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 11

1. Review the material in Course 1 on spending a half day in prayer.
2. Come rested, alert, and eager to spend a half day with the Lord. Look over the checklist of things to bring with you (Course 1, page 77).
3. Read "Keep on Growing and Ministering" (page 90).

Session 11

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Meet together for a brief orientation (10 minutes or less).
2. Scatter and spend individual time alone with God (3 hours and 20 minutes).
3. Come back together again to discuss what you have done during your time alone and your observations on this experience (30 minutes).

Keep on Growing and Ministering

WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

You now have a minimum of forty-one passages memorized and have completed twenty-two topical Bible studies. You have also learned how to write a five-point application.

Your Christian ministry has been enriched by

- Leading a small-group Bible study.
- Building relationships with non-Christians.
- Sharing your testimony and/or *The Bridge Illustration* with a non-Christian.
- Learning how to handle questions non-Christians ask.

THE MINISTERING DISCIPLE—COURSE 4

In Course 4 you will

- Do a “Search the Scriptures” Bible study on the book of 1 Thessalonians.
- Learn how to do basic follow-up of new believers.
- Help another Christian grow using 2:7 tools and concepts.

Notes

PAGE	SOURCE
18	Christian Business Men's Committee, <i>Personal Development Seminar on Lifestyle Evangelism</i> (Chattanooga, TN: CBMC, 1982).
19	Christian Business Men's Committee, <i>Personal Development Seminar on Lifestyle Evangelism</i> (Chattanooga, TN: CBMC, 1982).
31	Elizabeth Elliot, <i>Shadow of the Almighty</i> (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1957).
50	Charles H. Spurgeon, <i>The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit</i> , Volume 60 (Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1979).
61	James H. Jauncey, <i>Psychology for Successful Evangelism</i> (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1972).
63	Nathanael Olson, <i>How to Win Your Family to Christ</i> (Westchester, IL: Good News Publishers, 1977).
78	John C. Chapman, <i>Know and Tell the Gospel</i> (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1985).
84	Paul Borthwick, "Building World Vision," <i>Discipleship Journal</i> , Issue 37, Jan/Feb, 1987.
84	Henry William Griffin, <i>Clive Staples Lewis</i> (San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1986).
85	David Bryant, <i>In the Gap</i> (Madison, WI: Inter-Varsity Mission, 1979).

RELATIONSHIP EVANGELISM ACTIVITIES RECORD

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. . .” 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Name: _____

(my friend or acquaintance)

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____

Work _____

Dates: From _____ To _____

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

Fun/recreation

Mutual interests

Discuss part or all of
the Gospel.

Serve him/her.

Let him/her serve me.

Do something with
another Christian.

Share part or all of
my testimony.

Other

DATE	ACTIVITIES (planned or completed)	RESULTS (or lessons I learned)

CULTIVATING—SOWING—HARVESTING

DATE	ACTIVITIES (planned or completed)	RESULTS (or lessons I learned)

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Fun/recreation

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CULTIVATING—SOWING—HARVESTING

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A Note to all 2:7 Participants

We regret to inform you that we have some errors in this edition of Course 3. The problem is restricted to Session 3. An error in the electronic files caused the text to shift a page, so that the information that should be on page 36 appears on page 37. Page 37's information is on page 38. Page 38's information is on page 39, and the information that should be on page 39 is missing entirely. You will find the information for page 39 on the reverse side of this sheet.

We apologize for this error and any inconvenience it may cause you. This problem will be corrected on future issues of Course 3.

NavPress