

2:7 Series



COURSE 5

The Ministering Disciple

The Navigators is an international Christian organization. Our mission is to reach, disciple, and equip people to know Christ and to make Him known through successive generations. We envision multitudes of diverse people in the United States and every other nation who have a passionate love for Christ, live a lifestyle of sharing Christ's love, and multiply spiritual laborers among those without Christ.

NavPress is the publishing ministry of The Navigators. NavPress publications help believers learn biblical truth and apply what they learn to their lives and ministries. Our mission is to stimulate spiritual formation among our readers.

(D 1979 by The Navigators

Revised edition © 1988, 1994

All rights reserved. With the exception of pages 137-140, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without written permission from NavPress, P.O. Box 35001, Colorado Springs, CO 80935.

ISBN: 08910-9170X

Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are from the *HOLYBIBLE: NEWINTERNATIONAL VERSION*". Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers. Other versions quoted are *The Amplified New Testament* (AMP), © The Lockman Foundation 1954, 1958, used by permission; *The Modern Language Bible: The Berkeley Version in Modern English* (MLB), © 1945, 1959, 1969 by Zondervan Publishing House, used by permission; the *Jerusalem Bible* (JB), (D 1966, 1967, 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd, Ltd., and Doubleday and Co., Inc., used by permission; *The Living Bible* (LB), (D 1971 used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL, 60189, all rights reserved; the *New American Standard Bible* (NASB), (D The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977; *The New English Bible* (NEB), (D the Delegates of the Oxford University Press and the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press, 1961, 1970, reprinted by permission; *J.B. Phillips; The New Testament in Modern English, Revised Edition* (PH), © J.B. Phillips, 1958, 1960, 1972, published by the Macmillan Company, New York, and Collins Publishers, London, used by permission; the *Revised Standard Version of the Bible* (RSV), copyrighted 1946, 1952, (D 1971, 1973; the *Good News Bible* New Testament (GNB), © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976; Kenneth S. Wuest: *Wuest Word Studies from the Greek New Testament* (WUEST), © 1942, 1947, 1952, 1954, by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; and the *King James Version* (Kiv).

Printed in the United States of America

6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / 99 98 97 96

Contents

COMPLETION RECORD 5

SESSION 1 7

- Review the Goals of Course 4 7
- Scripture Memory Instructions—Week One 8
- How to Use Investigative Bible Studies 9

SESSION 2 14

- Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Two 14
- How to Lead the First IBS Meeting 15
- How to Lead the Second, Third, and Fourth IBS Meetings 16
- Leading the Last IBS Meeting 17
- Bible Study in Course 5 18
- “STS” Book Survey Form 19

SESSION 3 22

- Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Three 22
- Planning for the IBS 23
- Resources for Leading an IBS 26
- IBS 1, “Who Is Jesus Christ?” 27

SESSION 4 29

- Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Four 29
- A Rabbit on the Swim Team 30
- How to Lead “Search the Scriptures” Bible Studies 31
- STS Chapter Analysis—Philippians 1 32

SESSION 5 37

- Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Five 37
- An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts* by Rev. Gregory A. Wiens 38

SESSION 6 44

- Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Six 44
- Extended Prayer Together 45

Scripture Memory Quiz	47
STS Chapter Analysis—Philippians 2	51

SESSION 7 56

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Seven	56
A Guide for Extended Prayer Together	57

SESSION 8 70

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Eight	70
Extended Prayer Time Schedule	71
IBS 2, “Why Did Jesus Come?”	72
STS Chapter Analysis—Philippians 3	73

SESSION 9 78

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Nine	78
<i>The Need of the Hour</i> by Dawson Trotman	79
Scripture Memory in the Future	84
Maintaining Your Life and Ministry	84

SESSION 10 88

Scripture Memory Quiz	89
STS Chapter Analysis—Philippians 4	95

SESSION 11 99

STS Book Summary/Philippians	100
IBS 3—John 4, “What Does Jesus Want of Us?”	102
Evaluating Your Experience in <i>The 2:7 Series</i>	103
Congratulations	104

NOTES 105

Following page 106 are copies of Follow-Up Plan Sheets, Future Scripture Memory Sheets, Prayer Sheets, Individual Discipleship Records, Relationship Evangelism Activities Records, Bible Reading Highlights Records, My Personal Reading Record, Teaming Up to Witness and Investigative Bible Study (Suggestions for Leading Discussions in the Gospel of John), Investigative Bible Studies (four sample studies for an IBS study), Search the Scripture Forms (for future study), Scripture memory verses, and blank verse cards. Any of these pages may be reproduced without permission for limited use in a 2:7 group study.

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>Rely on God's Resources, TMS E 1-12, memory verses; or OYO</i> (on your own)		
"His Spirit"—1 Corinthians 3:16		
"His Spirit"—1 Corinthians 2:12		
"His Strength"—Isaiah 41:10		
"His Strength"—Philippians 4:13		
"His Faithfulness"—Lamentations 3:22-23		
"His Faithfulness"—Numbers 23:19		
"His Peace"—Isaiah 26:3		
"His Peace"—1 Peter 5:7		
"His Provision"—Romans 8:32		
"His Provision"—Philippians 4:19		
"His Help in Temptation"—Hebrews 2:18		
"His Help in Temptation"—Psalm 119:9,11		
Reviewed all of <i>Grow in Christlikeness, D 1-12</i> , for seven consecutive days.		
Reviewed all of <i>Be Christ's Disciple, C 1-12</i> , for seven consecutive days.		
OYO Passage 1—		
OYO Passage 2—		
OYO Passage 3—		
OYO Passage 4—		
OYO Passage 5—		
OYO Passage 6—		
OYO Passage 7—		
OYO Passage 8—		
OYO Passage 9—		
OYO Passage 10—		
OYO Passage 11—		
OYO Passage 12—		
Quoted <i>Rely on God's Resources, E 1-12; or OYO 1-12.</i>		
Got 100 percent on one quiz (topics, references, and first two words) for the first forty-eight passages in the <i>TMS</i> .		
Took the "Scripture Memory Quiz" in Session 10.		

QUIET TIME**Initial Date**

Completed Bible Reading Highlights Record for two weeks, meeting your own personal goals.		
---	--	--

BIBLE STUDY

Session 2—Book survey of Philippians (pages 19-20)		
Session 4—Philippians 1 (pages 32-35)		
Session 6—Philippians 2 (pages 51-54)		
Session 8—Philippians 3 (pages 73-76)		
Session 10—Philippians 4 (pages 95-98)		
Session 11—Book summary of Philippians (pages 100-101)		

EVANGELISM

Maintained Activities Record for two people.		
Gave testimony or <i>The Bridge Illustration</i> to a non-Christian and reported the results to the class.		
Studied material on Investigative Bible Studies. (pages 9-13, 15-18, 23-26)		

BIBLE STUDY LEADING

Led at least one of the Bible studies on Philippians.		
---	--	--

OTHER

Read and completed “A Rabbit on the Swim Team.” (page 30)		
Read and completed “An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts.” (pages 38-43)		
Participated in an extended time of prayer together.		
Read and completed <i>The Need of the Hour</i> . (pages 79-83)		
Completed “Evaluating Your Experience in <i>The 2:7 Series</i> .” (page 103)		

Session 1

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Discuss “Review the Goals of Course 4” (page 7).
2. Preview Course 5 by looking over the Completion Record (pages 5-6).
3. Survey the “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week One” (pages 8-9).
4. Discuss “How to Use Investigative Bible Studies” (pages 9-13).
5. Read the “Assignment for Session 2” (page 13).
6. Close the session in prayer.

Review the Goals of Course 4

The goals of Course 4 were as follows:

1. To experience a consistent and meaningful quiet time by . . .
 - a. combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer.
 - b. succeeding in having regular 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.
2. To quote accurately the twelve passages of *Grow in Christlikeness*.
3. To maintain the previous passages from *Grow in Christlikeness*, *Be Christ’s Disciple*, *Proclaim Christ*, and *Live the New Life*.
4. To learn and practice the principles for doing the “Search the Scriptures” Bible study.
5. To complete a study of the book of 1 Thessalonians.
6. To learn how to do basic follow-up with new believers.
7. To begin a list of future scripture memory verses.
8. To complete a spiritual inventory using *The Wheel* and *The Hand*.
9. To become more effective in lifestyle evangelism through
 - a. continuing to participate in activities with non-Christians.
 - b. sharing *The Bridge Illustration* or testimony with a non-Christian.
10. To learn principles for ministering in small groups and triads.
11. To learn principles for ministering one-to-one.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week One

Scripture Memory in Course 5

During Course 5 you may memorize either *Rely on God's Resources* from the *Topical Memory System* or twelve passages you select. For brevity, the two tracks are called *TMS* (for *Topical Memory System*) and "OYO" (for "on your own").

During this course, weekly "Scripture Memory Instructions" are divided into two sections: *TMS* verses and OYO verses.

TMS Verses—As in previous 2:7 courses, you will receive instructions to help you understand and memorize twelve *Topical Memory System* scripture passages. You will also receive suggestions for maintaining your review.

OYO Verses—Each week you will fill in information about the verses(s) you have previously selected to memorize that week, and you will receive help to maintain your review.

Habit Patterns

One of the goals of *The 2:7 Series* is to encourage positive habit patterns that will continue for years to come. Activities like having a quiet time, doing Bible study, relating to non-Christians, and ministering to both Christians and non-Christians need to become a regular part of your lifestyle.

Meaningful scripture memory is an important area in which you have been developing positive habit patterns. What you have been learning and practicing during *The 2:7 Series* will help you to continue in scripture memory after completion of Course 5.

Using Your Future Scripture Memory Sheet

In Course 4, you started using a Future Scripture Memory sheet. Continue to make entries on that page. After *The 2:7 Series* you will find it valuable to have a list of meaningful passages from which to choose scripture memory verses. If you do OYO memory during this course, you may select some of your verses from your Future Scripture Memory page. There are additional Future Scripture Memory sheets in the back of this book.

A Memory Aid for the TMS Verses

During Course 4 you prepared for quizzes to help sharpen your grasp on the *TMS* by learning topics, references, and the first two words of each passage. You may have used visual memory aids to help recall the topics.

Many people have used the following six-letter memory aid to help them recall the topics for *Rely on God's Resources*. Every subtopic begins with "His," so you have to remember only the rest of each subtopic: "Spirit," "Strength," "Faithfulness," "Peace," "Provision," and "Help in Temptation." Remember the first letter of each: S-S-F-P-P-H. Note that the pair of S's and pair of P's each has the shorter word first (e.g., "Spirit" is a shorter word than "Strength" and "Peace" is shorter than "Provision").

TMS Verses

If you choose this scripture memory track, you will memorize the last twelve passages of the *Topical Memory System*.

E. Rely on God's Resources

His Spirit	1 Corinthians 3:16 1 Corinthians 2:12
His Strength	Isaiah 41:10 Philippians 4:13
His Faithfulness	Lamentations 3:22-23 Numbers 23:19
His Peace	Isaiah 26:3 1 Peter 5:7
His Provision	Romans 8:32 Philippians 4:19
His Help in Temptation	Hebrews 2:18 Psalm 119:9-11

OYO Verses

If you plan to follow this memory track, come to Session 2 having already selected the twelve passages you will memorize during this course. Don't choose them week by week. Blank verse

cards are provided in the back of this book. On verse cards, write, print, or type the twelve passages you select. Fill in these references on your Completion Record.

Since you will not complete the *Rely on God's Resources* verses during this course, you may plan to memorize them during the three to six months following your graduation from Course 5.

Scripture Memory Review Pattern

During Course 5 you will follow a review pattern similar to the one you used in Course 4. Each week you will carry only one unit of verses for daily review and will leave the other three units of verses in your verse box. The units are A, B, C, and D. You will be memorizing either the E Series or verses you select yourself.

How to Use Investigative Bible Studies (Evangelistic Bible Studies)

INTRODUCTION

In the first three sessions of this course, you will receive instruction on leading evangelistic Bible studies. This material is quite comprehensive and will be a useful resource as you plan an Investigative Bible Study (IBS) or participate in one after Course 5.

A TOOL FOR THE TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE

In 1 Chronicles 12, we see a variety of men who sided with David and his cause. Notable in the list are the chiefs of Issachar, “who understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (verse 32).

Neither Jesus Christ nor the gospel message changes through generations or among varying cultures (Hebrews 13:8 and Romans 1:16). But the way in which the gospel of Jesus Christ is presented must sometimes be adjusted in order to communicate more effectively. Methods and approaches change as the times change. Methods that were productive ten years ago may be impractical and ineffectual today. Methods that thrive in a Western culture may fall short in a Third-World country or in the Orient. The message is eternal. Methods are transitory.

An IBS provides an approach to evangelism that fits our times. An IBS enables us to do some solid sowing and watering. In our generation many people have a limited biblical or church background. Today we must do more sowing and watering before we can harvest.

Jim Petersen mentions in his book *Living Proof*, “The people of the mainstream are not really seeking our spiritual values. The idea that the Christian faith could serve as a basis for living never even crosses the minds of most people. Instead, they attempt to satisfy their feelings of inner emptiness and malaise by pursuing experiences that provide momentary illusions of well-being.” Today, to initially confront such a person with the whole gospel and to press for a commitment is generally a poor strategy.

Peterson continues, “Possibly the most common weakness in our contemporary approaches to evangelism is our tendency to focus our message on the Christian contract—how to transact a relationship with God—rather than on the person of Jesus Christ. We become so intent on helping someone understand how to put his faith in Christ that we overlook the very real probability that he is almost devoid in his knowledge of Christ. It is *far wiser to focus on Jesus Christ than on the contract*. Instead of telling people what they

need to do, we want to bring them to an understanding of who Jesus is. As this understanding grows, the response—what the person needs to do—becomes self-evident.”

In our times, an Investigative Bible Study provides a natural context where sowing, watering, and harvesting can each take place.

LOOKING INTO THE LIFE OF CHRIST

When Jesus was traveling near the town of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They gave several answers. Then He said, “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:13-16).

How might some of your non-Christian friends or acquaintances answer Jesus’ question “Who do you say I am?” Being a participant in an effective IBS will help a person look into the life of Jesus Christ to see who He is and what He has done. The group interaction clarifies meaning and deepens impressions.

In Session 3 you will study the first topic, “Who Is Jesus Christ?” and role-play leading it with others in your group. Three additional studies from the Gospel of John are located in the back of this book. The other topics are:

- “Why Did Jesus Come?”
- “What Does Jesus Want of Us?”
- “Is Christ the Only Way?”

RECRUITING GUIDELINES FOR AN IBS

Selecting People to Recruit

There are several sources where you might look to recruit people to be in an IBS.

1. *Those people listed on your Evangelism Prayer List.* You have prayed for them and have spent time with them.
2. *Some of your other non-Christian friends or acquaintances.* It helps to make a list of people who are possibilities. Pray for them. If possible, spend some informal time with them. For example, these people could be

- neighbors
- friends of a new Christian
- church visitors
- from an exercise class

What other sources can you think of?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. *Other Christians to be part of the IBS team.* You may team up with some from your 2:7 group or you may find other likeminded people who would like to be involved with you.

Other Recruiting Factors

1. You usually don't want non-Christian participants to travel very far to the home where the IBS meetings will be held.
2. Recruit people you think will fit together well. It doesn't seem to matter if there are differences in age. Being from roughly the same socio-economic group seems to be a factor.
3. There is no optimum number of people for an IBS. An IBS can be successful with one person, a couple, or up to twelve people.
4. People are busy. Ideally, you want to start recruiting four to six weeks before your first IBS meeting. You can recruit people from that time right up to the last minute.
5. Consider recruiting a few more than you can handle comfortably. There are usually some who have last-minute conflicts and can't come.

Making the Invitation

For some, the thought of inviting non-Christians to an IBS is frightening. If you follow the guidelines, you will find that it is less difficult than you might suspect. Here are some guidelines:

1. Pray for the people for several days before you invite them. Get others to pray for them by name.
2. When inviting a couple, make the invitation when both husband and wife are present. During a relaxed social time is an ideal time to invite them. Bring up the subject right after you have had a good laugh.
3. Be sure they know how many sessions to which they are committing themselves. Because of busy schedules, one to four sessions would be a good number to recommend.
4. Tell them that each meeting will last one hour with light refreshments afterward.
5. Don't expect them to give a yes or no answer when you first invite them. Ask them to consider it, and get back to them in a few days. Pray during the waiting period and maintain your normal relationship with them.
6. When you make the invitation, it is sometimes helpful to show them some of the material you will be using in the study. It would be best if you can supply identical paperback Bibles to use.
7. Let them know you have invited others. They will feel less on the spot knowing that others will be there. If you have earned the friendship, it is possible to have an excellent study with just one person or one couple. A larger group generates a more dynamic discussion.
8. Less than half of the group should be Christians. Be sure the Christians are aware that they must not dominate the discussion or react with surprise or criticism to unusual questions or comments made by the non-Christians.

IBS MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES

The home where the meeting will be held needs to be ready well in advance. Team members should arrive a little early with their guest(s). Here are some of the responsibilities:

1. Host and Hostess.

Though they may delegate some of the work, the host and hostess are responsible for the following:

- a. Setting up the meeting area with adequate chairs and lighting.
- b. Having beverages available as guests arrive and beverages plus a light dessert following the meeting.
- c. Welcoming guests as they arrive and introducing people to one another.
- d. Handling any distractions that come up during the meeting, such as the phone or younger children.
- e. Keeping the room temperature comfortable.
- f. Participating in the IBS discussion.
- g. Praying silently during the meeting.

2. Leader.

The leader carries the heaviest load in each IBS session. The leader's main responsibility is to guide the IBS discussion. To do this well requires prayer and preparation.

- a. *Pray and recruit others to pray.* You need wisdom, and the participants need prepared hearts.
- b. *Review your IBS material several times.* Fill out your own answers to the questions on the IBS sheet and review them several times before the discussion.
- c. *Prepare additional questions.* For sample questions see the IBS studies on chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5 of John.
- d. *Write on your study sheet the questions and references you want to use during the discussion.* In this way you will only have a study sheet and a Bible like everyone else.
- e. *Have enough identical paperback Bibles for the participants.* It is helpful when people can refer to page numbers during the discussion.
- f. *Have copies of the next week's IBS sheet if it is a group that likes to do homework.* Prepare to lead as though the people will not have their answers done.
- g. *Plan to start and end each meeting on time.* Each discussion should be no more than one hour. If you go overtime, some may not attend next time. Leave them wanting more.

AFTER EACH STUDY

The informal time after each discussion provides an excellent opportunity for building friendships. The Christians should not leave early. It is important to stay, have refreshments, and talk with people.

1. During the Refreshment Time

- a. The Christians should not stick together. They need to mingle with the others.
- b. Listen to the reactions of the guests. You can catch hints about what they are thinking, what they don't understand, and how they think the discussion went.
- c. Don't try to have further spiritual influence during the social time unless they initiate it. It is better to discuss other subjects. You want to be their friend.

2. Between IBS Meetings
 - a. Maintain friendly contact, but don't overdo it. One friendly contact between sessions should be enough.
 - b. Remind them of the next session. Let them know you enjoyed having them in the discussion group.
 - c. You may want to help with transportation or help meet some other need.
3. Other Considerations
 - a. Things to do:
 - Accept the non-Christian as he is. Try to be a genuine friend.
 - Help guests feel comfortable and at ease in the discussion setting.
 - b. Things not to do:
 - Don't attempt to reform them.
 - Don't rush them in spiritual matters.
 - Don't have a prayer before or after the meeting if your group has some non-churched people in it.
 - Don't talk about church.
 - Don't discuss other religious groups in a negative way.
 - Don't use Christian jargon.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 2

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete "Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Two" (pages 14-15). Memorize the two verses on "His Spirit," 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 2:12, or the two passages you have selected.
 - b. Review daily the passages of Series D, *Grow in Christlikeness*, and the two new passages this week after you memorize them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish on the Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Bible Study:
 - a. Read "Bible Study in Course 5," page 18.
 - b. Complete a book survey of Philippians, pages 19-20.
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.
 - c. Review materials on Investigative Bible Studies in Session 1.
 - d. Study the materials on how to lead IBS meetings, pages 15-18.
5. Other: Set a date and location for the extended prayer together discussed in Session 7.

Session 2

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and review the two passages on “His Spirit,” 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 2:12, or the two passages you have selected.
2. Share 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 “How to Use Investigative Bible Studies” from Session 1 and the materials for leading IBS studies, pages 15-18.
6. Read information on “Bible Study in Course 5,” page 18.
7. Discuss the book survey of Philipians.
8. Discuss plans for extended prayer together for Session 7.
9. Read the “Assignment for Session 3” (page 21).
10. Close in prayer.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Two

About the TMS Verses

SERIES E: *RELY ON GOD’S RESOURCES*

God “has given us everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). Knowing our limitations and knowing every trial and test we will ever face, the Lord has provided all we need to live victoriously and fruitfully for His glory. Our part is to commit ourselves to Him, to appropriate His resources, and to obey Him completely. He will provide the strength and ability, “for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose” (Philippians 2:13). In this series there are six spiritual resources you can rely on to enable you to fulfill God’s will for your life.

TOPIC 1. HIS SPIRIT

Since the moment we received Christ as

Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit has dwelt inside us. He lives in us to help us do what we cannot do ourselves: live for Christ, serve Him, and overcome evil. The Holy Spirit continually ministers to us and through us.

1 Corinthians 3:16—In this verse Paul stated that the Holy Spirit dwells among believers in the church. Of course, He also indwells individual believers. In another letter Paul wrote, “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ” (Romans 8:9).

1 Corinthians 2:12—One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to make known to us the things of God. Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would guide them “into all truth” (John 16:13), allowing them to understand His Word. As you memorize your verses, depend on the Spirit to make them meaningful.

About the OYO Verses

If you have chosen this memory track, each week you will write your own comments about the verses. Space is provided for the verse reference and your comments.

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Your Weekly Plan

As mentioned in Session 1, each week this section provides instructions for both memory tracks. Continue to follow these guidelines carefully. For brevity, the two tracks are called *TMS*

(for *Topical Memory System*) and “OYO” (for “on your own”). Your instructions for this week are:

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

2. *TMS*: Place 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 2:12 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series E cards in your verse box.

OYO: Place your two verse cards for this week in the window of your pack. Keep your unlearned verse cards in your verse box.

3. Read the context of each verse as you begin to memorize it. Think of its meaning.

4. 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.

5. After you have memorized your two new passages, write them out or quote them to someone before coming to class.

How to Lead the First IBS Meeting

This is a very important meeting. It may determine whether the guests will return or not. The people in the group need to know how the sessions will be conducted and what will be expected of them. This is an opportunity for clarification and further motivation.

Guidelines:

1. The primary goal of this first meeting is to have a warm, friendly atmosphere.
2. Start on time with an “icebreaker” to get people involved and better acquainted with each other. Have each person tell something about himself like his name, where he grew up, and his vocation. You want an atmosphere of openness so anyone can ask additional questions. The leader will answer the questions first in order to demonstrate to the others what they are expected to do.
3. The leader needs to establish the discussion *ground rules*. He needs to say something like:
 - “I am not asking you to *agree* with the Bible, but please make an honest effort to *understand* what it says.”
 - “We will not be discussing our *own personal opinions* about Jesus, but we are going to look at what an ‘eyewitness’ had to say about Him. John was one of His closest friends.”
 - “The primary questions we want to answer are: ‘Who is Jesus Christ?’ and ‘What does He want of me?’”

4. Pass out copies of IBS 1, “Who Is Jesus Christ?” (Limited permission is given to reproduce this page for use in conducting an IBS.) Pass out copies of identical paperback Bibles as well.
5. Discuss the “think about” question. Try to have everyone answer this question. The more people talk, the more you will be able to evaluate where they are in their thinking.
6. Transition to the first question: “What is said about the Word?” You may want to give a brief explanation of the Gospel of John. Also, demonstrate how to read a Bible reference by chapter and verse.
7. Work through each question in the study. Get everyone involved in the discussion at some time during the hour. As you discuss the questions, remember:
 - a. Controversial and divergent issues should be tabled until the end of the study or until next week.
 - b. Avoid getting into moral or philosophical issues. You want to keep the focus on Jesus Christ.
 - c. Avoid arguing in defense of the Bible. Remember that one of the discussion ground rules is to understand what the Bible teaches, whether one agrees with it or not.
8. Give them the assignment for next week. Suggest that they answer the questions before the next meeting if they have time. Don’t be surprised or disappointed if they don’t do it.
9. As people leave, let them know that you have enjoyed being with them and that you are looking forward to seeing them next week. Mention again the time and location of the next session.

How to Lead the Second, Third, and Fourth IBS Meetings

You will lead the second through the fourth IBS meetings in the same way. The following guidelines apply to all three of these meetings:

1. As people arrive each week, allow about ten minutes for small talk and getting further acquainted. This time should be fun, not serious. You may want to have some light music playing softly in the background until the discussion group starts.
2. As you begin, the group leader should ask, “Which of you were able to write answers to each question this week?” and “Who was busy and unable to get the study completed this week?” Don’t imply by your nonverbal communication that you are disappointed that some did not have the work done. It helps to know how to lead when you know the level of preparation in the group.
3. Remind them of the ground rules:
 - a. We are not asking them to *agree* with the Bible, but to make an effort to *understand* what it says.
 - b. We will not discuss our own personal opinions about Jesus, but discover what the Gospel of John says about Him.
 - c. We want to answer two primary questions in our discussions: “Who is Jesus Christ?” and “What does He want of me?”
4. Discuss the study question by question.

- a. On some of the questions, have anyone answer who would like to. On others, you may want to give every person an opportunity to share an answer.
 - b. Frequently compliment and affirm each person for his work or answer.
 - c. On occasion, the people may not be able to answer some of the questions asked. This may require you to teach on these areas.
5. Create a relaxed atmosphere where people in the group feel free to express questions, answers, confusion, skepticism, and any personal hang-ups related to the material. You create this atmosphere by
- a. not resenting any question that may come up.
 - b. admitting when you do not understand something or when you are wrong.
 - c. not being personally threatened by anything the group says.
 - d. expressing appreciation for what the group members say.
 - e. not feeling you should answer every question people in the group ask. Let others in the group answer the questions if you can.
6. If you are working with another member of your 2:7 group or your spouse, it is helpful for that person to sit on the opposite side of the circle. Everyone's eyes will frequently be on the leader. The other person will be able to observe the reactions of group members.

Leading the Last IBS Meeting

The discussion sessions do not reach their intended end until some of the IBS participants come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It may take place during the weeks a person is in an IBS, or it could happen a year or two later.

Soon after people clearly understand the gospel, we want to give them an opportunity to commit their life to Christ. Don't wait for them to ask you for help. Take the initiative to warmly and clearly assist them in this.

It is comfortable and natural to talk about a commitment to Christ if:

- The discussions have communicated the gospel clearly.
- There has been a relaxed and open atmosphere in the group.
- The IBS participants have grown in their friendship with you.

During the last IBS session, plan to spend time in the following activities:

1. Sharing together some of the things group members feel they have learned.
2. Getting general feedback on how the participants liked the way things were handled.
3. Reviewing the essential elements of the gospel that you have studied together. If you feel it is appropriate, you could share *The Bridge Illustration* during this meeting.
4. Determining if you should continue the group. If there has been high interest during the sessions, some of the people will probably ask whether they could continue the study.

You should never make an open-ended commitment to meet with the group indefinitely. Always think in terms of a specific number of sessions. You could suggest that you meet for another four to six weeks or cover a certain number of chapters.

If you feel there are some in the group who are not really interested in continuing, you might be more noncommittal. You could suggest to the group that you would be willing to lead another study if there was interest in the group. You could then suggest that they think about it and telephone you in a few days to tell you how they feel about continuing. This allows those who are not interested to bow out graciously. It also enables those who are interested to come to the conviction that they honestly want to continue. You may be able to replace individuals or couples who drop out with people from another study or others you feel are at about the same level of interest and who would fit comfortably into the group.

There are two books that provide excellent resource material for leading an IBS. Both books contain questions on each of the twenty-one chapters in the Gospel of John. These questions are similar to the questions provided for leading an IBS in this course. Both books are published by NavPress.

- *Living Proof* by Jim Petersen. This is written from the perspective of leading one person in an IBS.
- *Your Home, a Lighthouse* by Bob and Betty Jacks. This book is written with the IBS team in mind.

5. Setting appointments with the non-Christians. Let the group know that you, or the one who invited them to the IBS, will be phoning them in the next few days to set up a time to drop by and talk about the information covered in the study. You or your other team members may even set up a few appointments before they leave this last session.

When you phone each person, set up a time to drop by his home, or ask him to come by your home for a light dessert and beverage. Meet at a place where the other person doesn't feel uncomfortable. Make it clear to him why you are coming to see him. Tell him that you would like to talk in more detail about his reactions to being in the group, the things you discussed, and how he might use what he has learned. You do not want him to give you his comments over the phone. You want to interact with him personally. It is helpful to have the appointment with a couple set up for a time when their children are in bed. This is the advantage of meeting in their home.

After the initial greetings and small talk, you could say something like, "I'd like to share an illustration with you that summarizes what we have been discussing in our Bible studies." This would be an excellent time to share *The Bridge Illustration*. Refer to the material in Course 2 on how to follow through after you have made a presentation.

Bible Study in Course 5

During Course 4, you prepared and participated in an Inductive Bible Study. In Course 5, you will again use the "Search the Scriptures" method to study Philippians the same way you did in Course 4 with 1 Thessalonians.

Review "How to Do a Book Survey" in Course 4, page 18. Then prepare a book survey of Philippians using the form provided.

“STS” Book Survey Form

Book: Philippians Date: _____

1. Principal Personalities: _____

2. Historical Setting: _____

3. Geography: _____

4. Purpose: _____

5. Theme(s): _____

6. Style: _____

7. Key Words: _____

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 3

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Three” (page 22). Memorize the two verses on “His Strength,” Isaiah 41:10 and Philippians 4:13, or the two passages you have selected.
 - b. Review daily the passages of Series A, *Live the New Life*, and your two new passages this week after you memorize them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish.
3. Bible Study:
 - a. Complete the Bible study on “Resources for Leading an IBS” (page 26).
 - b. Complete the Bible study on “Who Is Jesus Christ?” and come prepared to discuss it (page 27).
4. Bible Study Leading:
 - a. Read and mark materials on Investigative Bible Study (pages 23-25).
 - b. Assign Bible study leaders for the book of Philippians.
5. Evangelism: Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Session 3

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the two verses on “His Strength,” Isaiah 41:10 and Philipians 4:13, or the two passages you have selected.
2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Discuss the materials on Investigative Bible Study (pages 23-25).
5. Discuss “Resources for Leading an IBS” (page 26).
6. Discuss Investigative Bible Study 1—“Who Is Jesus Christ?” (page 27).
7. Read the “Assignment for Session 4” (page 28).
8. Close in prayer.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Three

About the TMS Verses

TOPIC 2. HIS STRENGTH

Facing a challenge or responsibility that is beyond our abilities gives us opportunity to draw from the resource of God’s unlimited strength. Actually, we must depend on Him to make any spiritual progress. Jesus said, “Apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Isaiah 41:10—God has promised His help and strength to us, through His presence with us. Knowing God is with us is our greatest source of reassurance and strength.

Philipians 4:13—Paul learned by experience (verses 11-12) that he could be content in any situation God allowed to come into his life. His source of confidence was the strength given him by the Lord.

About the OYO Verses

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Your Weekly Plan

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

2. *TMS*: Place Isaiah 41:10 and Philipians 4:13 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series E cards in your verse box.

OYO: Place your two verse cards for this week in the window of your pack. Keep your unlearned verse cards in the verse box.

3. Read the context of each passage as you begin to memorize it. Think of its meaning.

4. 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.

5. After you have memorized your two passages, write them out or quote them to someone before coming to class.

6. Continue daily review of the passages you

have memorized in this course.

Planning for the IBS

You have studied how to lead an evangelistic Investigative Bible Study. After you complete Course 5, you may have opportunity to use this effective tool with some of your non-Christian friends. You can conduct the IBS by yourself or work with other members of your 2:7 group.

CONDUCTING THE IBS BY YOURSELF

There are times when it is advantageous to lead the IBS by yourself. The situation may not lend itself to including another Christian. What should you consider when you invite your non-Christian friend to discuss the Bible with you? In his book *Living Proof*, Jim Petersen gives the following suggestions.

Going to the Primary Source

“When it comes to communicating the gospel to the secularized person, we strengthen our appeal immeasurably by letting him know we intend to confine ourselves to an examination of the sole primary source that we Christians claim: the Bible. Although the average secularized person does not accept the inspiration or authority of the Bible, the idea of taking a look for himself at this famous book is likely to be very attractive to him. It defines the parameters of the discussion for him, and for us. He thus feels that the odds are more even, that he will be free to think and decide for himself.

“Frequently the non-Christian fears being indoctrinated and manipulated. Christian books and tracts abound; they are in endless supply. Although many of them can be extremely helpful, all of them fall into the category of secondary sources. They are someone’s perception of the primary source. As such, they are often viewed with suspicion by the non-Christian. He is never sure he is really getting the full story. Thus the skeptical or wary non-Christian who keeps his distance will often respond favorably to an opportunity to do some original investigation—if the environment is right. So our goal is to create that right environment as we simultaneously lead the non-Christian to see the wisdom of taking time to personally research a subject of this magnitude. . . .

Getting Started

“Our immediate objective is to help a person begin to examine the Bible. From there on, our purpose is to lead him into an understanding of its central message: that Jesus is God and that one passes from death to life through faith in Him. This purpose can be summarized in two questions: (1) Who is Jesus? (2) What does He want of me? . . .

“Our immediate concern is not to extract agreement or to win arguments; it is to produce understanding. We need to leave room for disagreement and doubt. It is the *Holy Spirit* alone who convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment, not us. It is the *Bible* that reveals the true intents of the heart. We should leave these responsibilities where they belong. Our part as we co-labor with God is to bring the non-Christian into contact with

these powers, and to love him as he struggles his way out of his rebellion and into faith. . .

Keeping It Going

“Rather than asking for a commitment to study through the entire book of John or even for a six-week commitment, it is better to take it one week at a time. The more loosely we hold people, the freer they will feel around us. If we establish expectations, and then if they don’t fulfill them, there will be a sense of failure. We can avoid this simply by not expressing expectations or by not setting any standards. The continuing of the studies must depend on genuine interest in the subject and on the strength of the rapport or friendship between the two of us. . . .

“We have treated the subject of getting started on a one-on-one basis. Very often this is where it all begins—with one individual. If we start out with the idea that before anything can happen we must organize a group of non-Christians, we could easily overlook the individual opportunities. Frequently these prove to be the greatest in the long run! But the approach we have described here can, of course, also be applied effectively on the small-group level.”

CONDUCTING THE IBS AS PART OF A TEAM

There are times when it is advantageous to conduct an IBS as part of a team. The team can be formed with other members of your 2:7 group. Some members of your 2:7 group may not be ready to lead an IBS but may have one or more non-Christian friends they could invite to a study.

In their book *Your Home, a Lighthouse*, Bob and Betty Jacks say, “Choosing the right team is foundational to effective ministry. Why have a team? Because it is biblical and it is practical. Jesus sent out His disciples to minister in twos. Paul always seemed to have a team, even when he was in prison. He ministered together with Luke, Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, and others. There is strength and encouragement that results from working side by side with another dedicated couple or person. We become accountable to one another, which helps our commitment. Further, a team allows spiritual gifts to be exercised.”

It is *not* a good idea to have more Christians involved in the IBS than there are non-Christians. Keep that in mind as you organize your IBS team.

Establishing Your IBS Team

Your IBS team may consist of the following members:

1. *Leader*. He or she coordinates the activities of the team and leads the IBS discussion. This person may or may not recruit a non-Christian to attend the IBS. Often it is better that the leader not conduct the study in his own home. This way he can be the “guest expert” in someone else’s home.
2. *Host and hostess*. They provide the location for the IBS. They are responsible to invite their own contacts and participate as group members in the discussion.
3. *Other Christian participants*. They can be part of the IBS only if they bring at least one non-Christian contact.
4. *Prayer and support partners*. They are not a part of the IBS discussion meetings and are

not members of your 2:7 group. Their ministry is to support the IBS by praying and providing any support needed by the IBS team.

Frequency of Meetings

How often are you going to meet? How many times will you meet? These are questions you need to answer before you invite your non-Christian contacts.

You could meet *weekly* for a designated number of sessions. After the last session, you can see if they want to continue for another number of designated sessions. Many people find it difficult to commit one evening a week unless they see an ending point.

Another plan is to have your IBS on a *monthly* basis. People are busy and may not be able to give one night a week to an IBS. This includes both team members and non-Christian friends. A monthly meeting will give you an ongoing, open Bible study that you or your team members can invite people to at any time. It will let you develop your relationships with your contacts during the off weeks. As people come to trust in Christ, you and your team members will have time to do basic follow-up, as well as helping them in discipleship. Monthly meetings will allow considerably more flexibility in planning your time. However, they may offer less continuity in the make-up of your study group. It will be important to make sure each discussion session can stand on its own.

Beginning an IBS Study

We suggest that you wait until after completing Course 5 before beginning an Investigative Bible Study. Then you will want to review the material in Sessions 1 and 3. You should begin now to pray about who would lead the study, who would host the study, etc., and record some of your thoughts on the IBS team planning form below.

IBS TEAM PLANNING

Establish your IBS teams. Remember, it is wise to have at least half non-Christians in an IBS group if possible. Determine the following:

1. The leader _____
2. The host and hostess _____
3. Other members _____
4. Prayer and support partners (not from your 2:7 group) _____

5. Location _____
6. Date to begin _____
7. Time to begin meeting _____ end meeting _____
8. Frequency of meetings (monthly or weekly) _____
9. People to invite _____

Resources for Leading an IBS

You have studied how to use Investigative Bible Studies with your non-Christian friends, and you will role-play leading these sessions. This is excellent preparation for conducting a study with your friends, but our confidence is not in our preparation or our natural skillfulness with words. Our confidence is in God Himself and in His Word. The following Bible study on the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit will help you focus on God's resources.

1. Write out what each passage says about the power of the Word of God.

Isaiah 55:10-11 _____

Jeremiah 23:28-29 _____

Hebrews 4:12 _____

1 Peter 1: 23-24 _____

2. From the following passages, what is the Holy Spirit doing in the lives of unbelievers as we share the Word of God with them?

John 15:26-27 _____

John 16:8-11 _____

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 _____

3. According to 1 Corinthians 3:7-8, how would you describe our relationship with God as we minister to others? _____

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Discussion Questions for the Gospel of John, Chapter 1
--

THINK ABOUT: What do you think are some present-day views of who Jesus Christ is?

John introduces Jesus Christ at the beginning of his book as “the Word.” We see in verses 1 and 14 that the Word was God and that the Word became flesh.

1. What else is said about the Word in verses 1-3?
2. What is another analogy used about Jesus? What is said about it? Verses 4-9
3. How does a person enter God’s family? Verses 11-13
4. How would you describe John the Baptist? Verses 15-28
5. What did John the Baptist say about Jesus? Verses 15-18, 29-34

©1988, 1994 by The Navigators, *The 2:7 Series Course 5*. Limited permission granted to reproduce.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 4

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Four” (page 29).
Memorize the two verses on “His Faithfulness,” Lamentations 3:22-23 and Numbers 23:19, or the two passages you have selected.
 - b. Review daily Series B and your two new passages this week after you memorize them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish.
3. Bible Study: Complete the Bible study for Philippians 1:1-29 (pages 32-35).
4. Bible Study Leading: Read “How to Lead ‘Search the Scriptures’ Bible Studies” (pages 30-31).
5. Evangelism: Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
6. Other: Read and complete “A Rabbit on the Swim Team” (page 30).

Session 4

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the two verses on “His Faithfulness,” Lamentations 3:22-23 and Numbers 23:19, or the two passages you have selected.
2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Discuss “A Rabbit on the Swim Team” (page 30).
5. Discuss “How to Lead ‘Search the Scriptures’ Bible Studies” (page 31).
6. Discuss the Bible study for Philippians 1:1-29.
7. Read the “Assignment for Session 5” (page 36).
8. Close in prayer.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Four

About the TMS Verses

TOPIC 3. HIS FAITHFULNESS

In a day when people and institutions often are undependable, it is comforting to know that God is faithful. His faithfulness is absolute and is part of His very nature.

Lamentations 3:22-23—In this verse, we see that except for God’s loving mercy, He might have given up on mankind long ago. But because the Lord is faithful, every morning can become a new fresh beginning with Him!

Numbers 23:19—In contrast to men and women, God cannot lie. He does exactly what He has said He will do. He is faithful to His Word. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Matthew 24:35). The passing of time does not alter God’s promises. We can stake our life on them, because He is faithful.

About the OYO Verses

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Your Weekly Plan

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

2. *TMS*: Place Lamentations 3:22-23 and Numbers 23:19 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series E verses in your box.

OYO: Place your two cards for this week in the window of your pack. Keep your cards for the remaining passages in your verse box.

3. Read the context of each passage as you begin to memorize it. Think about its meaning.

4. 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.

5. After you have memorized your two passages, write them out or quote them to someone before coming to class.

A Rabbit on the Swim Team

Charles Swindoll tells the following story in his book *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*. It may motivate you to think about the uniqueness of your interests, gifts, and abilities.

Once upon a time, the animals decided they should do something meaningful to meet the problems of the new world. So they organized a school.

They adopted an activity curriculum of running, climbing, swimming and flying. To make it easier to administer the curriculum, all the animals took all the subjects.

The *duck* was excellent in swimming; in fact, better than his instructor. But he made only passing grades in flying, and was very poor in running. Since he was slow in running, he had to drop swimming and stay after school to practice running. This caused his web feet to be badly worn, so that he was only average in swimming. But average was quite acceptable, so nobody worried about that—except the duck.

The *rabbit* started at the top of his class in running, but developed a nervous twitch in his leg muscles because of much make-up work in swimming.

The *squirrel* was excellent in climbing, but he encountered constant frustration in flying class because his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of from the treetop down. He developed “charlie horses” from overexertion, and so only got a C in climbing and a D in running.

The *eagle* was a problem child and was severely disciplined for being a non-conformist. In climbing classes he beat all the others to the top of the tree, but insisted on using his own way to get there. . . .

The obvious moral of the story is a simple one—each creature has its own set of capabilities in which it will naturally excel—unless it is expected or forced to fill a mold that doesn’t fit. When that happens, frustration, discouragement, and even guilt bring overall mediocrity or complete defeat. A duck is a duck—and *only* a duck. It is built to swim, not to run or fly and certainly not to climb. A squirrel is a squirrel—and *only* that. To move it out of its forte, climbing, and then expect it to swim or fly will drive a squirrel nuts. Eagles are beautiful creatures in the air but not in a foot race. The rabbit will win every time unless, of course, the eagle gets hungry.

What is true of creatures in the forest is true of Christians in the family; both the family of believers and the family under your roof. God has not made us all the same. He never intended to. It was He who planned and designed the differences, unique capabilities, and variations in the Body. So concerned was He that we realize this, He spelled it out several times in His final will and testament.

What are one or two important implications from the story?

How to Lead “Search the Scriptures” Bible Studies

How do you lead a discussion when you are studying a book of the Bible chapter by chapter? The basic principles you learned in Course 3 (pages 9-12) in formulating questions and guiding discussion would be the same. In covering material in a chapter study, you will use discovery and understanding questions as you discuss each section of the study. Discuss both the things the group wants to discuss and the ideas you think are important.

There are many effective ways to lead a “Search the Scriptures” study. The following is one way a group session might proceed section by section. Before beginning the discussion, you might read the passage in a modern translation.

The passage description will reveal general impressions of the chapter. You might ask people in the beginning to tell what impressed them about the chapter as they wrote their passage description. Ask several people to share their description of the passage along with their *theme*. Ask them to tell why they chose a certain theme. You may want to relate the theme of a passage to the survey study that you did on the book. You could ask, “If the theme of this chapter is . . . , how does that relate to what we studied about the background of the people, their location, or the problems they were facing?”

When you sense you have elicited some of the major truths of the passage by discussing the passage descriptions, move on to the next section.

In the *verse-by-verse meditation* section of the study, people make some significant observations about the details of the passage, begin to interpret the passage by asking questions, and look at what the Scriptures say in other places about their discoveries.

You might launch the discussion by saying, “Let’s look at the first paragraph. Someone share an observation, any questions you had about the observation, and a cross-reference or two that gave you more insight into the issue.” As people share, watch for any ambiguous terms or religious clichés that need clarifying. Ask understanding questions in order to clarify meaning and to help people in the group to dig into the content of the passage. When someone in the group asks a question about an observation, you may wish to let the group interact with him or her on the question.

When someone shares a cross-reference, you can take the discussion deeper by asking, “What new light or insight does the cross-reference bring to bear on the passage?”

When people have discussed many of their observations about the passage, move on to the *conclusions*. Again, ask someone to share a conclusion. Ask the group if they think this is a valid conclusion from the Scripture they have studied. Is there evidence in the chapter or cross-reference to support the conclusion? We want to teach people who are becoming Christ’s disciples to be open to the ideas of others as they present their conclusions. We also want them to come to right conclusions and to be able to defend them.

Be sure to save plenty of time to talk about *applications*. This is the heart of the issue. We are to teach people to obey. Ask people to share their applications if they are not too personal. Help people to become specific and practical in their applications. Then, next week, when you approach your time of Bible study, begin with applications. Ask people what progress they have made with their applications. Volunteer to help people with this crucial element of Bible study (James 1:22-25).

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 5

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Five” (page 37). Memorize the two verses on “His Peace,” Isaiah 26:3 and 1 Peter 5:7, or the two passages you have selected.
 - b. Review daily Series C and your two new passages this week after you memorize them.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish.
3. 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 on your Activities Record.
4. Other: Read and mark “An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts” and complete the “Determining Your Spiritual Gift Exercise,” pages 38-43.

Session 5

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the two verses on “His Peace,” Isaiah 26:3 and 1 Peter 5:7, or the two passages you have selected.
2. Share 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 “An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts” (pages 38-43).
6. Read the “Assignment for Session 6” (page 43).
7. Close in prayer.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Five

About the TMS Verses

TOPIC 4. HIS PEACE

Fear, anxiety, and restlessness characterize our times. Even Christians, who have peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ, often lack the peace of God in their day-to-day living. Yet God can give us peace in our hearts in the midst of difficult circumstances. “The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever” (Isaiah 32:17).

Isaiah 26:3—This is the true source of freedom from anxiety—confident reliance upon God in everything.

1 Peter 5:7—Peter said we are to cast all our anxiety on God, who makes it His concern to take care of us.

About the OYO Verses

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Your Weekly Plan

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

2. *TMS*: Place Isaiah 26:3 and 1 Peter 5:7 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series E cards in your verse box.

OYO: Place your two verse cards for this week in the window of your pack. Keep your remaining unlearned cards in your verse box.

3. Read the context of each passage as you begin to memorize it. Be sure to think about its meaning.

4. 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.

5. After you have memorized your two passages, write them out or quote them to someone before coming to class.

6. Continue daily review of the passages you

An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

by Rev. Gregory A. Wiens

have memorized during this course.

Spiritual Gifts and Teamwork

Imagine you and some of your friends decide to put together a football team, but somehow your team ends up in a stadium playing a professional team. You would not fare too well and would probably be seriously hurt because of your lack of equipment, training, conditioning, experience, and skills. Christians often join the battle against Satan in much the same way (Ephesians 6:10-13). They become involved in the Church without the proper understanding of the equipment, little training, conditioning, or basic skills, and practically no knowledge of positions on the playing field.

Thus far in *The 2:7 Series* you have been working on your training and conditioning in the basic spiritual skills: daily quiet time, Scripture memory, prayer, evangelism, fellowship, Bible study, and discipling others. But now we need to go further to understand how we all can minister together toward our common goal. We must know *how* God can use us, that is, the *position* we should play on the team.

Christ's strategy for reaching the world for Himself was through the Church (Ephesians 3:10-12). He has called *each* of us to contribute (Ephesians 4:1)! Everyone is expected to contribute in a unique way (Ephesians 4:7).

But how are you to contribute and in what unique way has God called you? He has given you a special gift with which to serve Him.

A great deal of confusion concerning spiritual gifts exists today, as it did in Paul's day. Instead of telling people to ignore spiritual gifts because of this problem, Paul tells the church at Corinth he does not want them to be ignorant on the subject (1 Corinthians 12:1). He then dedicates the next three chapters to trying to clear up the confusion.

Major Passages on Spiritual Gifts

Let us take a closer look at what the Bible says about spiritual gifts. They are explicitly addressed in 1 Corinthians 12–14, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4. Responsible Bible

study necessitates that we understand the central thrust of each of these passages before we begin to look at specific verses. The central thoughts of each passage are as follows:

1 Corinthians 12–14

God gives every Christian a spiritual gift. There are great differences among gifts, but all gifts belong to one body, the Body of Christ. If the people who exercise them lack *love*, gifts are useless in ministering for Christ, and in fact can be divisive.

Romans 12

The supreme application of all doctrinal teaching is to give our entire lives to Christ in ministry. We must honestly evaluate who we are, then use our gifts in service to God. He gives us gifts out of His *grace*, and it is *love* which keeps the service appropriate.

Ephesians 4

All of us are called to unity, maturity, and ministry. As leadership gifts are exercised to equip and prepare others to use their gifts in ministry, then the entire body grows in maturity and becomes stable and united. Again, it is God's *grace* which is emphasized, and *love* holds the Body together through the process.

1 Peter 4

We should live totally for God, even in suffering. In fact, suffering allows us to keep everything in perspective. The end is near; therefore, we should act accordingly and use our gifts to serve each other with the *grace* which God has given us. This service starts with *love* and ends with praise given to Christ.

Unity with Diversity

Spiritual gifts allow us to fulfill different roles in the Church. We all function in a variety of ways, like the various positions on a football team. We may do different things, but the goal is always to build up the Body of Christ—the Church.

Paul uses the analogy of a human body with

its many members to enable us to understand how, though having a variety of functions, we have a unity of purpose. In 1 Corinthians 12, he repeatedly emphasizes the variety of gifts and members of the Body. But he also emphasizes there is *one* Spirit, *one* God, *one* Lord, and *one* Body whom we serve.

Do you know what your gift is, and if so, are you using it? We need the same eagerness about our spiritual gift(s) that we had as a child on our birthday or at Christmas. People don't leave presents sitting around their homes still unwrapped. We should have a natural desire to know what our gift is and be motivated to use it.

Common Questions About Spiritual Gifts

Answering the following eight questions and the four on page 40, and working through the "Determining Your Spiritual Gift Exercise," will help you begin to discover and use your spiritual gift(s).

1. *Who gives spiritual gifts?* Spiritual gifts come from God. They are gifts, not something we earn. First Corinthians 12:18 clearly states that it is God who has given us gifts. First Corinthians 12:11 elaborates further, stating it is His Spirit who bestows these gifts. Finally, in Ephesians 4:11 we are told that Christ, as part of the Godhead, gives these gifts also.
2. *Who receives these gifts?* All believers are given *at least* one gift. First Corinthians 12:7,11,18 tell us that "to each one" is given a gift. Therefore all Christians can count on the fact that they have been given a gift.
3. *When are we given these gifts?* At conversion we receive our gifts. At conversion a believer is indwelt with the Holy Spirit, according to Romans 8:9 and Galatians 3:2-5. First Corinthians 12:7 states that when He comes into our lives the Holy Spirit brings a gift or "manifestation" of the Spirit.
4. *Which gifts does God give us?* God chooses the specific gift we need to function within the Body. First Corinthians 12:11,18 tell us that we receive the gifts "just as he determined them to be." How exciting to know that God selected the gifts He gives us!
5. *What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?* The purpose is to build up the Body of Christ so it can fulfill its God-given mission. Gifts are

given for the "common good" of the Body (1 Corinthians 12:7) and to enable a person "to serve others" (1 Peter 4:10). First Peter 4:11 adds this motive: "so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." Finally, Ephesians 4:12 tells us that gifts are for "works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up." Ray Stedman, in his book *Body Life*, writes: "We must continually remember that the work of the ministry is to the world. The Church exists as God's instrument to reach the world." Spiritual gifts build up the Church to be an effective instrument in reaching the world.

6. *What are spiritual gifts?* They are abilities which enable Christians to effectively function in serving and building up the Body of Christ. However, spiritual gifts are different from talents. A talent is a naturally developed ability which is independent from one's commitment to Christ. It may be used for any purpose. A spiritual gift, however, is given at spiritual birth, and its primary objective is to build up the Body of Christ. Gifts often complement our talents. God in His infinite wisdom knows which gifts will be best for our talents, background, personality, and situation in life.
7. *How do I confirm which gift I may have?* God gives us gifts to build up the Body of Christ. We should see the Body being built up as a result of using our gifts. As a Christian, you too are part of the Body of Christ. Therefore, you will also be built up through the use of your gift. If you are not encouraged through your service in an area, it is probably not your gift. Through exercising your gift you should see fruit and should experience a deep satisfaction in knowing God is using your life.
8. *How many gifts are there?* There is not agreement on the exact number, but Paul gives us four lists in three different letters. Because each list is different from the others, Paul may not have been overly concerned with an exact number. We find the following lists in Scripture:

Romans 12:6-8

1. Prophecy
2. Service

3. Teaching
4. Encouragement
5. Giving
6. Leadership
7. Mercy

Ephesians 4:11

1. Prophets
2. Evangelists
3. Apostles
4. Pastors/Teachers

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

1. Wisdom
2. Knowledge
3. Faith
4. Healing
5. Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discernment
8. Tongues
9. Interpretation

1 Corinthians 12:28-30

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Teachers
4. Miracles
5. Healing
6. Helps
7. Administration
8. Tongues

Cautions and Suggestions

You want to be careful not to expect others to minister in the same ways that you do. This is *gift projection*—projecting our gifts on others by expecting them to do easily what we do easily. A problem that is 180 degrees the other direction is *gift devaluation*. This is not appreciating our own gifts and wanting to have the gifts we see in others.

You can avoid both of these tendencies by realizing that God has given you the gift He chose for you. He also gave others certain gifts for a reason.

Another danger is to try to identify your gifts with certainty prematurely. It takes time

(sometimes years) to discover your place of service. You may need broader experience to determine where you fit. We should serve not only in our areas of strength or gifting but in other capacities.

Questions for Personal Evaluation

Here are several questions you can ask yourself when attempting to determine how God has gifted you:

1. *What do I enjoy doing?* Your own desires are probably a good indicator as to what your gifts are. God is not trying to hide His will from you or have you serve Him in a begrudging manner.
2. *What is my current involvement?* Be ready and willing to serve and to try something new. Sometimes it takes time and experience to discover your gifts.
3. *Where have I experienced success?* As you use your gifts(s) you will often discover a confirmation in your own heart and mind that this is your area of service.
4. *What do others say?* Ask other Christians who know you best to help evaluate your gifts and abilities.

Spiritual gifts are the means God has chosen to build up His Church to reach the world. They are only the “positions” on the football field and are useless without the skill, conditioning, training, and proper equipment given to us by God. Let us seek to know, develop, and use our gifts to serve our Lord in the way that He has gifted us.

“Determining Your Spiritual Gift” Exercise

The ultimate way to determine your spiritual gift is through using it and evaluating the fruit. Answers to the following questions will aid you in narrowing the list. Answer the questions objectively. Put a check mark beside your answers. As you wish, add any additional answers and corresponding gifts in the spaces provided. The answers provided are designed to get you started and are not exhaustive. After completing the chart, identify which gifts most frequently correspond to the answers that

describe you best.

CATEGORY QUESTION	POSSIBLE ANSWERS	CORRESPONDING GIFTS
Relationships: How do I relate to people?	<input type="checkbox"/> Warmly and empathetically <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragingly <input type="checkbox"/> Instructively <input type="checkbox"/> Challengingly <input type="checkbox"/> Assertively <hr/> <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mercy <input type="checkbox"/> Helps <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching <input type="checkbox"/> Prophecy <input type="checkbox"/> Discernment <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership <hr/> <hr/>
Personality: How do people perceive me?	<input type="checkbox"/> Outgoing <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging <input type="checkbox"/> Task-oriented <input type="checkbox"/> Visionary <input type="checkbox"/> Giving of myself <input type="checkbox"/> Analytical <input type="checkbox"/> Caring <input type="checkbox"/> Good communicator <input type="checkbox"/> Abrupt <hr/> <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Faith <input type="checkbox"/> Helps <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Giving <input type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor <input type="checkbox"/> Mercy <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching <input type="checkbox"/> Prophecy <hr/> <hr/>
Believers: How do I build up believers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Love them in spite of their problems <input type="checkbox"/> Serve them <input type="checkbox"/> Help them financially <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage them through difficult times <input type="checkbox"/> Point out their sin <input type="checkbox"/> Guide and care for them <input type="checkbox"/> Train and instruct <hr/> <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mercy <input type="checkbox"/> Helps <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Giving <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement <input type="checkbox"/> Prophecy <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching <hr/> <hr/>

Unbelievers:
How do I find it most natural to evangelize?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pointing out sin | <input type="checkbox"/> Prophecy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Logical arguments | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using apologetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any way possible | <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loving and meeting their needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging them through difficult times | <input type="checkbox"/> Mercy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping them financially | <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving |

Background:
Which best describes my background?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheltered past | <input type="checkbox"/> Helps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Been through many varied experiences | <input type="checkbox"/> Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen God do great things | <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Been in many varied learning environments | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom |

Prayer Life:
What do I most often pray for?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific hurts and needs of others | <input type="checkbox"/> Mercy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overcoming obstacles | <input type="checkbox"/> Helps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating truth | <input type="checkbox"/> Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Applying truth | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding truth | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People under my care | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People of foreign cultures | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Apostle |

Bible Study:
What do I most enjoy studying in the Bible?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctrinal passages | <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epistles | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Character and historical studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Topical studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement |

<input type="checkbox"/> Gospels	<input type="checkbox"/> Mercy
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Helps
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Service
_____	_____
_____	_____

Life Situations:

Where am I
at this point in
my life?

<input type="checkbox"/> Surrounded by unbelievers	<input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism
<input type="checkbox"/> Surrounded by people in need	<input type="checkbox"/> Helps
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Service
<input type="checkbox"/> People often follow me	<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/> I make wise financial decisions	<input type="checkbox"/> Giving
_____	_____
_____	_____

After looking back over your answers in the above exercise, what do you think your gift(s) might be?

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 6

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Six” (page 44).
Memorize the first verse on “His Provision,” Romans 8:32, or the passage you have selected.
 - b. Prepare to take a quiz on the topics, references, and first two words for the first forty-eight passages of the *Topical Memory System*.
 - c. Review daily Series D and your new passage this week after you memorize it.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish.
3. Bible Study: Complete the Bible study for Philippians 2:1-30 (pages 51-54).
4. Evangelism: Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
5. Other: Read the material on extended prayer together (pages 45-46, 57-69, 71).

Session 6

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the first verse on “His Provision,” Romans 8:32, or the passage you have selected.
2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Discuss extended prayer together and plan for the next session.
5. Take the quiz on the topics, references, and first two words for the first forty-eight passages of the *Topical Memory System* (pages 47-50).
6. Discuss the Bible study for Philippians 2:1-30.
7. Read the “Assignment for Session 7” (page 55).
8. Close in prayer.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Six

About the TMS Verse

TOPIC 5. HIS PROTECTION

When we submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ, He takes responsibility for our lives. He promises to meet all our needs.

Romans 8:32—Since our loving Father freely gave us the very best He had—His own Son to die for us—would He withhold from us anything else we might need? No! That would be illogical and unthinkable. He wants to provide us with our needs even more than we want to receive them.

About the OYO Verse

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Your Weekly Plan

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

2. *TMS*: Place Romans 8:32 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series E cards in your verse box.

OYO: Place your verse card for this week in the window of your pack. Keep your remaining unlearned cards in your verse box.

3. Read the context of the passage as you begin to memorize it. Think about its meaning.

4. Learn your new passage in the first three days following your 2:7 *Series* class and review it daily.

5. After you have memorized your new passage, write it out or quote it to someone.

6. Continue daily review of the passages you have memorized during this course.

Extended Prayer Together

In both Courses 1 and 3 you experienced having a half day of prayer. In Course 5, Session 7, you will spend a half day in prayer, but you will be praying together as a group.

One of the characteristics of the early Church was that they prayed together. In Acts 4:24,31-33 it says, “When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. . . . After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. . . . With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.”

THERE ARE ADDED BENEFITS TO GROUP PRAYER

Unhurried prayer in a group has a different dynamic than spending protracted time alone with the Lord. Prayer in a group encourages unity and deepens relationships. There can be a bonding of people of different ages and backgrounds. Afterward, individuals often comment about how much they were encouraged by what someone else shared or prayed. There is often a sense of genuine worship, revival, or increased motivation. At a time when people in the culture around us are becoming independent and isolated, there is a greater need for community—for being with others in groups.

THE FORMAT IS FLEXIBLE

In Session 7, a format has been prepared for your group to use during the extended prayer together. The general pattern you will follow allows the group leader to exercise considerable flexibility. In the future, you may wish to make adaptations in the format in order to fit a certain group or time frame. During Session 7, you will be sharing, singing, and praying about the topics of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication: A-C-T-S.

At the beginning of each topic you will first read aloud in the group a passage of Scripture on the subject and discuss it. This will get you into the subject you will be praying about next.

Be sure to bring your Course 5 book to the extended prayer time. In it you are given printed passages of Scripture on each of the four subjects for which you will spend time praying. Here are some ways you can pray through these passages:

1. Read a verse or passage aloud as your own prayer.
2. Read through a passage silently. Then personalize it by praying aloud what comes to your mind and heart after reading it.
3. Focus your prayer more on specific phrases rather than general concepts.

One person can pray over the shorter passages or a single verse. For the longer passages several people need to participate.

Here are several guidelines and suggestions to keep in mind as you are involved in adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.

Adoration

Adoration focuses on the Lord Himself—on His person and attributes. You will begin the extended prayer time with a focus on adoration and praise.

Reading and discussing 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 will get you into the subject. Additional Scripture references dealing with adoration have been provided for you.

Adoration and praise can easily slip into prayers of thanksgiving. You will want to pray about the character and attributes of God at this point, rather than to give thanks for what He has done.

Confession

The passage you will read and discuss at the beginning of this segment is Psalm 51:1-13. You will talk about how confession is expressed in these verses.

You will use the same pattern for praying through the additional verses that you used in the adoration time. You do not want this time to turn into a morbid review of personal sins. *You want to emphasize the forgiveness of God during this time of group prayer.*

Near the end of the confession time you will have an opportunity to pray silently on your own to deal with any sins that came to mind during the group prayer time. You will want to acknowledge your sins to God and accept His forgiveness.

Thanksgiving

The passage you will read aloud and discuss is Psalm 107:1-9. Thanksgiving is much easier to discuss and pray about than the first two topics.

One of the encouraging and uplifting parts of the thanksgiving time is the opportunity for each person to express things for which he is currently thankful. You may give some thought to this in advance if you wish.

Supplication

To launch this part of your time together, you will read aloud Ephesians 1:15-17 and then discuss how prayer for others is expressed in these verses.

During this part of the prayer time you will be in groups of three or four people. The smaller groups will enable each person to pray more times and for the groups to pray about more things.

PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS

Scattered throughout the extended prayer time are opportunities to sing together. The intent is for the singing to enhance the prayer time. The music should not be a performance by someone. It is important that this be as much a corporate experience as the praying is.

Scripture Memory Quiz

A. LIVE THE NEW LIFE

(insert chart here)

B. PROCLAIM CHRIST

(insert chart here)

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 7

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Seven” (page 56). Memorize the second verse on “His Provision,” Philippians 4:19, or the passage you have selected.
 - b. Review daily Series A and your new passage this week after you memorize it.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish.
3. Other:
 - a. Look over “A Guide for Extended Prayer Together” (57-69) and the “Extended Prayer Time Schedule” (page 71).
 - b. Come rested, alert, and eager to spend an extended time in prayer together. *Be sure to bring your Course 5 book with you.*

Session 7

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups. Quote the second verse on “His Provision,” Philippians 4:19, or the passage you have selected.
2. Spend an extended prayer time together (three hours and forty minutes). Use “A Guide for Extended Prayer Together,” pages 57-69.
3. Share together how the time in prayer has been meaningful to you (twenty minutes).

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Seven

About the TMS Verse

TOPIC 5. HIS PROVISION

David wrote, “I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread” (Psalm 37:25). David was saying that God had been a faithful provider for His people throughout their lives.

Philippians 4:19—Paul wrote this statement to those who had provided gifts for him. As we give to God’s work, the Lord will in turn supply every need we have out of his eternal riches in Christ. His resources are inexhaustible.

About the OYO Verse

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Your Weekly Plan

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

2. *TMS*: Place Philippians 4:19 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series E cards in your verse box.

OYO: Place your verse card for this week in the window of your pack. Keep your remaining unlearned cards in your verse box.

3. Read the context of the passage as you begin to memorize it. Think about its meaning.

4. Learn your new passage in the first three days following your 2:7 *Series* class and review it daily for the rest of the week.

5. After you have memorized your new passage, write it out or quote it to someone before coming to class.

6. Continue daily review of the passages you have memorized during this course.

A Guide for Extended Prayer Together

During the extended prayer time, you will be focusing on adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication: A-C-T-S. Scripture passages are given to help you pray on these topics.

ADORATION

1. Read the quotation about adoration.

Prayers of adoration are expressions of praise and worship of the person, powers, and perfections of the Lord of all creation. . . . In adoration, you honor, exalt, esteem, bless, and magnify the name of the Lord as you reflect upon His goodness, grace, holiness, mercy, love, might, power, and dominion (Revelation 4:11; 5:12-13). In praise, you rejoice in God, align yourself in obedience to Him, and express all that you have discovered Him to be.

—From *Drawing Near* by Boa and Anders

2. Sing song(s) of adoration and praise (*optional*).

3. Read and discuss 1 Chronicles 29:10-13.

Read this Scripture passage aloud in the group and discuss it before praying through the adoration verses that follow.

¹⁰David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

“Praise be to you, O LORD,
 God of our father Israel,
 from everlasting to everlasting.

¹¹Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power
 and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
 for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom;
 you are exalted as head over all.

¹²Wealth and honor come from you;
 you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power
 to exalt and give strength to all.

¹³Now, our God, we give you thanks,
 and praise your glorious name.”

4. Pray through several passages of Scripture.

Nehemiah 9:5-6

⁵“Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.”
 “Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and
 praise. ⁶You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens,
 and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in
 them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.”

Psalm 18:1-3

¹I love you, O LORD, my strength.
²The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
 my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.
 He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
³I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,
 and I am saved from my enemies.

Psalm 34:1-3

¹I will extol the LORD at all times;
 his praise will always be on my lips.
²My soul will boast in the LORD;
 let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
³Glorify the LORD with me;
 let us exalt his name together.

Psalm 57:9-11

⁹I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations;
 I will sing of you among the peoples.
¹⁰For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;
 your faithfulness reaches to the skies.
¹¹Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
 let your glory be over all the earth.

Psalm 92:1-2

¹It is good to praise the LORD
 and make music to your name, O Most High,
²to proclaim your love in the morning
 and your faithfulness at night.

Psalm 108:1-5

¹My heart is steadfast, O God;
 I will sing and make music with all my soul.

²Awake, harp and lyre!
 I will awaken the dawn.
³I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations;
 I will sing of you among the peoples.
⁴For great is your love, higher than the heavens;
 your faithfulness reaches to the skies.
⁵Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,
 and let your glory be over all the earth.

Daniel 2:20-22

²⁰“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
 wisdom and power are his.
²¹He changes times and seasons;
 he sets up kings and deposes them.
 He gives wisdom to the wise
 and knowledge to the discerning.
²²He reveals deep and hidden things;
 he knows what lies in darkness,
 and light dwells with him.”

Jeremiah 10:6-7

⁶No one is like you, O LORD;
 you are great, and your name is mighty in power.
⁷Who should not revere you,
 O King of the nations?
 This is your due.
 Among all the wise men of the nations
 and in all their kingdoms,
 there is no one like you.

Jeremiah 32:17-19

¹⁷“Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. ¹⁸You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the fathers’ sins into the laps of their children after them. O great and powerful God, whose name is the LORD Almighty, ¹⁹great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to all the ways of men; you reward everyone according to his conduct and as his deeds deserve.”

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
 How unsearchable his judgments,
 and his paths beyond tracing out!

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 4:11

“You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

5. Sing song(s) of adoration and praise. (optional)

CONFESSION

1. Read the quotation about confession/forgiveness.

Since we are living in mortal bodies, we sometimes fail to live up to the potential of our new nature. We may fail to obey the Lord, or fall into sin. But God has made perfect provision for such failure and has promised to forgive, cleanse, and restore us to fellowship with himself when we admit our failures.

—From *Prayer: More Than Words* by LeRoy Eims

2. Read and discuss Psalm 51:1-13.

Read this Scripture passage aloud in the group and discuss it before praying through the confession/forgiveness verses that follow.

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

²Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.

⁵Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

- ⁶Surely you desire truth in the inner parts,
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
- ⁷Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
- ¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn back to you.

3. Pray through several passages of Scripture.

2 Samuel 24:10

“I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.”

Nehemiah 1:5-7

⁵“O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s house, have committed against you. ⁷We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.”

Psalms 25:6-11

- ⁶Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O LORD.
- ⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
- ⁹He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.
- ¹⁰All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful

for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

¹¹For the sake of your name, O LORD,
forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Psalm 32:1-5

¹Blessed is he
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
²Blessed is the man
whose sin the LORD does not count against him
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
³When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
⁴For day and night
your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.
⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD"—
and you forgave
the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 119:59-60

⁵⁹I have considered my ways
and have turned my steps to your statutes.
⁶⁰I will hasten and not delay
to obey your commands.

Psalm 139:23-24

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together,"
says the LORD.

“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.”

Isaiah 43:25

“I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.”

Jeremiah 33:8

“I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me.”

Micah 7:19

You will again have compassion on us;
you will tread our sins underfoot
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

4. Individual confession.

Each individual will pray silently during this brief time. People may pray right where they are.

THANKSGIVING

1. Read the quotation about thanksgiving.

Prayers of thanksgiving express your gratitude for who God is and for what He has done. Thanksgiving is an important ingredient in prayer because it causes you to reflect upon and remember the history of God’s work in your life. This, in turn, increases your confidence in the way He will continue to work as you “understand the loving-kindnesses of the Lord” Psalm 107:43.

—From *Drawing Near* by Boa and Anders

2. Read and discuss Psalm 107:1-9.

Read this Scripture passage aloud in the group and discuss it before continuing.

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD say this—
 those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
³those he gathered from the lands,
 from east and west, from north and south.
⁴Some wandered in desert wastelands,
 finding no way to a city where they could settle.
⁵They were hungry and thirsty,
 and their lives ebbed away.
⁶Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
 and he delivered them from their distress.
⁷He led them by a straight way
 to a city where they could settle.
⁸Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
 and his wonderful deeds for men,
⁹For he satisfies the thirsty
 and fills the hungry with good things.

3. Share things for which you are thankful.
 Each person should share at least one thing. You may share more than once.

4. Pray through several passages of Scripture.

1 Kings 8:56

“Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.”

1 Chronicles 16:8-12

⁸Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
 make known among the nations what he has done.
⁹Sing to him, sing praise to him;
 tell of all his wonderful acts.
¹⁰Glory in his holy name;
 let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
¹¹Look to the LORD and his strength;
 seek his face always.
¹²Remember the wonders he has done,
 his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.

1 Chronicles 16:34

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
 his love endures forever.

Psalm 40:2-5

²He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
 out of the mud and mire;
 he set my feet on a rock
 and gave me a firm place to stand.
³He put a new song in my mouth,
 a hymn of praise to our God.
 Many will see and fear
 and put their trust in the LORD.
⁴Blessed is the man
 who makes the LORD his trust,
 who does not look to the proud,
 to those who turn aside to false gods.
⁵Many, O LORD my God,
 are the wonders you have done.
 The things you planned for us
 no one can recount to you;
 were I to speak and tell of them,
 they would be too many to declare.

Psalm 68:19

Praise be to the LORD, to God our Savior,
 who daily bears our burdens.

Psalm 79:13

Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture,
 will praise you forever;
 from generation to generation
 we will recount your praise.

Psalm 92:1-4

¹It is good to praise the LORD
 and make music to your name, O Most High,
²to proclaim your love in the morning
 and your faithfulness at night,
³to the music of the ten-stringed lyre
 and the melody of the harp.
⁴For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD;
 I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

Psalm 103:1-5

¹Praise the LORD, O my soul;
 all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

²Praise the LORD, O my soul,
 and forget not all his benefits—
³who forgives all your sins
 and heals all your diseases,
⁴who redeems your life from the pit
 and crowns you with love and compassion,
⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in the LORD;
 my soul rejoices in my God.
 For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
 and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Lamentations 3:22-23

²²Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
 for his compassions never fail.
²³They are new every morning;
 great is your faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy
 he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept
 in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming
 of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

5. Sing songs of thanksgiving (*optional*).

SUPPLICATION

1. Read the quotation about supplication.

*There are non-Christian friends and relatives to bring before the Lord, missionaries
 on various fields, our pastors, our neighbors and Christian associates, our government*

leaders—to name a few. Influencing people and changing events through prayer is well known among Christians but too little practiced. And as times become more serious around us, we need to reconsider the value of personal prayer, both to accomplish and to deter.

—From *How to Spend a Day in Prayer* by Lorne Sanny

2. Read and discuss Ephesians 1:15-17.

Read this Scripture passage aloud in the group and discuss it before continuing.

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

3. Divide into groups of three or four.

4. Read a passage and pray about that topic.

People in the small groups will read one passage at a time, then pray about that passage and topic. It is not necessary to cover all seven topics.

The Church—Matthew 9:37-38

³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Believers/Friends—Colossians 1:9-12

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Family—Joshua 24:15

“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Missions—Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The Oppressed—Isaiah 61:1-3

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
 because the LORD has anointed me
 to preach good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim freedom for the captives
 and release from darkness for the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor
 and the day of vengeance of our God,
 to comfort all who mourn,
³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
 to bestow on them a crown of beauty
 instead of ashes,
 the oil of gladness
 instead of mourning,
 and a garment of praise
 instead of a spirit of despair.
 They will be called oaks of righteousness,
 a planting of the LORD
 for the display of his splendor.

The Lost—Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Government—1 Timothy 2:1-4

¹I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

5. In the small groups, each person may share one concern for which he would like prayer.

List below the prayer requests given by others in your group.

6. Pray for the specific concerns in the small groups.

FINALE

Everyone comes back together into one group.

1. Sing together (*optional*).

2. Share what you appreciated about the extended prayer time together.

3. Sing together (*optional*).

4. Close in prayer.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 8

1. Scripture Memory:

a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Eight” (pages 70).

Memorize the first verse on “His Help in Temptation,” Hebrews 2:18, or the passage you have selected.

b. Review daily Series B and your new passage this week after you memorize it.

2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish.

3. Look over “Extended Prayer Time Schedule” (page 71).

4. Bible Study:

a. Complete the Bible study for Philippians 3:1-21 (pages 73-76).

b. Prepare the Investigative Bible Study “Why Did Jesus Come?” (page 72).

Session 8

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the first verse on “His Help in Temptation,” Hebrews 2:18, or the passage you have selected.
2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Briefly review “Extended Prayer Time Schedule” (page 71).
4. Discuss the Bible study for Philippians 3:1-21.
5. Review past applications in your Bible studies and spend extra time praying over them.
6. Discuss or role-play the Investigative Bible Study “Why Did Jesus Come?” (page 72).
7. Read the “Assignment for Session 9” (page 77).
8. Close in prayer.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Eight

About the TMS Verse

TOPIC 6. HIS HELP IN TEMPTATION

We know from Scripture and from experience that our enemy, Satan, relentlessly tempts us to sin. Temptations also come from within: “But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed” (James 1:14). Regardless of the source of temptation, we are promised victory over it through Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:18—Because Jesus Christ experienced temptation Himself, we can unashamedly come to Him for help, knowing that He understands us fully.

About the OYO Verse

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Your Weekly Plan

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

2. *TMS*: Place Hebrews 2:18 in the window of your pack. Keep the unlearned Series E cards in your verse box.

OYO: Place your verse card for this week in the window of your pack. Keep your remaining unlearned cards in your verse box.

3. Read the context of the passage as you begin to memorize it. Think about its meaning.

4. Learn your new passage in the first three days following your 2:7 *Series* class and review it daily for the rest of the week.

5. After you have memorized your new passage, write it out or quote it to someone before coming to class.

6. Continue daily review of the passages you have memorized during this course.

Extended Prayer Time Schedule

Having recently experienced a time of extended prayer together, you may want to initiate a similar time of prayer with another group of people. The following schedule shows the approximate time breakdowns you may want to follow.

INTRODUCTION (15 minutes)

ADORATION (30 minutes)

Read a quotation

Sing

Read/discuss 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

Pray (15 minutes)

Sing

CONFESSION (30 minutes)

Read a quotation

Read/discuss Psalm 51:1-13

Pray (10 minutes)

Individual confession (5 minutes)

THANKSGIVING (30 minutes)

Read a quotation

Read/discuss Psalm 107:1-9

Share things thankful for

Pray (15 minutes)

Sing

TAKE TIME FOR A BREAK (15 minutes)

SUPPLICATION (60 minutes)

Read a quotation

Read/discuss Ephesians 1:15-17

Break into groups of three or four

Pray (30 minutes)

Each share one specific concern

Pray (15 minutes)

FINALE (30 minutes)

Sing

Share benefits of this prayer time

Pray (10 minutes)

Sing

Close in prayer

TOTAL TIME (3 hours, 30 minutes)

WHY DID JESUS COME?

Discussion Questions for the Gospel of John, Chapter 3

THINK ABOUT: What are some things that convince you that God loves you?

1. What observations did Nicodemus make about Jesus? Verses 1-2
2. What did Jesus say about the Kingdom of God? Verses 3-8
3. For what purpose did God send Jesus into the world? Verses 16-17
4. Describe the two kinds of people mentioned in verses 18-21,36.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 9

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Nine” (page 78).
Memorize the second passage on “His Help in Temptation,” Psalm 119:9,11, or the passage you have selected.
 - b. Review daily Series C and your new passage this week after you memorize it.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish.
3. 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.
4. Other:
 - a. Read and mark *The Need of the Hour* (pages 79-83).
 - b. Complete *The Need of the Hour* exercise (page 83).
 - c. Read “Maintaining Your Life and Ministry” (pages 84-87).

Session 9

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the second passage on “His Help in Temptation,” Psalm 119:9,11, or the passage you have selected.
2. Share 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 Need of the Hour* and *The Need of the Hour* exercise (pages 79-83).
6. Discuss “Scripture Memory in the Future” (page 84).
7. Discuss “Maintaining Your Life and Ministry” (pages 84-87).
8. Read the “Assignment for Session 10” (page 87).
9. Close in prayer.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Nine

About the TMS Verse

TOPIC 6. HIS HELP IN TEMPTATION

God has promised us help when we are tempted, as you learned from memorizing 1 Corinthians 10:13 in *Growing Strong in God’s Family*.

Psalm 119:9,11—We can have victory over temptation and keep our lives pure by saturating our hearts with God’s Word. The Word of God is the “Sword of the Spirit.” Jesus used this Sword to overcome Satan’s temptations in the wilderness. One important reason for memorizing Scripture is to make this Sword available to the Holy Spirit to use in our lives.

About the OYO Verse

Passage: _____

Comments: _____

Your Weekly Plan

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

2. *TMS*: Place Psalm 119:9,11 in the window of your pack.

OYO: Place your verse card for this week in the window of your pack.

3. Read the context of the passage as you begin to memorize it. Think about its meaning.

4. Learn your new passage in the first three days following your 2:7 *Series* class. Review it daily.

5. After you have memorized your new passage, write it out or quote it to someone before coming to class.

6. Continue daily review of the passages you have memorized during this course.

In Course 3 you read Dawson Trotman's *Born to Reproduce*—a challenge to pursue spiritual multiplication. For this session you will read *The Need of the Hour*, from another challenging message by Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators.

How much bigger and more wonderful do you now see God than you did a year ago? *The Need of the Hour* will challenge you to believe God more and to trust Him in more areas of your life.

Some illustrations in *The Need of the Hour* reflect the fact that in the 1930s and 1940s The Navigators' focus was on single military men. The Navigators have since diversified into ministries to collegiate men and women, business and professional people, military men and women, couples, international students, and discipleship training for church laypeople.

The Need of the Hour

by Dawson Trotman

What is the need of the hour? That depends upon the person who is thinking about it. If I'm walking along the street and see a beggar with a tin cup, what's the need of the hour? A dime. If a woman is being taken to the hospital, what's the need of the hour? A doctor.

But in Christian work, what is the need of the hour? I started to list the things that we often feel are *the* need—those things which if supplied, would end our troubles.

Some say, "Well, if I just had a larger staff." Would more staff be the answer? Today many a minister would like to have an assistant and many a mission would like to have more missionaries. The cry of returned missionaries is always for more men and women to fill up the ranks—to them, the need of the hour.

Others say, "We don't need more workers, but if we had better facilities . . . if we just had more office space and more buildings and bigger grounds and a base of operation . . . if we had a place like Glen Eyrie (The Navigators' international headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado) then we could do the job."

In certain areas of the world they say it's communications we lack, or better transportation, or better means to take care of health. The need of the hour on many a mission field is merely a radio. But if you get that radio, then there's another need followed by something else and something else. Many feel it is literature. I hear that in my travels all over the world, "We just lack literature."

I know of people today who are saying, "If we could just get into a certain place." For years people have been on the borders of Nepal saying, "If we could just get in." To them the need of the hour is an open door into Nepal. Right now hundreds of people are saying, "If we could just get into China." The Bible says, "My God shall supply all your needs." If the need were an open door into China, why doesn't God open it? "These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth . . . I have set before thee an open door."

Paul found closed doors, but closed doors to him weren't the problem. I believe those closed doors were used of God to show him the open doors he was to go through next. If God wanted to put His hand over the great country of China tonight, He could open the door in forty-eight hours.

Some say, "We need time. If we just had more time." Others say, "If I just weren't so old, if I were young again." People have said to me, "Daws, if I had known when I was twenty years old what I know now, I could have done a hundred times more for the Lord. Why didn't I?"

Often the biggest need of the hour seems to be money. "If we just had money . . . that's the answer to a larger staff, more facilities, literature, communications and transportation . . . if we just had money."

What is the need of the hour? Frankly, I

don't believe it is any of these. I am convinced that the God of the universe is in control and He will supply all of these needs in His own way and in His own time, all else being right.

Let me tell you what I believe the need of the hour is. Maybe I should call it the answer to the need of the hour. *I believe it is an army of soldiers, dedicated to Jesus Christ, who believe not only that He is God, but that He can fulfill every promise He has ever made, and that there isn't anything too hard for Him.* It is the only way we can accomplish the thing that is on His heart—getting the Gospel to every creature.

In 1948 I was in Germany for six days. I had been put in touch with Colonel Paul Maddox, Chief of Chaplains for all of Europe, and through his recommendation to the Commanding General I got into Germany. I invited fifty German fellows to meet with me for three days, and twenty-five of them came. I talked to them every evening for three hours beginning to lay before them the Great Commission and the idea that I felt Germany not only needed to hear the Gospel, but that Germans themselves needed to obey the Great Commission by sending missionaries.

I gave them the opportunity to ask questions during the meetings and every once in a while a hand would go up. I was trying to lay upon their hearts the very thing the Lord laid on the hearts of the disciples when He told them to go to every creature, make disciples of every nation, start in Jerusalem and go to the ends of the earth. One German spoke up, "But, Mr. Trotman, you don't understand. Here in Germany some of us right in this room don't even have an Old Testament; we only have a New Testament." But I pointed out, "When Jesus Christ gave these commandments, they didn't have even a New Testament."

Later one of them said, "But, Mr. Trotman, we have very few good evangelical books in this country. In America you have thus and so." I asked, "How many books did the disciples have?"

A little further on one of them asked, "Is it true that in America you can hear the Gospel any day?" I answered, "Yes." He said, "If we had that . . . but we can't get the message out on any radio." I said, "But the disciples had never heard of a radio."

They said, "You have automobiles, we ride bicycles." I reminded them, "The disciples didn't have bicycles. Jesus rode a borrowed burro."

Now these questions didn't come up one right after the other or they would have caught on, but they were brought up during the nine hours together. Finally one fellow spoke up and said, "In America you have money. I work twelve hours a day for sixty cents. We don't have much money." I replied, "The disciples were sent out without purse and without script."

Every excuse in the books was brought up. "We don't have this, and we don't have that. We don't have buildings; we don't have facilities." Each time I replied, "But the twelve didn't and He sent them out."

Then finally near the end one fellow, a little older than the rest and with almost a bitter expression on his face, got up and said, "Mr. Trotman, you in America have never had an occupation force in your land. You don't know what it is to have soldiers of another country roaming your streets. Our souls are not our own." I responded, "The disciples lived at the time Jesus Christ lived and their souls weren't their own. The Roman soldiers were in charge."

Then it dawned on me in a way I had never considered before that when Jesus Christ sent the eleven out, He let a situation exist which was so bad that there could never be a worse one. No printing presses, no automobiles, no radios, no television, no telephones, no buildings, not one single church, no uniforms, nothing for the vestry. . . . He didn't even leave them a little emblem.

He left them only a job to do, but with it He said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore. . . ." What does the "therefore" mean? It means, "I have the power to give you the order and I have the power to back you to the hilt." He has all power in heaven and earth . . . not just heaven, but in the earth; all power, not part of the power, but all power, which means power over the Romans and power over the Communists.

Earlier Jesus Christ had said to this same little group, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me. . . ." He that what? ". . . he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do." Do you believe that statement is true? Or

must you say that for a moment it makes you stop to wonder? Could it possibly be true that the Son of God would say to a human being, "The things that I do, you shall do, and greater things than these you shall do"?

I believe with all my heart that the reason so many wonderful Christians don't accomplish more in their lives is they don't believe Jesus meant what He said. They have never come to the place where they believe that the all-powerful One who commissioned them could enable them to do these greater works. The last thing He said was, "All power is given unto Me. I'm giving you your orders now. Go and teach all nations and see that every created being hears the Word."

Now we think it is going to be a tough job, even with the printing press, the radio, the airplane and modern medicine. What do you think the early disciples thought about it? When Paul wrote to the Romans he said, "I thank my God that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." When he wrote to the Thessalonian church he said, "For our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance." And he said to the Thessalonians, who were not even as strong as the Bereans, "For from you sounded out the Word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad."

How did the message go? Not by telephone, not by television, but by tell-a-person. That's the only method they had. It was as simple as that. Everyone was to tell someone else. "I cannot help but speak the things which I have seen and heard" was the impelling force. That's how it spread, and it did spread. They didn't need the printing press and they didn't need materials.

Over in England they really went for Bible study and memory materials. It was hard to get them to see their value at first, but when they did, some of them felt they were a necessity. One rainy night during the Billy Graham Crusade at Wembley Stadium around 3000 came forward at the invitation. Two clergymen came running up to me, "Mr. Trotman, Mr. Trotman, we ran out of materials! What will we do?" I said, "Relax. They probably ran out of them at Pentecost, too!" They looked at me for a minute and, obviously getting the point, said,

"That's right!"

The answer is the man, not materials. Maybe the greatest problem today is that we try to put into printed form that which should go from lip to ear and heart to heart. We de-emphasize materials and people can't understand why.

Materials are the tools. Tools by themselves are useless. If there were a young fellow beginning his study of medicine who had all the necessary instruments for a major operation, and an old doctor who just had a razor blade and a plain, ordinary crooked needle and some store string, I'd put myself into the hands of the old doctor for surgery rather than this boy over here with all his instruments, wouldn't you? It's not only the tools; it's the man who has the tools in his hands.

What is the need of the hour? I'll tell you the need of the hour. It is to believe that our God controls the universe, and when He said, "The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea," He meant it. That is exactly what is going to happen. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord!

Today more people than ever in a lot of our civilized countries know about Jesus Christ because of the radio, literature, mission societies, Billy Graham, etc. But they only know about Him; they don't know Him. The Book says, "The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." How much does the water cover the sea? Do you think that every square inch of sea has water in it? Yes! You have no illustration more complete, "as the waters cover the sea." That's how every tongue and tribe and nation in every single nook and corner of this earth is going to hear about Jesus Christ and His glory.

What is the need of the hour? It is to believe that "Thy God reigneth." The rain isn't coming down like you feel it should in order to have good crops. Can He send it if it's necessary? If He doesn't, can you say, "Thank You, Lord"? That's what He wants. "In everything give thanks."

You don't need anything that He can't supply. Is it knowledge? Is it strength? God can do more through a weakling who is yielded and trusting than He can through a strong man who isn't. "For all the promises of God in Him are

yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us” (2 Corinthians 1:20).

I want the fellows and girls who come to Glen Eyrie to go away with this thought securely in their minds: “God, I’ll never come to the place where I’m going to let the lack of anything persuade me that You are being hindered.” I would rather you would go away with that in your hearts than with methods or materials or ideas that we may have to share with you, because I know the potential of the man who will come to the place where he can say hour after hour, day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year, “Lord, I believe my God reigneth.”

Listen! You have an excuse if you want one. You have more than an excuse; you have hundreds of them. That isn’t what’s holding us back. It’s that we don’t live and preach the fact that He is on the throne. And when He’s running the show, He will take care of all the props, even the transportation.

I was in Hong Kong on my way to India in 1948 when a Pan American flight was delayed long enough to make me miss my connection in Bangkok. I inquired if there were any way for me to get to Calcutta. The crew said, “No, not a chance in the world.” Then one said, “We do have orders for this plane to go on to Calcutta, but because of regulations this crew can’t take it.” So I prayed, “Lord, You know about the meetings in Calcutta, and it’s nothing for You to work this out.”

We got to Bangkok and a radio message came, “We do not have a crew to bring this ship to Calcutta. Your crew ordered to bring it.” Only four people were on that big DC-6, and the other three didn’t have to go to India for three days. I arrived in time for those meetings, and as a result a man from Nepal came to know the Lord, a man who later became a key for getting the Gospel to that closed country way up in the Himalayas.

The need of the hour, as far as I’m concerned, is to believe that God is God, and that He is a lot more interested in getting this job done than you and I are. Therefore, if He is more interested in getting the job done, has all power to do it, and has commissioned us to do it, our business is to obey Him . . . reaching the world for Him and trusting Him to help us do it.

The Lord could easily have said to the disciples, “You fellows are only eleven men, and you lack facilities and transportation, so all I want you to do is start the fire in Jerusalem.” But He didn’t say that. The believers in South India testify they are glad Thomas believed Jesus Christ that he was to go to the uttermost part of the earth. I understand that the Mar Thoma Church, the largest in Southern India, traces its origin back 1900 years to the work of this disciple. Aren’t you glad that Thomas didn’t say to Jesus Christ, “I don’t have a DC-6 yet?”

“Ye shall be witnesses unto Me in . . .” not *either* Jerusalem *or* Samaria *or* Judea *or* on the foreign field. You are to be witnesses, when you have the Holy Ghost, *both* in Jerusalem, *and* in all Judea, *and* in Samaria, *and* unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Suppose you are a pastor. You have a responsibility to your people to be a shepherd to the flock. You also have a responsibility for people in other countries. You have to be concerned. The only reason you are not out there telling them about Jesus Christ is because you’re training the lay people to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ in your city, your state and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

I close with this—a little of the Nav story. I used to have a map of the world that I kept before me. I’d put my fingers on some of the islands—Australia, New Zealand, Okinawa, Formosa—and say, “Lord, let me win men for You in these places.” I wasn’t challenged to do this by hearing a sermon, but by a verse of Scripture, Jeremiah 33:3, “Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” In the previous chapter Jeremiah had said to the Lord, “Ah Lord God! behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee.” Ten verses later the Lord says to Jeremiah, “I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for Me?” Then just a few verses later He says, “All right, if you believe Me, call unto Me and I will answer.”

I asked a buddy, “Do you believe this verse?” He said, “Yes.” I said, “I do, too, but I’ve never seen these great and mighty things, and I’d like to.” So we started a prayer meeting every morning. We decided to meet at a certain

spot, have a fire built and be in prayer by five o'clock. Not one minute after five . . . we just made it a date. We prayed two hours on weekdays but met at four on Sundays to pray for our Sunday school boys by name and for the Sunday school. We prayed for Harbor City, Torrance, Long Beach, San Pedro, Los Angeles, Pasadena and the surrounding cities from which I had received calls from young Christian fellows saying, "Come over here and show us how you're reaching these boys."

The third and fourth weeks we started to include cities up the coast—San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle and Portland. We said, "Lord, use us in these cities." By the fourth or fifth week we had covered every state in the Union. As we listed them we prayed, "Lord, use us to win young men to You in the State of Oregon. Use us to win young men in Massachusetts." Every morning we prayed for every one of the forty-eight states. Then about the sixth week one of us said to the other something like this: "If we believe God is big enough to let us win men in every one of the forty-eight states, let's go all out!"

We bought a world map and left it up in the Palos Verdes hills. Each morning we'd pull this old map out and pray that the Lord would use us in China and in Japan and in Korea. At the end of forty-two days I felt a burden lift. We stopped asking God to use us and began thanking Him that He was going to do so. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for," and substance is substance. It's reality; it's something you can believe in. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. We claimed the promises as we prayed. These promises were the brick and prayer was the mortar that put them together.

After forty-two days we discontinued our prayer meeting. Forty-eight hours later I was in the hospital, flat on my back for a week, and I had a lot of time to think. The Minute-Men idea

came and from that the Navigator work was born.

Three or four years later I was rummaging around in a drawer of the living room table when I found a little purple card—"Washington, Oregon." In another drawer was a list of names—Les Spencer from Illinois, John Detric of Texas, Gurney Harris from Arkansas, Ed Goodrick of Wisconsin. I discovered that men from every one of the forty-eight states had come to the Savior during those three or four years. God had answered, and these men were being trained as disciples. Then I thought of the world. "Why, Lord, am I permitted to have a part in this?" For the same reason you are.

"All power in heaven and earth is Mine. It's Mine for you to appropriate." This is not only a privilege; it's an order. He wants nothing less. God doesn't want you to take an island . . . He wants you to take the world. For what are you asking God? What do you want? Do you want to win a few? You'll have to start with the few, and you'll have to be successful with the few. You *can* be because Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." No man ever followed Jesus who didn't become a fisher of men. He never fails to do what He promised. If you're not fishing, you're not following. You have to win one before you can win five, and five before you can win five hundred. The world is before you. How big is your faith?

The need of the hour is men who want what Jesus Christ wants and believe He wants to give them the power to do what He has asked. Nothing in the world can stop those men. Do you believe that? Do you want to be one of them? You may, but you will have to ask. "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Years ago when I prayed for Formosa I couldn't have comprehended what I'm seeing now. But that's the way He has promised it will be, so when you call, ask big!

List several things that made an impression on you as you read *The Need of the Hour*.

Scripture Memory in the Future

Some of you have been learning “on your own” memory verses during this course. The rest of you will probably start learning some “on your own” verses after you complete the *Topical Memory System*. The importance of having a plan and disciplining yourself to follow through cannot be overemphasized. Accountability, clear goals, and encouragement from others are important for continued progress in Scripture memory.

You may be asking, “Which verses should I select?” There are a number of sources from which to draw—material in the 2:7 books, your own Bible reading, messages from your pastor, Sunday school lessons, tapes, or books. Christian bookstores sell packets of verses on various topics. *TMS: Life Issues*, another edition of the *Topical Memory System*, is also available from NavPress.

There may be key chapters or large portions of chapters you will want to memorize in the future. Memorizing larger portions helps to avoid taking verses out of context.

One of the keys to effective Scripture memory that you have experienced is teaming up with another person to review the *Topical Memory System*. You can also do this in a triad. With whom will you review when you are on your own, after completing this series? It may be someone from your present group with whom you would like to be accountable or a person you are now helping to grow in the Lord. It should be someone you see on a regular basis. It could be your spouse.

How much should you memorize? Set your own pace. It is good to be consistent in learning new verses and in reviewing the old ones. Set aside regular time for review.

The goal in memorizing Scripture is not simply to gain knowledge. The objective as you continue on your own is to become more Christlike, to enjoy your walk with God, and to become more useful in ministry for Christ and His Kingdom.

Remember the three most important principles of Scripture memory are “*Review, Review, Review.*”

Maintaining Your Life and Ministry

CONTINUING FOR A LIFETIME

One of the purposes of *The 2:7 Series* is to train lifelong laborers for Christ—people who will continue to invest their lives in the Word of God and prayer and minister to others in evangelism and discipleship. It is important to evaluate your strengths and interests so you know where you can best contribute to the Great Commission.

The areas of ministry in which believers are involved will vary greatly. Some focus on a ministry with children, others with singles or young married people. Because of gifting and concerns, some people will concentrate more on outreach, while others will be involved in the teaching or discipling process. The many different expressions of ministry are part of God’s means of accomplishing His mission in the world.

What will you do after you complete *The Ministering Disciple* phase of *The 2:7 Series*? Will you continue to grow, continue to minister, continue to be accountable? Set goals that are realistic and measurable in the areas in which you have been trained and in line with God’s leading in your life.

Many churches have visitation programs and other outreach ministries where you can use the skills you have developed in evangelism.

Some of you may feel led to lead *The 2:7 Series* in your church. You will need to attend an instructors' training seminar in order to be certified to lead. Others may be involved in one-to-one, triad, or small-group ministries. Whatever ministry the Lord leads you to, you can apply the skills and principles you have learned in *The 2:7 Series*.

Others of you will be led into full or part-time ministries which will require more professional training and preparation. Discuss with your church leadership where they feel you can best serve.

The 2:7 Series has equipped you to serve in many areas of ministry. Be selective so that you are not overextended. Maintain a good balance between your relationship with the Lord, your family, your job, and your ministry.

MAINTAINING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

After you complete *The 2:7 Series*, you will have numerous opportunities to serve in various ministries of your church and/or areas you engage in on your own. The major thrust of *The Ministering Disciple*, Courses 3-5, has been to prepare you for a lifetime of productive ministry.

The moral failure of a number of leaders in Christian ministries has highlighted the importance of making personal integrity and morality a priority. No matter how involved we are in productive ministry, we must remain consistently strong in the Scriptures in a practical way. We always want to "have a conscience void of offense before God and men."

HELPS FOR CHARTING YOUR COURSE

You need to be charting a specific but flexible course over the next one to two years. It should be one that will keep you walking close to God and continuing to minister to others.

Whatever goals or activities you pursue, it is imperative that you establish an accountability relationship with someone. You will want to be accountable to report your progress to a small group, a triad, or one other person.

You will find the following suggestions and resources helpful for evaluating where you are and for planning for the weeks and months ahead.

Scripture Memory

1. Continue learning verses at your own pace.
2. Consider learning one verse a week.
3. Have a partner or triad for accountability and review.
4. Select verses from the following:
 - *TMS: Life Issues*, topical scripture memory program from NavPress.
 - Packets on various topics sold at bookstores.
 - Your Future Scripture Memory sheet.
5. You may want to memorize a few key chapters or portions of chapters.
6. The book *Drawing Near* by Boa and Anders (Thomas Nelson) has a Scripture memory section in it.

Quiet Time

1. Continue using the Bible Reading Highlights Record.
2. Expand the use of the personal journal.
3. Use supplemental devotional material such as:
 - *The Daily Walk Bible* (Tyndale House Publishers)
 - *The Daily Walk*, available monthly from The Navigators
 - *Closer Walk*, available monthly from The Navigators
 - *Drawing Near* by Boa and Anders (Thomas Nelson)

Evangelism

1. Continue to use the skills you learned in *The 2:7 Series*.
2. Attend the Lifestyle Evangelism Seminar offered by Christian Business Men's Committee or The Navigators.
3. Use the twelve-week video discussion series *Living Proof* (CBMC and NavPress).
4. Participate in church visitation or other outreach ministries.
5. Resource books:
 - *Living Proof* by Jim Petersen (NavPress)
 - *Your Home, a Lighthouse* by Bob and Betty Jacks (NavPress)
 - *Life-Style Evangelism* by Joe Aldrich (Multnomah Press)
 - *Out of the Salt-shaker* by Becky Pippert (InterVarsity Press)

Discipling Others

1. Lead a 2:7 group.
2. Follow up new believers.
3. Be involved in one-to-one, triad, or small-group ministries.
4. Resource books:
 - *The Lost Art of Disciplemaking* by LeRoy Eims (Zondervan)
 - *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert E. Coleman (Fleming H. Revell)
 - *Personal Disciplemaking* by Christopher Adsit (Campus Crusade for Christ)
 - *Daws* by Betty Skinner (NavPress)
 - *The Disciplemaking Pastor* by Bill Hull (Revell)
 - *The Disciplemaking Church* by Bill Hull (Revell)
 - *The Disciplines of a Godly Man* by Kent Hughes (Crossway Books)
 - *Lifestyle Discipleship* by Jim Petersen (NavPress)

Bible Study

1. Continue "Search the Scriptures" Bible study in other books of the New Testament.
2. Use other types of Bible studies as a change of pace, such as:
 - *The Lifechange Series* on books of the Bible (NavPress)
 - *The God in You Series* (NavPress)
3. Resource books on leading Bible studies:
 - *How to Lead Small Groups* by Neal McBride (NavPress)
 - *Using the Bible in Groups* by Roberta Hestenes (Westminster Press)

Prayer

1. Continue to have periodic half days alone or with others.
2. Resource books:
 - *In the Gap* by David Bryant (InterVarsity Press)
 - *Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone (WEC Publications)
 - *Drawing Near* by Boa and Anders (Thomas Nelson Publishers)
 - *Touching the World Through Prayer* by Wesley L. Duewell (Francis Asbury Press of Zondervan Publishing House)

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 10

1. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Review daily Series D and the passages you have memorized during this course.
 - b. Prepare to take a quiz on the topics, references, and first two words for the sixty (only the first forty-eight if OYO) passages of the *Topical Memory System*.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish.
3. Bible Study:
 - a. Complete the Bible study for Philippians 4:1-23 (pages 95-98).
 - b. Review past applications. Come prepared to share progress on completed applications.
4. Evangelism: Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Session 10

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the twelve passages you have memorized during this course. Work on getting anything signed that you can on your Completion Record.
2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Take the quiz on the topics, references, and first two words for the sixty (only the first forty-eight if OYO) passages of the *Topical Memory System* (pages 89-93).
5. Bible Study:
 - a. Discuss Philippians 4:1-23.
 - b. Discuss and pray over applications from Bible studies.
6. Read the “Assignment for Session 11” (page 94).
7. Close in prayer.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 11

1. Scripture Memory: Review daily Series A and the passages you have memorized during this course.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, recording, and responding back to God in prayer. Use whichever optional items you wish.
3. Evangelism: Come prepared to report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Complete a book summary for Philippians (see “How to Do a Book Summary,” Course 4 page 94).
5. Other: Complete “Evaluating Your Experience in *The 2:7 Series*,” page 103.

Session 11

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Break into verse review groups and quote the twelve passages you have memorized during this course.
2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.
3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.
4. Discuss your book summary of Philippians.
5. Discuss “Evaluating Your Experience in *The 2:7 Series*” (page 103).
6. Role-play the IBS “What Does Jesus Want of Us?” (page 102), *optional*.
7. Close in prayer.

WHAT DOES JESUS WANT OF US?

Discussion Questions for the Gospel of John, Chapter 4

THINK ABOUT: What are some ways you have seen people unsuccessfully attempt to find happiness and fulfillment?

1. How would you describe Jesus' relationship with the Samaritan woman? Verses 1-18
2. Jesus offered "living water" (verse 10) to the woman.
What claims did He make about this very special water? Verses 13-14
3. What did Jesus tell the woman about worship? Verses 21-24
4. What caused the Samaritan people to come to Jesus to learn more about Him? Verses 27-30
5. Why did the Samaritan people believe Jesus was the Savior of the world? Verses 39-42

Congratulations

Congratulations for finishing *The Ministering Disciple*, Courses 3-5 in *The 2:7 Series*. You have demonstrated diligence and perseverance! By God's grace you have completed a number of very difficult exercises and assignments.

These last three courses were designed to sharpen your ministry skills, strengthen your Christian walk, and deepen your commitment to Christ's Great Commission. You should be commended for graduating from this challenging training series!

A graduation is appropriately called a "commencement"—a time of beginning. God, speaking in Isaiah 43:18-19, says,

*"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"*

Only God knows the extent of the impact the remainder of your life can have for the cause of Christ. Pray big; think big. Maintain an attitude of dependence on the Holy Spirit. Ask God for wisdom, guidance, and strength. Dr. V. Raymond Edman, former president of Wheaton College (Illinois), in his book *The Disciplines of Life*, said,

Again you remember that you stand at a fork in the road. You will find that to ask wisdom of the Highest, to wait for His indication of the way, and to obey Him without hesitation is to be led in the right way, at His time, and for His glory.

May God continue to richly bless you in your life and ministry!

Notes

PAGE	SOURCE
9	Jim Petersen, <i>Living Proof</i> (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1989), pages 21-22.
9-10	Petersen, page 49.
23-24	Petersen, pages 159-166.
24	Bob and Betty Jacks, <i>Your Home, a Lighthouse</i> (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1986), pages 45-46.
30	Charles R. Swindoll, <i>Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life</i> (Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1983), pages 312-313. Used by permission.
39	Ray Stedman, <i>Body Life</i> (Glendale, CA: Regal Books Div. G/L Publications, 1972), page 100.
57	Kenneth Boa and Max Anders, <i>Drawing Near</i> (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987), page 176.
60	LeRoy Eims, <i>Prayer: More Than Words</i> (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1982), page 9, out of print.
63	Boa and Anders, page 182.
66-67	Lorne Sanny, <i>How to Spend a Day in Prayer</i> (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1962, 1979), page 9, out of print.
79-83	Dawson Trotman, <i>The Need of the Hour</i> (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress; 1957, 1975), out of print.
104	V. Raymond Edman, <i>The Disciplines of Life</i> (Chicago: Scripture Press, 1948), page 43.

Follow-Up Plan

TOPIC: _____

GOAL: _____

PROCESS:

Step 1: TELL HIM WHY

Step 2: SHOW HIM HOW

Step 3: GET HIM STARTED

Step 4: KEEP HIM GOING

Follow-Up Plan

TOPIC: _____

GOAL: _____

PROCESS:

Step 1: TELL HIM WHY

Step 2: SHOW HIM HOW

Step 3: GET HIM STARTED

Step 4: KEEP HIM GOING

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.

Do an IBS with an individual or group.

Serve him/her.

Share part or all of my testimony.

Discuss part or all of the Gospel.

Let him/her serve me.

Invite him/her to an IBS.

Other.

Do something with another Christian.

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

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

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.

Do an IBS with an individual or group.

Serve him/her.

Share part or all of my testimony.

Discuss part or all of the Gospel.

Let him/her serve me.

Invite him/her to an IBS.

Other.

Do something with another Christian.

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

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

BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS RECORD

“Happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction, be wise, and do not refuse it. Happy is the man listening to me, watching daily at my gates, keeping watch at my doorposts.”

—Proverbs 8:32-34, MLB

PRAYER CONCERNS

THANKSGIVING

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS RECORD

“Happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction, be wise, and do not refuse it. Happy is the man listening to me, watching daily at my gates, keeping watch at my doorposts.”

—Proverbs 8:32-34, MLB

PRAYER CONCERNS

THANKSGIVING

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS RECORD

“Happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction, be wise, and do not refuse it. Happy is the man listening to me, watching daily at my gates, keeping watch at my doorposts.”

—Proverbs 8:32-34, MLB

PRAYER CONCERNS

THANKSGIVING

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS RECORD

“Happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction, be wise, and do not refuse it. Happy is the man listening to me, watching daily at my gates, keeping watch at my doorposts.”

—Proverbs 8:32-34, MLB

PRAYER CONCERNS

THANKSGIVING

Date: _____ All I read today _____
 Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____
 Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____
 Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____
 Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____
 Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____
 Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____
 Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____
 Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS RECORD

“Happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction, be wise, and do not refuse it. Happy is the man listening to me, watching daily at my gates, keeping watch at my doorposts.”

—Proverbs 8:32-34, MLB

PRAYER CONCERNS

THANKSGIVING

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____

Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____

Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS RECORD

“Happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction, be wise, and do not refuse it. Happy is the man listening to me, watching daily at my gates, keeping watch at my doorposts.”

—Proverbs 8:32-34, MLB

PRAYER CONCERNS

THANKSGIVING

Date: _____ All I read today _____
 Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____
 Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____
 Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____
 Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____
 Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____
 Thought: _____

Date: _____ All I read today _____
 Best thing I marked today: *Reference:* _____
 Thought: _____

How it impressed me: _____

How it impressed me: _____

My response to God: _____

My response to God: _____

Insert My personal Reading record

Insert My personal Reading record

Teaming Up to Witness

(An Evangelistic Bible Study)

An exciting way to lead a non-Christian toward faith in Christ is to get him or her into the Bible so he or she can personally decide who Jesus really is. During the *2:7 Series* we have learned how to conduct an Investigative Bible Study. The IBS study that follows consists of four lessons, each on a chapter of the Gospel of John. It concludes with a presentation of the *Bridge Illustration* and giving the non-Christian an opportunity to receive Christ. You have studied and role-played the material and are now ready to have an actual study.

At this point you need to review “The Need of the Hour.” Remember the many passages of Scripture you have studied that encourage you to believe God and step out in faith to accomplish His purposes.

Encourage the people in your group to finish this part of the *2:7 Series*. It is not a prerequisite for graduating from the 2:7, but it is an excellent way to begin to utilize two years of training and preparation for ministry.

Review the IBS material in Course 5 and use the guidelines below to help your group plan for your study.

1. Team Members _____
2. Who will lead the discussion in John’s Gospel? _____
3. Location _____
4. Date to begin _____
5. Time to begin each meeting _____ end each meeting _____
6. Frequency of meetings (weekly or biweekly) _____
7. Number of meetings _____
8. People to invite (see page 25) _____

Pray fervently for people you are going to invite. Your study may not come together on the exact date you plan. Don’t give up. Wait until God gives you people who are interested in learning more about Him.

Investigative Bible Study

Suggestions for Leading Discussions in the Gospel of John

Who Is Jesus Christ? John Chapter 1

Question 1—What is said about the Word? Verses 1-3,14

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What is the function of a word?
- Why do you think Jesus is called the Word?

Cross References:

John 1:18—Jesus reveals God.

Question 2—What is another analogy used about Jesus? What is said about it? Verses 4-9

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What is the function of light?
- Why do you think Jesus is called the “light of men”?
- What are the implications of this title?

Cross References:

John 8:12—If you follow Christ, you won’t walk in darkness.
John 12:35-36—Light keeps darkness from overtaking you.

Question 3—How does a person enter God’s family? Verses 11-13

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What do you think it means to receive Christ?
- What are the ways we cannot enter God’s family?
(Not through heredity or self-effort or someone else’s effort.)

Cross References:

John 10:7-10—Enter through Christ.
John 14:6—Christ is the way.

Question 4—How would you describe John the Baptist? Verses 15-28

Possible Discussion Questions:

- How did the priests and Levites respond to John the Baptist?
- How do you think you would have responded to him?

Cross References:

John 3:27-30—He must become greater, I must become less.

Question 5—What did John the Baptist say about Jesus? Verses 15-18,29-34

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What is meant by “grace and truth”?
- Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God?

Cross References:

John 8:32—The truth sets us free.

Optional Question

Five people came to know Jesus in this chapter. Who are they, and what led them to want to know more about Him? Verses 34-51

Cross References:

- John 1:35-39—Two of John the Baptist’s followers
- John 1:40-42—Simon Peter
- John 1:43-44—Philip
- John 1:45-51—Nathanael

Why Did Jesus Come? John Chapter 3**Question 1—What observations did Nicodemus make about Jesus? Verses 1-2**

Possible Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Nicodemus came at night?
- (The Pharisees were the largest Jewish religious sect. Their attitude toward their religion was exterior, formal, and mechanical.)

Cross References:

- John 7:48-49—The Pharisees did not believe in Jesus.
- John 12:42-43—The Pharisees opposed Jesus.
- John 19:39-40—Nicodemus helped at Jesus’ burial.

Question 2—What did Jesus say about the Kingdom of God? Verses 3-8

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What do you think the phrase “born again” means?
- Why is this a requirement for entering the Kingdom of God?

Cross References:

- John 18:36—Jesus’ Kingdom is not of this world.
- John 12:12-16—Jesus prophesied as King of Israel.

Question 3—For what purpose did God send Jesus into the world? Verses 16-17

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What do you think eternal life is?
- What does the word *believe* mean?

(The modern meaning of *believe* is “intellectual assent”; the biblical meaning incorporated the concept of an act of the will, a commitment to a relationship.)

Cross References:

- John 17:3—Eternal life defined.
- John 10:27-30—Eternal life is given by Christ.
- John 5:39-40—Belief is related to action.

Question 4—Describe the two kinds of people mentioned in verses 18-21,36.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- How do people respond to the light?
- Why do people love darkness rather than light?
- Why is God so hard on those who do not believe in Jesus?

Cross References:

- John 8:23-34—People did in their sins if they do not believe in Jesus.

Optional Question

How can one be certain that God is real? Verses 31-35

What Does Jesus Want of Us? John Chapter 4

Question 1—How would you describe Jesus’ relationship with the Samaritan woman? Verses 1-18

Possible Discussion Questions:

How did Jesus show that He accepted this woman? Verses 9,17

What differences do you see in the way Jesus dealt with this woman and the way He dealt with Nicodemus in John chapter 3?

Cross References:

John 3:1-4—Jesus’ dealings with Nicodemus.

Question 2—Jesus offered “living water” to the woman. Verse 10. What claims did He make about this very special water? Verses 13-14

Possible Discussion Questions:

What did the woman think Jesus meant by “living water”?

What do you think Jesus meant?

What is the thirst Jesus referred to in verse 14?

Cross References:

John 7:37-38—If anyone is thirsty, come to Christ.

John 10:10—Christ provides abundant/full life.

Question 3—What did Jesus tell the woman about worship? Verses 21-24

Possible Discussion Questions:

What is worship?

What does it mean to worship “in spirit and in truth”?

(It is not the religious system, or the forms, or the location that makes the difference. God dwells within the believer and that is where true worship takes place.)

Cross References:

John 14:6—Jesus is the truth.

Question 4—What caused the Samaritan people to come to Jesus to learn more about Him? Verses 27-30

Possible Discussion Questions:

What changes do you see in the woman from the time she met Jesus until she returned to her town?

Cross References:

John 1:40-42—Andrew brings Peter to Jesus.

John 1:43-45—Philip tells Nathanael about Jesus.

**Question 5—Why did the Samaritan people believe Jesus was the Savior of the world?
Verses 39-42**

Possible Discussion Questions:

What does the phrase “Savior of the world” mean?

What is the key ingredient in believing that Jesus is the Savior? Verse 42

Cross References:

John 5:39-40—We must come to Christ for life.

Optional Question

Describe Jesus’ interaction with the disciples after the woman left. Verses 27,31-38

Is Christ the Only Way? John Chapter 5

Question 1—Describe Jesus' encounter with the invalid. Verses 1-9

Possible Discussion Questions:

Why do you think Jesus picked this particular man?

Cross References:

John 9:1-7—Jesus healed a man born blind.

John 20:30-31—Signs are performed so we may believe.

Question 2—Imagine having a crippling sickness and waiting thirty-eight years for an improbable cure. Yet Jesus spoke of something worse. What could it be? Verse 14

Possible Discussion Questions:

How can sin cause something worse than physical illness?

Cross References:

John 12:47-48—Judgment for those who reject Christ.

Question 3—Why did these Jews want to kill Jesus? Verses 16-18

Possible Discussion Questions:

In what way is Jesus equal with God?

Cross References:

John 1:18—Jesus reveals God.

John 10:27-33—Jesus and the Father are one.

John 14:6—Jesus is the way to the Father.

Question 4—What kind of relationship did Jesus have with His Father? Verses 19-23

Possible Discussion Questions:

In what sense was Jesus dependent on the Father?

In what ways are Jesus and the Father the same?

Cross References:

John 8:28—Jesus does what the Father says.

John 14:9-11—If you see Jesus, you see the Father.

Question 5—What three promises did Jesus make? Verse 24

Possible Discussion Questions:

What must one do to receive these promises?

Cross References:

John 3:18—He who believes in Jesus is not judged.

John 20:31—Believing in Jesus results in life.

Optional Question

Jesus stated that there were several witnesses to His deity. Who or what were they?
Verses 31-39. How did they witness?



WHAT DOES JESUS WANT OF US?

Discussion Questions for the Gospel of John, Chapter 4

THINK ABOUT: What are some ways you have seen people unsuccessfully attempt to find happiness and fulfillment?

1. How would you describe Jesus' relationship with the Samaritan woman? Verses 1-18
2. Jesus offered "living water" to the woman. Verse 10
What claims did He make about this very special water? Verses 13-14
3. What did Jesus tell the woman about worship? Verses 21-24
4. What caused the Samaritan people to come to Jesus to learn more about Him? Verses 27-30
5. Why did the Samaritan people believe Jesus was the Savior of the world? Verses 39-42

