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Bible

2

Discipleship Lesson 1

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

The Bible is **the word of God** (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 23:2), and is the truth itself (John 17:17). The 66 books of the Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—are God’s **complete written revelation** to man (Isaiah 40:8), and are all that you need for life and godliness (Psalm 19:7-10). God forbids anyone from *adding* to, *taking* from, or *changing* his word (Revelation 22:18-19; Proverbs 30:5-6).

Deuteronomy 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

Additions, Changes, And Removals From God’s Word


False Books	False Bibles	False Preaching
Apocryphal books (e.g., Judith, Tobit)	Good News Bible (GNB)	False Teachings (2 Timothy 4:3-4)
The Qu’ran	New International Version (NIV)	False Prophecies (Deuteronomy 13:1-5)
The book of Mormon	English Standard Version (ESV)	False Visions/Dreams (Jeremiah 23)

I. God’s Word is our **Meat**: Spiritual *Nourishment*


In the scriptures, great men of the Bible “ate” the word of God, and by this were able to serve God: **Job** (Job 23:12); **Jeremiah** (Jeremiah 15:16); **Ezekiel** (Ezekiel 2:8-3:4); **John** (Revelation 10:1-2, 8-11).

A. The Bible is the **MILK** of God which *sustains* us early. As milk causes children to grow, so the word of God causes believers to grow in the Lord (Hebrews 5:12-14).

1 Peter 2:2-3 “² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
³ If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”

 **B.** The Bible is the **BREAD** of God which *strengthens* us daily. As bread gives strength to people to labour (Psalm 104:15), so the word of God gives believers the ability to work for the Lord (John 6:32, 63).

Matthew 4:4 “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

 **C.** The Bible is the **HONEY** of God which *satisfies* us continually. As honey gives delight to people and makes life sweet (Proverbs 24:13-14), so the word of God inspires and revives believers in the ways of the Lord (Psalm 119:92-93; 19:10).


Psalm 119:103 “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”




God's Word is our **Map**: Spiritual *Guide*




The scriptures were written for our instruction (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6). Without the Bible, we cannot know God's **plans** or **purposes** for our lives (Isaiah 55:8-9).

 **A.** The Bible is the **MIRROR** of God which *exposes* our faults to us. As a mirror shows the problems with one's appearance, so the word of God shows the sins in your life (James 1:22-24).

2 Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

 **B.** The Bible is the **LIGHT** of God which *educates* us with God's truth. As a light allows one to see and know, so the Bible illumines the believer and shows them where to go (Psalm 119:130; Proverbs 6:22-23). Knowing the Bible prevents you from being deceived (Ephesians 4:14).

Psalm 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

 **C.** The Bible is the **WILL** of God which *exhorts* us to fulfill God's desires. As a person's will in writing or a letter reveals their mind on a matter, so the word of God manifests God's intentions for us (see 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:18).


Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”




God's Word is our **Might**: Spiritual *Strength*




The scriptures give **strength** and **power** to the people of God, and makes them able to do spiritual warfare (Proverbs 20:18).

 **A.** The Bible is the **ROCK** of God which *establishes* us in the truth. Believers base and build their lives on the teachings of scripture (Ephesians 2:20), instead of their own understanding (Proverbs 3:5), and are, therefore, safe and sound (Psalm 40:2).

Matthew 7:24-25 “²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”

 **B.** The Bible is the **SWORD** of God which *equips* us with the truth. Believers are strong in the Lord and his word (Ephesians 6:10), rather than in their flesh, and face their tasks and trials with the two-edged *sword of the Lord* (Hebrews 4:12)


Ephesians 6:17 “And take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

 **C.** The Bible is the **FIRE** of God which *encourages* us in the truth. Believers are warmed and energized by the word of God (Jeremiah 23:29), not by worldly ideas, and they stir themselves and set out in the ways of God with his fiery word (Deuteronomy 33:2) burning in their heart (Luke 24:32).


Jeremiah 20:9 “Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.”

IV. God's Word is our **Medicine**: Spiritual *Comfort*


The scriptures give God's people **life**, and makes them **come to life** (Psalm 119:107, 156). All the spiritual comforts of healing and consoling necessary are supplied in the word of life (Psalm 119:50, 82; 107:20).

 **A.** The Bible is the **WATER** of God which *cleanses* us from our defilement of sin. As water washes away the uncleanness from the body, so the washing of water by the word purges us from all the filth of sin (Ephesians 5:26-27; John 15:3). Either sin will keep you from the Bible, or the Bible will keep you from sin (Psalm 119:11).

Psalm 119:9 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleans his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

 **B.** The Bible is the **BALM** of God which *cures* us from our disease of sin. As balm heals wounds and soothes pain (Jeremiah 46:11), so the word of God heals us from the wickedness of our lives (Jeremiah 8:22).

Proverbs 4:20, 22 “²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. ... ²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”

 **C.** The Bible is the **OINTMENT** of God which *consecrates* us to turn from our sin. As ointment anoints and perfumes (Exodus 30:25; Matthew 26:12), so the word of God prepares us for divine service.

1 John 2:24 “Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.”

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“...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed”

John 8:31

Jesus required everyone (John 5:39), and his disciples especially, to *read, understand, and apply* the **word of God** in their lives (Luke 8:21; 11:28). A disciple of Christ must habitually forsake the *business* and *idleness* of this life, and **sit at Jesus' feet**, and **hear his word** (Luke 10:38-42).

If you are not willing to read the Bible daily, you cannot be Jesus' disciple

V. God's Word is our **Money**: Spiritual **Wealth**

The value of the scripture is greater than **anything in the world** (Proverbs 3:13-15). Solomon had everything that the world has to offer (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11), but he sought the Bible above it all (Ecclesiastes 12:8-14).

A. The Bible is the **SEED** of God to *multiply* us, and causes us to spiritually prosper in this world. As seed is a source of income for a farming society, so the sowing of the word of God (Mark 4:14; Luke 8:11) makes us to be fruitful in every good work.

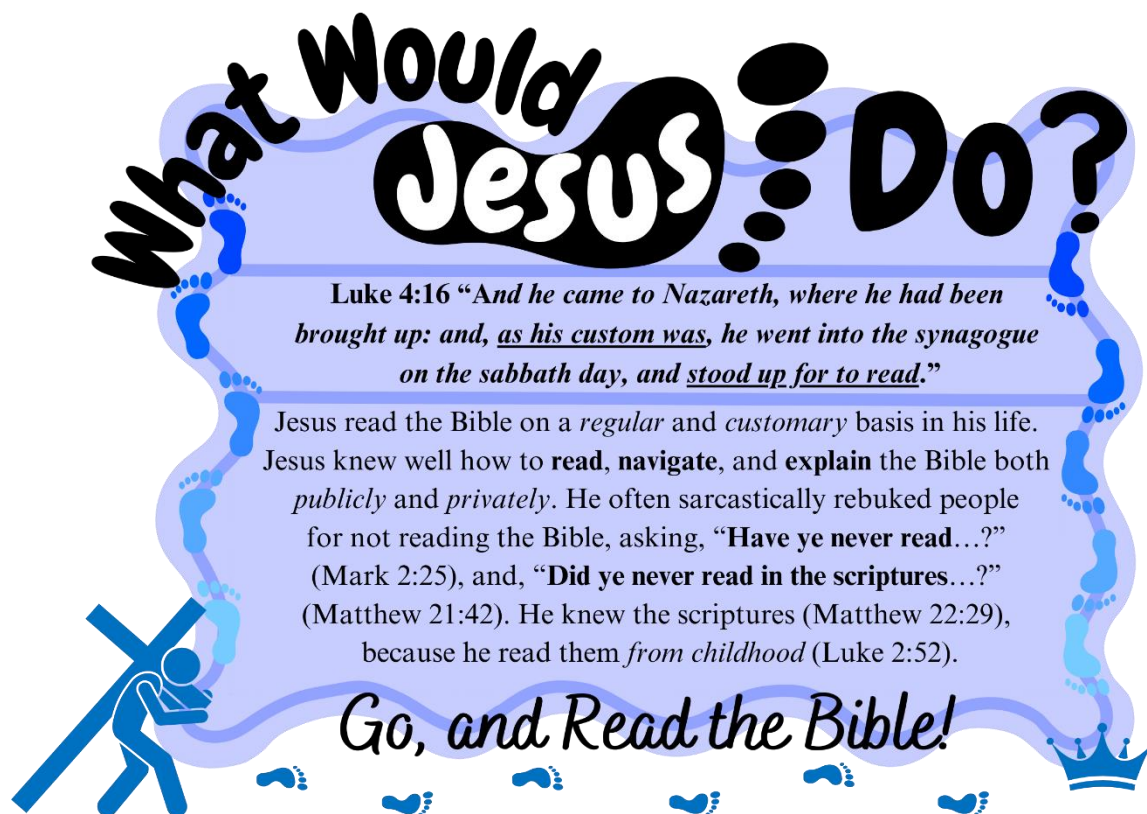
2 Corinthians 9:10 “Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness”

B. The Bible is the **TREASURE** of God to *maintain* us, and makes us to have everything we need (Psalm 119:72, 127). The kingdom of heaven is like unto “treasure hid in a field” or a “pearl of great price” (Matthew 13:44-46).

Psalm 119:162 “I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.”

C. The Bible is the **HERITAGE** of God to *motivate* us, which provides for us a good future. As an inheritance is laid up for one's children (Proverbs 13:22), the word of God is laid up in store for all of God's children, a “goodly heritage” (Psalm 16:5-6; Deuteronomy 33:3-4).

Psalm 119:111 “Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.”



What Would Jesus Do?

Luke 4:16 “*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.*”

Jesus read the Bible on a *regular* and *customary* basis in his life. Jesus knew well how to **read**, **navigate**, and **explain** the Bible both *publicly* and *privately*. He often sarcastically rebuked people for not reading the Bible, asking, “**Have ye never read...**?” (Mark 2:25), and, “**Did ye never read in the scriptures...**?” (Matthew 21:42). He knew the scriptures (Matthew 22:29), because he read them *from childhood* (Luke 2:52).

Go, and Read the Bible!

Church

6

Discipleship Lesson 2

Hebrews 10:23-25 “²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) ²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

A Christian Church is the **gathering of believers in Jesus Christ to fulfill the Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18-20). The word “church” means “congregation,” or “assembly”. “church” and “congregation” are used interchangeably in the Bible (Psalm 22:22; Hebrews 2:12). A church is the *people* who gather, not the *place* that they gather in (see Acts 14:22-23; Matthew 18:15-18).

1 Corinthians 14:23 “If therefore the whole church be come together into one place ...”

The **precepts, principles, and practices** of the Bible are **the foundation of the church** (Ephesians 2:20). Nothing in the church should be practiced that is not explicitly authorized in the Bible (Deuteronomy 12:32; not going “above that which is written”: 1 Corinthians 4:6).

1 Timothy 3:15 “...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Church is God’s place for you in which he sets his name (Deuteronomy 12:5); only the church of God can meet our need for spiritual *expression, education, entertainment, and employment*. A true believer will not be a member of a false church (1 John 4:1-6; see also John 10:1-5). Only go to a church which meets the three biblical requirements.

Criteria of a Good Church

Right Way to God	Right Word of God	Right Works for God
A good church will preach the biblical gospel: <i>Truthful to the Lord</i>	A good church will teach biblical doctrine: <i>Faithful to the Word</i>	A good church will have a biblical ministry: <i>Helpful to the World</i>
A church must hold to and defend God’s gospel (Philippians 1:7; Jude 3). Go to a church which believes and teaches the true gospel (Galatians 1:6-9) “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” Romans 16:17	A church must hold forth and expound God’s word (2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9). Go to a church which uses and rightly teaches the true Bible (2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2) “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” Titus 1:9	A church must hold up and assist God’s people (Ephesians 4:11-15). Go to a church which saves and edifies the people (Acts 20:20; Revelation 2:4-5). “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” Acts 5:42

I. Church is the **Temple** of the Lord: God's *Place*

We Come to Church to Worship Corporately

A **temple** is a place of worship, and each local church is a *spiritual house* (1 Peter 2:5), made “without hands” (Acts 7:48), where God receives our **sacrifices**. God *dwells* in the church gatherings collectively just as in a temple (1 Corinthians 3:16).

2 Corinthians 6:16 “...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

As God's *creatures*, we have a **need to worship the Lord**. Worshipping God means to ascribe worth to him. God doesn't *need* our worship (Acts 17:25), but he *deserves* our worship (see Psalm 89:7). Everything in church must be done *in* God's name and *for* God's glory.

Ephesians 3:21 “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

There are several different kinds of sacrifices that we can bring to God's temple, the church (Hebrews 13:13-16): the sacrifice of our **presence, praises, prayers, and presents**.

A. We should bring the *sacrifice of our* **PRESENCE** to God's temple: we can *worship by attending* (Psalm 42:2). In God's physical temple, the people of the Lord **came continually**, and were before the Lord there (Deuteronomy 31:11).

Psalm 27:4 “One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.”

B. We should bring the *sacrifice of our* **PRAISES** to God's temple: we can *worship by singing* (Psalm 26:12; 68:26). In God's physical temple, the people of the Lord **sang continually**, and praised God there (Jeremiah 33:11).

Psalm 149:1 “Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.”

C. We should bring the *sacrifice of our* **PRAYERS** to God's temple: we can *worship by praying*. In God's physical temple, the people of the Lord **prayed continually**, and prayed toward the Lord there.

1 Kings 8:29 “That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.”

D. We should bring the *sacrifice of our* **PRESENTS** to God's temple: we can *worship by offering*. In God's physical temple, the people of the Lord **offered continually**, and gave to God there (Deuteronomy 12:6).

Psalm 96:8 “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.”

II. Church is the **Farm** of the Lord: God's *Pasture*

We Come to Church to Grow Spiritually

A farm is a place of growth, so every church is a kind of *planting* or *herding* of God. God is our Shepherd and Husbandman (Psalm 23:1; John 15:1).

1 Corinthians 3:9 “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.”

As God’s people, we have a **need to learn the word of God**. God’s way for us to grow up in Christ is for us to develop “*before the Lord*,” in church, where we can grow in spiritual **strength** (abilities), **wisdom** (understanding), and **grace** (virtues) (Luke 2:40-41). Church is the place where we can regularly and properly hear the word of the Lord.

Titus 1:3 “But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour.” (See also Hebrews 13:7).

We reach spiritual maturity by faithfully attending church, as God’s farm *animals*, farm *land*, and farm *structure*.

A. At church we are watered, like **PLANTS**

The congregation is like a **garden** in which each of the congregants are as plants which are being watered and are growing.

Psalms 92:13 “Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.”

Those who trust in God by making church the most important place in their lives will be “as a *tree planted by the waters*” (Jeremiah 17:7-8), but others who do not prioritize church will wander, “like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh” (Jeremiah 17:5-6).

B. At church we are fed, like **FLOCKS**

The congregation is like a **flock** where all of the members are sheep which need to be fed. The primary job of the pastor-teacher is to “feed the flock of God” (1 Peter 5:2; see also Acts 20:28).

Jeremiah 3:15 “And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

Without a local church, we will faint and be scattered (Matthew 26:31), like *sheep without a shepherd* (Mark 6:34).

C. At church we are built, like **BUILDINGS**

The congregation is like a **building**, and each of the leaders “edifies” or “builds up” that building by their teaching. When we attend church, we are being built up (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

Ephesians 4:11-12 “¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”

III. Church is the **House** of the Lord: God’s **People**

*We Come to Church to **Fellowship Personally***

A **home** is a place of fellowship, and church is *the house of God* (1 Timothy 3:15), where his family meets (Ephesians 3:15). Church is not supposed to be an inn that we **visit**, but it should rather be a home where we **dwell** (Psalm 27:4; 84:4).

Psalm 23:6 “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”

As God’s *children* (John 1:12), we need to **fellowship with the people of the Lord**, who are of like mind with us in “the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19), which is “the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

A. Members of a Church Family give **COUNSEL** to each other

In a house, all the family members *hold each other accountable* for their decisions and character. In God’s house, the whole church family exhorts and edifies one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Hebrews 3:13 “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

B. Members of a Church Family are **COMPANIONS** of each other

In a house, all the family members *befriend each other*. In God’s house, the church friends are close to one another, and do not make or maintain worldly friendships (Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 1:10-19).

Proverbs 13:20 “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

C. Members of a Church Family **COMMUNE** with each other

In a house, all the family members *pass time with each other*. In God’s house, the church fellows spend much quality time with likeminded church people (Psalm 16:3), walking in the way of good men (Proverbs 2:20).

Psalm 26:8-9 “⁸ LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. ⁹ Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men”

IV. Church is the **Body** of the Lord: God’s *Partners*

*We Come to Church to **Serve Effectively***

As a **body**, the church of God is a place of service. Each local church is like a body (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), with Jesus as the head (Colossians 1:18; 2:19), in which each of the members have different functions to do the work of Christ. Thus, church gatherings are called *services*.

1 Corinthians 12:12, 27 “¹² For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ²⁷ Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

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“...they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”

Acts 4:13

When he said, “**follow me**,” Jesus primarily intended for his disciples “that they should *be with him*” (Mark 3:14). A disciple of Christ must forsake their own *schedule* and *programs* and **prioritize** the fellowship of the saints, where at least two or three are **gathered in Jesus’ name** (Matthew 18:20).

If you are not willing to attend church weekly, you cannot be Jesus’ disciple

As God's *workmanship* (Ephesians 2:10), we have a need to serve the Lord and fulfill our purpose. It is only through the local church that we can effectively serve God (Malachi 3:16-18).

An important purpose of church is "**for the work of the ministry**" (Ephesians 4:12). That ministry which the members of Christ's body have is to the *eternal* God (in heaven), the *internal* self (in the church), and the *external* people (in the world).

A. The body of Christ serves **ITSELF** – In preaching the word of God.

All of the members of the church body mutually benefit each other, and make "increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16). The preacher, the song leader, the Bible reader, the ushers, and each teacher has a vital role to play for "his body's sake, which is the church" (Colossians 1:24).

B. The body of Christ serves its **HEAD** – In praying for the will of God.

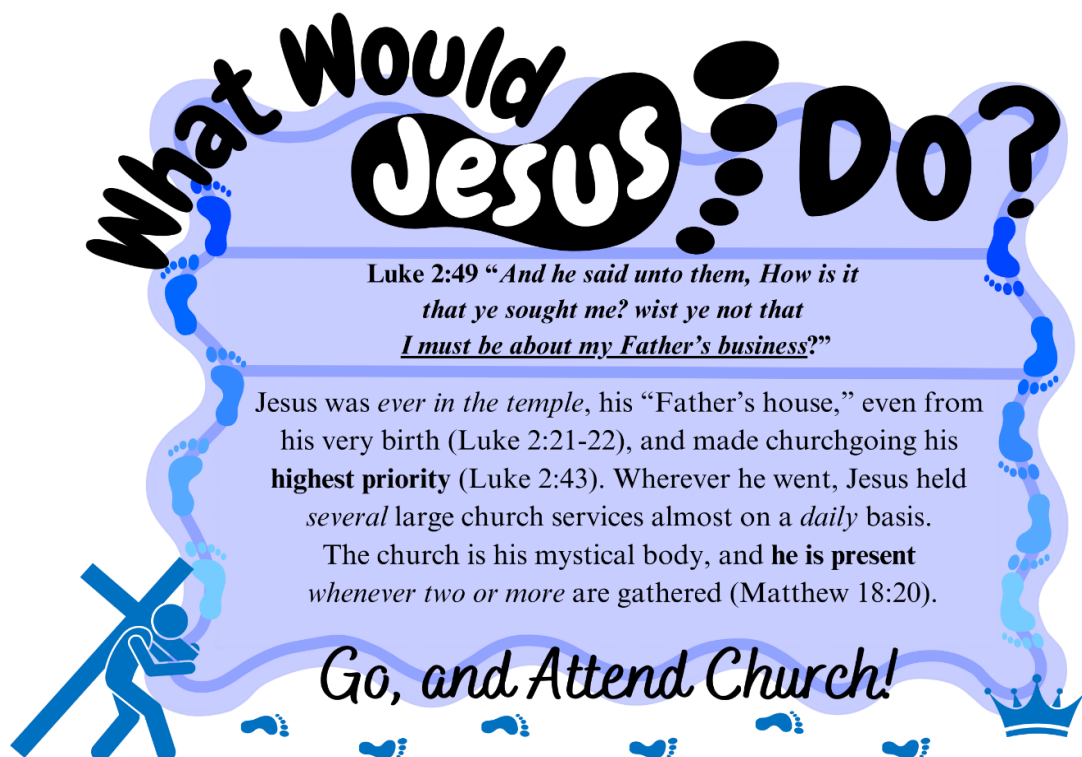
All the several parts of Christ's body should be of "one accord" in *prayers* (Acts 1:14; 2:1, 46), praying one for another, and regularly gathering for corporate prayer meetings, where they may agree together on requests and receive great things from God (Matthew 18:19).

Isaiah 56:7 "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: ... for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."

C. The body of Christ serves its **FELLOWS** – In publishing the gospel of God.

All the many members of the body of believers are in church for the gospel's sake (Matthew 28:18-20). We *come and see* the truth at church so we may *go and tell* it to others. The church is not a playground for children, but a hospital for sinners and a barracks for soldiers who will fight the good fight of faith.

Matthew 5:14-15 "14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house."



Evangelism

11

Discipleship Lesson 3

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

Evangelism is the practice of sharing your faith with another person. This is also known as *witnessing*, *soul-winning*, or *preaching the gospel* (see Luke 4:18; Acts 14:7). Jesus’ last command to reach the lost with the gospel should be our **first priority** (Acts 10:42), and our **first works** (Revelation 2:4-5).

Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”

Evangelism is one thing you are saved and *left on earth to do* (Acts 9:15, 20; Romans 1:1). You were not directly transported to heaven when you believed in Christ, because he left you on earth to preach the gospel, which is **one thing you cannot do in heaven** (Revelation 14:13; John 9:4), and the one thing only believers can do (Luke 9:60). No man goes to the Father but by the Son (John 14:6), and, generally, no man goes to the Son but by a soul-winner (John 20:21).

Romans 10:14 “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”

In order to **win** the lost, we must witness, warn, work, and war for them, that we may, “by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22).

How to Share the Gospel

Gospel Tract	Gospel Seed	Gospel Presentation
A piece of printed <i>literature</i> with a gospel message	A short word of <i>advice</i> or information about the gospel	A thorough <i>explanation</i> of the plan of salvation
“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” Psalm 126:6	“And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 10:7	“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel...” Romans 1:15



You Are a **WITNESS** for Christ



Witnessing to the Lost

A **witness** bears record to something they have *seen* or *heard* (Acts 4:20; 1 John 1:1-3). In the same way, we are witnesses to the **saving power** of Jesus Christ, and without us, others will not know the power of the gospel.

Luke 8:39 “Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.”

Whenever people experienced Christ, they testified to others about him (e.g., the shepherds: Luke 2:15-18; the woman of Samaria: John 4:28-29). If everyone *that knew* Jesus told everyone *they knew* about Jesus, then everyone *would know* Jesus.

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

(A.) Christ’s Witnesses are **MESSENGERS** – Proclamation of the gospel

As a messenger of the world relates information to other people, so the witnesses of Christ *bring the good news to everyone* they meet (Proverbs 25:13, 25). When God revealed the gospel to us, he was also **entrusting** the message of the gospel unto us (Galatians 1:15-16). The gospel has been committed to our trust (1 Timothy 1:11).

1 Thessalonians 2:4 “But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

(B.) Christ’s Witnesses are **AMBASSADORS** – Representation of the gospel

As an ambassador of the world is a representative of a foreign nation, and has the executive authority of his country, so the ambassadors of Christ are **representatives** of the kingdom of heaven (Luke 10:16; Matthew 5:13-16), and have the **authority** of their King, Jesus Christ (John 20:23; Matthew 16:19).

2 Corinthians 5:20 “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”



You Are a **WORKER** for Christ



Working for the Lost

A worker is given work to do from his master, and in the same way, we are servants of the Lord who both prove ourselves (Philippians 2:22) and our ministry (2 Timothy 4:5) when we faithfully preach the gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 “¹ Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

Jesus died for two reasons: (1) **to save us** as sinners and (2) **to use us** as servants (Titus 2:14; Ephesians 2:8-10). We ought to be “ministering the gospel of God” (Romans 15:16), because we are all ministers by whom people can believe (1 Corinthians 3:5), as those who have Christ’s yoke upon us (Matthew 11:29-30).

2 Corinthians 6:1 “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”

(A.) Christ’s Workers are **FARMERS** of the Word

As a farmer plants and waters his field, and depends upon God to cause his efforts to prosper (Mark 4:26-27), so the sowers of Christ’s word **plant** the gospel by preaching to others, **water** it by following up on them, and **reap** it by seeing conversions, but God gives all the increase in the soul (1 Corinthians 3:6-9).

John 4:35-36 “³⁵ Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. ³⁶ And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.”

(B.) Christ’s Workers are **FISHERS** of Men

As a fisherman casts a net into the water, and catches fish with it, bringing them into his boat, so the fishers of men **cast the net** of the word of God into the sea of the world, and by God’s power **catch men** (Luke 5:10).

Matthew 4:19 “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”



You Are a **WARRIOR** for Christ



Warring for the Lost

A **warrior** in an army fights valiantly against his nation’s enemy. In the same way, we are soldiers of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:3-4) engaged in spiritual warfare against sin and lies (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). We must put on the spiritual *armor of God* (Ephesians 6:11), so that we can “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12).

Ephesians 6:13, 15 “¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”

Spiritually, we can war a good warfare (1 Timothy 1:18) by **defending** the gospel in our personal lives, and **contending** for the gospel in our community.

Philippians 1:7 “... because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.”

(A.) Christ's Warriors **DEFEND** the Gospel: *Stand up* for the gospel in your life.

Defensively, a good soldier of Jesus Christ will be prepared to uphold the truth of the gospel whenever they are **confronted** or **questioned** (1 Peter 3:15), and they will never be ashamed of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16).

2 Timothy 1:8 “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God”

(B.) Christ's Warriors **CONTEND** for the Gospel: *Go out* for the gospel in your community.

Offensively, a good soldier of Jesus Christ will be proactive in teaching the truth of the gospel to everyone they encounter, and will **confrontationally** and **earnestly** contend for it (Jude 3).

Romans 10:15 “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

IV.

You Are a **WATCHMAN** for Christ



Warning the Lost

The **watchman** of a city was responsible for warning the city about coming danger (Ezekiel 33:2-6). If he warned them properly, their death would be *their own fault*; if he did not warn them, their death was *his fault*.

Ezekiel 33:7 “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.”

In the same way, we must also **watch for the souls of men** (Hebrews 13:17), “warning every man” (Colossians 1:28). Otherwise, we will be guilty of the blood of men, because the “**blood**” of others will be on our head if we do not preach Christ unto them (Acts 18:6; 20:26).

Counting the Cost

“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

John 15:8

Jesus **sent forth** and **commanded** his disciples to preach *for* him and *of* him (Matthew 10:5-7). A disciple of Christ must forsake their own life *ambitions* and *plans*, and make his **Great Commission** their own personal mission (Matthew 28:18-20).

If you are not willing to preach the gospel globally, you cannot be Jesus' disciple

1 Corinthians 9:16 “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”

(A.) Christ’s Watchmen **WAKEN** *the people* – by prayer

A people in danger must be **awoken** from their slumber. A righteous Christian watchman will *pray* that God will awaken sinners out of their carnal security (1 Corinthians 15:34).

Psalms 127:1 “... except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”

(B.) Christ’s Watchmen **WARN** *the people* – by preaching

A people in danger must be **averted** of the danger. A righteous Christian watchman will *preach* to sinners of their eternal destruction by speaking about the wrath to come (Luke 3:7).

Isaiah 21:6 “For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth.”

When someone does not believe on Jesus Christ, they have the wrath of God abiding on them (John 3:36), and they are *condemned already* (John 3:18). The moment they die, they go to hell. Hell is **everlasting fire** (Matthew 18:8), **everlasting punishment** (Matthew 25:46), **everlasting decay** (Mark 9:44, 46, 48), **everlasting darkness** (Jude 13; Matthew 8:12), **everlasting restlessness** (Revelation 20:10), **everlasting thirst** (Luke 16:19-31), **everlasting shame** (Daniel 12:3), and **everlasting chains** (Jude 6).

Jude 1:23 “And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”

What Would Jesus Do?

Luke 4:43 “*And he said unto them,
I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also:
for therefore am I sent.”*

Jesus came to **seek** and to **save** the *lost* (Luke 19:10), and his whole purpose for coming to earth was to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). He preached *everywhere*, at *every time*, in *every way*, to *everyone* (Mark 1:38). The one prayer request that Jesus gave to his disciples was to pray to the Lord of the harvest for **more soul-winners** (Luke 10:2).

Go, and Preach the Gospel!



Prayer

Discipleship Lesson 4

16

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

To pray means **to ask** (John 16:23-26), and when we are praying, we are *asking something* of God. Prayer is how we **talk** to God, our heavenly Father (Matthew 7:11), and it is also how we **receive** from God, because God does nothing but by prayer.

James 4:2 “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”

God has commanded us to be prayerful people, who pray about everything (Ephesians 6:18), *without ceasing* (Romans 12:12). Jesus says “**when** you pray” (Matthew 6:5-6), not, “**if** you pray,” assuming that we will be praying as Christians. When you cease to pray, you start to sin (1 Samuel 12:23).

Matthew 7:7-8 “⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

We should speak to God as a child speaks to his father (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6).

False Forms of Prayer

Vain Repetitions	Liturgical Formulations	Mental Meditations
Repeating <i>chants</i> is not praying	Reading <i>words</i> is not praying	Reflecting on <i>ideas</i> is not praying
Prayer is supposed to be <i>varied</i> ; we should speak with God uniquely, and not chant or recite our requests over and over	Prayer is supposed to be <i>spontaneous</i> ; we should speak with God personally, and not according to a script	Prayer is supposed to be <i>communicative</i> ; we should speak with God directly, and not merely think thoughts or listen for voices in our head
“ ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”	“Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.”	“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”
Matthew 6:7-8	Psalm 62:8	Jeremiah 33:3



Private Prayer: Our **SCENT** to God



Prayer in the Closet

Our private prayers are a kind of **incense** before the throne of God (Revelation 8:3-4). God's people should have daily *business-meetings* of prayer set forth before God, as incense (Psalm 141:2). The majority of our prayers should be prayed in secret before God.

Matthew 6:5-6 ⁵ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.



A. CONFESSIONS (Upward) – Prayers for Sin

A confessional prayer is a prayer for God's **forgiveness** and **cleansing** (Psalm 119:176). We must daily confess the sins that we have committed to God (Matthew 6:12).

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confess (1) ***the sin you did and why you did it*** (2 Samuel 24:10; Psalm 32:5), asking for divine forgiveness. Then, confess (2) ***how you will stop doing that sin*** (Proverbs 28:13), asking for divine cleansing.

Psalm 51:2-3, 10 ² Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."



B. PETITIONS (Inward) – Prayers for Self

A petitional prayer is a prayer for **your needs and desires**. We must always make known our own requests to God (Luke 18:1), in order to find his mercy and grace to help us (Hebrews 4:16).

Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

When we are asking for a need out of urgency, these kind of petitions are called **supplications** (Psalm 31:22), "*making supplication*" (1 Kings 8:33, 34). Those petitions we make which are out of desire rather than pressing need can be called **requisitions** (Psalm 21:2), "*making request*" (Romans 1:10).

Our petitions are strengthened by constant **thanksgiving** for past answers to prayer (Ephesians 5:20), and present **adoration** of the God who "hears prayer" (Psalm 65:2).

Colossians 4:2 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving"



C. INTERCESSIONS (Outward) – Prayers for Someone

An intercessional prayer is a prayer **for others**. We must regularly remember others in prayer before the throne of God (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

Ephesians 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”

The greatest thing that we can do for someone else is to pray for them (Romans 15:30); it is the best way that we can help them:

2 Corinthians 1:11 “Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”



Public Prayer: Our **SHOUT** to God



Prayer in the Church

Our public prayers are a kind of communal **cry** or **shout** to God (Acts 4:24), and bring great power to God’s people (Acts 4:31, 33). God’s has commanded his people to publicly seek him (2 Chronicles 7:14), and to assemble for prayer in his “house of prayer” (Isaiah 56:7).

Matthew 18:19 “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”



A. Prayer **PARTNERS**: When you *Greet*

God’s prayer warriors **pray as companions**, daily praying with and for one another (James 5:16), like the early Christians.

Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”



B. Prayer **GROUPS**: When you *Meet*

God’s prayer warriors **pray as a congregation**, weekly attending prayer meetings (Luke 1:10), like the apostles.

Acts 3:1 “Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.”



C. Prayer **TEAMS**: When you *Need*

God’s prayer warriors **pray as a community**, seasonally scheduling prayer times as needs arise (Daniel 2:17-18), like the early church.

Acts 12:5 “Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.”



Physical Prayer: Our **STARVING** for God



*Prayer in the **Stomach***

Our physical prayers, through fasting, are like a kind of **hungering** and **thirsting** for God (Psalm 63:1-2). As we hunger for food, a fast shows God that we are hungering for his blessing. There are many great things that cannot be accomplished except by fasting and prayer.

Matthew 17:21 “Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”

Fasting was **practiced with constancy** in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 36:6; see also Joel 1:14; 2:15), and in the New Testament (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23; see also Luke 2:36-38). Jesus said of his disciples, “then **shall they fast**” (Matthew 9:15), and to all, “**when** ye fast” (Matthew 6:16-17), because we should *regularly* be fasting.

Joel 2:12 “Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning”



ABSTENTION

Fasting is the spiritual discipline of **abstaining from food** (Matthew 4:2), at least for a 24-hour period (Judges 20:26; 2 Samuel 1:12). In rare cases of a dramatic need, one may abstain from water also for a short period of time (Jonah 3:7; Acts 9:9).



PETITION

Fasting is a physical form of praying, so fasting should be “**for**” something (Esther 4:16), to receive an answer from God about a matter (Isaiah 58:5, 9). People in the Bible fasted for different reasons, including: **wisdom** (Moses: Exodus 34:28; Daniel: Daniel 10:2-3), **direction** (Paul: Acts 14:23; Ezra: Ezra 8:21), and **mercy** (Nehemiah: Nehemiah 1:4; David: 2 Samuel 12:16).



SUBSTITUTION

Fasting is done to *give more time* to spiritual disciplines like prayer (1 Corinthians 7:5). A person fasting will typically replace **eating time with praying time**.



Personal Prayer: Our **SIGH** to God



*Prayer in the **Heart***

Our personal prayers are like **sighs** to God, and should be prayed all throughout our days as a kind of spiritual **breath** (Psalm 38:9). As we breathe without ceasing, so we should *pray without ceasing* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Wherever we are, and whatever we are doing, we can always quickly communicate with God or ask God for help in our hearts, turning all our *cares* into *prayers*.

Counting the Cost

“Take ye heed, watch and pray...”

Mark 13:33

Jesus taught his disciples **how to pray** (Luke 11:1), and charged them to do so **always** (Luke 18:1). A disciple of Christ must forsake their own *purposes* and *self-reliance*, and take **everything** to the Lord in prayer.

If you are not willing to pray without ceasing, you cannot be Jesus' disciple

1 Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”



Praying in the **WAY** – When you are Moving

Eleazar prayed in his heart as he was standing by a well of water, seeking for the right woman for Isaac.

Genesis 24:45 “And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water ...” (See also Genesis 24:10-15).



Praying in the **WORK** – When you are Working

Nehemiah prayed in his heart as he was talking to the king Artaxerxes, seeking for a favourable response from the king.

Nehemiah 2:4 “Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.”



Praying in the **WOES** – When you are Suffering

The Israelites prayed in their hearts while they were afflicted by the Egyptians, seeking for rescue and relief.

Exodus 2:23-24 “²³ And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.”

What Would Jesus Do?

Hebrews 5:7 “*Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.*”

Jesus prayed in all things and for all things: he had **regular prayer times** (mountain: Matthew 14:23; wilderness: Luke 5:16), praying *before all meals* (Luke 9:16; 24:30), and even spending **entire nights in prayer** to God (Luke 6:12).

He prayed for *his friends* (John 17) and *his enemies* (Luke 22:34).

Jesus never taught his disciples explicitly in the Bible how to preach but he did teach them **how to pray** (Luke 11:1-13).

Go, and Pray to the Lord!



Memorization

Discipleship Lesson 5

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

Bible memorization is the learning of the word of God by memory, meditating upon the scripture. We are not supposed to just have the Bible in our **home** and **hand**, but also in our **heart**. Every thought should be brought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

1 Timothy 4:15 “Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.”

The Bible should be your everything: your **life** (Deuteronomy 32:47), your **wisdom** (Deuteronomy 4:6), and your **righteousness** (Deuteronomy 6:25). This is accomplished by meditatively memorizing the Bible (Psalm 119:15; 48).

Psalm 1:2 “But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”

Three Kinds of Time

Busy Time	Idle Time	Free Time
Time you are performing MENTAL tasks, and cannot think or do anything else	Time you are performing MENIAL tasks, and can think about anything else	Time you are performing OPTIONAL tasks, and can do/think about anything else
<u>Examples</u> Working, Serving	<u>Examples</u> Transporting, Chores	<u>Examples</u> Recreating, Loitering

Proverbs 6:21-23 “²¹ Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. ²² When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. ²³ For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.”



Memorization Occupies Our Idle TIMES



Your Hours Saved from Idility

Bible memorizers **redeem their time** with the truth of God's Word (Colossians 4:5), *loading up* their time with truth.

As a traveler loads themselves with a greater burden so that every kilometer they travel is more productive, so the one who memorizes the Bible loads up every passing moment with God's word so that their journey in life is not wasted, walking **circumspectly** and **wisely** (Ephesians 5:15, 17).

Ephesians 5:16 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

God **knows** our hearts (Psalm 44:21; Acts 1:24), and **sees** our thought-life (Psalm 139:1-4; Amos 4:13). He knows everything that we do and think. It will do us no good to be *in the Bible* if the Bible is not *in us*. The way we think determines who we are (Proverbs 23:7), so God desires that our thought-life be pure and godly (Psalm 51:6), and asks, "How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?" (Jeremiah 4:14; see Matthew 9:4).

Ezekiel 11:5 "... for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them."

Psalm 94:11 "The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity."

Productivity of Memorization

The Bible makes you **active** and **effective** with your time when you meditate upon it, never wasting a single moment.

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

♥ A. In *Every PLACE*: memorization makes you productive everywhere: at *home* and *abroad* (Psalm 119:23).

Deuteronomy 6:7 "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, ..."

♥ B. At *Every TIME*: memorization makes you productive every moment: from *evening* to *morning* (Psalm 119:148).

Deuteronomy 6:7 "...and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

♥ C. By *Every WAY*: memorization makes you productive in every manner: with *self* and *things* (Psalm 119:78).

Deuteronomy 6:8-9 "⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."



Memorization Teaches Our Idle MINDS



Your Head Saved from Idiocy

Bible memorizers **renew their mind** with the wisdom of God's Word (Ephesians 4:23), *laying up* God's truth in their head.

As treasure is "laid up" in stores (Luke 12:19), so the one who memorizes the Bible **lays up knowledge** in their minds (Proverbs 10:14). *Whatever we think about the most* is what we become good at. By going over a Bible verse or passage hundreds to thousands of times, you will learn things you would not otherwise have learned (Proverbs 7:1; Job 22:22).

We should set our "affection on things above" (Colossians 3:1-4). By making Bible memorization a daily practice (see Psalm 119:89), we will have a "heaven upon earth" (Deuteronomy 11:19-20).

Deuteronomy 11:18 "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul."

Wisdom of Memorization

The Bible makes **wise** the **simple** (Psalm 19:7), and meditation upon it gives *deep* understanding (Psalm 49:3). When you memorize the Bible, you become wiser than three kinds of people.

Psalm 119:97 "MEM. O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

♥ A. Memorization makes you wiser than your **ENEMIES** (Spiritual & Moral) – Those who are *more evil* than you.

Psalm 119:98 "Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me."

♥ B. Memorization makes you wiser than your **EDUCATORS** (Academic & Religious) – Those who are *more enlightened* than you.

Psalm 119:99 "I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation."

♥ C. Memorization makes you wiser than your **ELDERS** (In the Flesh & In the Faith) – Those who are *more experienced* than you.

Psalm 119:100 "I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts."



Memorization Cleanses Our Idle **CRIMES**



Your Heart Saved from Iniquity

Bible memorizers **refine their heart** with the righteousness of God's word (see Ephesians 4:17), locking up God's truth in their heart.

As a person locks up their home to keep themselves safe from outside threats (Genesis 19:10), so the one who memorizes the Bible **locks up righteousness** in their heart (Proverbs 4:23), and hides it there, so that they are strengthened against sin. If we *engraft the word* of God into our hearts, it will save us from a life of sin (James 1:21).

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

When Jesus was tempted of the devil (Matthew 4:1-11; see also Luke 4:1-13), he **quoted the scripture from memory** in each temptation as a defense against sin (cf. with Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 6:13). Because memory of the scripture can fill us with the Holy Spirit (John 14:26), we overcome *temptation* and the *tempter* in the same way that Jesus did (Psalm 37:31).

1 John 2:14 "... I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one."

Righteousness of Memorization

Whatever is in our heart is *what we will speak* (Luke 6:45), and *what we will do* (Matthew 15:18-19). By habitually memorizing God's word, you will ensure that your mind is always thinking about something good (Romans 8:5-6), and that all of your thoughts are right before God (Psalm 19:14).

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

♥ A. Think on **TRUE** Things: things that are *accurate* and *correct*.

Psalm 119:128 "Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way."

♥ B. Think on **HONEST** Things: things that are *honorable* and *worthy*.

Psalm 119:75 "I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me."

Counting the Cost

"Let these sayings sink down into your ears ..."

Luke 9:34

Jesus expected his disciples to **remember the words** that he said unto them (John 15:20), and **the works** that he did before them (Mark 8:18). A disciple of Christ must forsake their own *thoughts* and *ways of thinking*, and allow his word to **abide** in them (John 15:7).

If you are not willing to meditate day and night, you cannot be Jesus' disciple

— C. Think on **JUST** Things: things that are *righteous*.

— Psalm 119:138 “Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.”

— D. Think on **PURE** Things: things that are *undefiled* and *clean*.

— Psalm 119:140 “Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.”

— E. Think on **LOVELY** Things: things that are *attractive* and inspire *delight*.

— Psalm 119:47 “And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.”

— F. Think on Things of **GOOD REPORT**: things which are *optimistic* and *positive*.

— Psalm 119:74 “They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.”

— G. Think on **VIRTUOUS** Things: things are things that are morally *excellent* and *good*.

— Psalm 119:1 “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.”

— H. Think on **PRAISEWORTHY** Things: things that are *worthy of praise*.

— Psalm 119:7 “I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.”

What Would Jesus Do?

Psalm 40:8 “*I delight to do thy will,
O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*”

Jesus memorized **much** of the Bible. In the record of scripture, Jesus quoted from 24 books of the Old Testament about 180 times (e.g., Mark 12:28-31). Since we have the Bible, we have the **mind of Christ** (1 Corinthians 2:6-16), meaning that we have the ability to *think, speak, and act* just as Jesus Christ did, if we internalize the *wholesome words* of our Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 6:3).

Go, and Memorize the Bible!



Singing

Discipleship Lesson 6

Ephesians 5:19-20 “¹⁹ *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;* ²⁰ *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Singing is one of the highest ways to glorify God (Psalm 149:6); God says, “Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me” (Psalm 50:23). We were ***made to glorify the Lord*** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 10:31), so we have both *ability* and an *affinity* for singing (Ecclesiastes 2:8). The Lord commands us to praise him (Psalm 47:6; Psalm 135:1-3). God formed and saved us to “show forth his praises” (Isaiah 43:21; 1 Peter 2:9-10).

Psalm 147:1 “Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.” (See also Psalm 92:1).

God alone is *worthy of all worship* from all creatures (Revelation 4:11; 2 Samuel 22:4). **Only the Creator** should be worshipped, not the creature (Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9).

Matthew 4:10 “...for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

God is seeking for **true** and **spiritual** worshippers, who will worship the **true** and **spiritual** God in a **true** (according to the truth of God) and **spiritual** (according to the Spirit of God) way:

John 4:23-24 “²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

Three Forms of Godly Music

Psalm	Hymn	Spiritual Song
A song of the <i>Scripture</i>	A song of the <i>Sacred</i>	A song of the <i>Spirit</i>
<p>“Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.”</p> <p>James 5:13</p>	<p>“And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.”</p> <p>Mark 14:26</p>	<p>“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”</p> <p>Acts 16:25</p>

I.

True and Spiritual **SONGS***The Message of the Lyrics*

Peculiar *people* should have peculiar *music* (Deuteronomy 14:2). Worldly music is of the world's genres (e.g., "**Rock**," "**Pop**," "**Rap**," "**Country**," "**Jazz**," "**Gospel**," etc.), "earthly, sensual, devilish" (James 3:15), and not of the Father (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4).

Psalm 40:3 "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

Ecclesiastes 7:5 "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools." (See also Psalm 69:9-12).

A. Sing **BIBLICAL** Songs: which have *divine words* that are from or about the Bible in a biblical way.

A Christian's songs must *contain* the Bible, be *about* Biblical subjects, and/or have lyrics which are *not contrary* to the teaching of scripture. In the book of Psalms, God's songbook, all of the lyrics were scripture, showing us that God desires that we **sing his word**.

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

B. Sing **EDUCATIONAL** Songs: which have *doctrinal words* that are instructive and edifying.

A Christian's songs must be *deep* and *instructive*. Often in the Bible, prophets would be moved to prophesy when accompanied by music (1 Samuel 18:10; 2 Kings 3:15; 1 Chronicles 25:1). When Moses wanted to teach the Israelites about faithfulness to God, he did it **in song**: "for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouth of their seed" (Deuteronomy 31:21). In the Hebrew psalter, many doctrines are taught through song.

Psalm 49:3-4 "³ My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. ⁴ I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp."

C. Sing **WORSHIPFUL** Songs: which have *doxological words* that are about God and bring glory unto God.

A Christian's songs must *glorify* and *honour* God. The most frequent command in the Bible is to "praise the LORD" (e.g., Psalm 150:6). Accordingly, God should be **the focus** of our music (Psalm 115:1). Throughout the book of Psalms, God is often the object.

Psalm 29:2 "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

II.

True and Spiritual **SOUNDS***The Melody being Played*

There are two aspects of music (Ephesians 5:19): **lyrical** ("singing") and **musical** ("making melody"). How music is played, and the instruments which are involved, must be God-honouring

(See Psalm 150). In this way, the Bible speaks of both “the songs of the LORD” (1 Chronicles 25:7) and the “musical instruments of God” (1 Chronicles 16:42).

A. All Music is **SPIRITUAL**: Music has a spiritually *light/dark* sense to it.

Worldly music *attracts the unclean spirits* of the world just as godly music drives them away (see Psalm 22:3). The evil spirit departed from Saul when David, “the sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1), played the harp (1 Samuel 16:14-23).

B. All Music is **MORAL**: Music has a *good/bad* sense to it.

Worldly music *causes the participant to sin*: Nebuchadnezzar’s band enticed the people to commit idolatry (Daniel 3:1-7). The wicked often accompany their wickedness with music (see Isaiah 23:16).

C. All Music is **SUPERNATURAL**: music has a *divine/demonic* sense to it.

Worldly music ultimately *comes from the devil*, who is a musician (Ezekiel 28:13; Isaiah 14:11), and “deceiveth the whole world” (Revelation 12:10).

Music of the Lord is **of the Spirit**, activating *the mind*; music of the world is **of the flesh**, activating *the body* (see Jude 19).

The Beat

*Spiritual music does not have a **backbeat**, but has a **frontbeat***



The Instruments

Spiritual music does not use purely amplified instruments, but uses acoustic instruments



The Singing

Spiritual music does not sensualize the voice, but is strong and sound



True and Spiritual **SINGERS**



*The **Musician** who is Singing*

God’s singers who sing unto him do so in a **special** and **unique** way (e.g., Revelation 5:9-14), and very much unlike worldly singers.

Counting the Cost

“And when they had sung an hymn, they went out...”

Mark 14:26

Jesus and his disciples **sang hymns together**. A disciple of Christ must forsake their own musical *tastes* and *preferences*, and instead use their voice to sing **to the Lord**, with the word of Christ *dwelling in them* richly (Colossians 3:16).

If you are not willing to sing continually, you cannot be Jesus’ disciple

A. Sing **MINDFULLY**

When we sing unto God, we should be singing **meditatively**—*contemplating* and *reflecting* upon the meaning of the lyrics and what they mean to us, singing “with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16; see 1 Corinthians 14:15).

Psalm 47:7 “For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.”

Whenever we sing, we should *mentally direct* our singing to God. Even as David danced before the Lord, and not to be seen of others (2 Samuel 6:14-23), so we should sing *as if* we are **before God**, and not **before man**.

Psalm 30:4 “Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.” (See also Psalm 96:2).

B. Sing **LOUDLY**

When we sing unto God, we should be singing **audibly**—“with a *loud* voice” (see Revelation 7:10; Luke 17:15), and “make the voice of his praise *to be heard*” (Psalm 66:8). Good singers sing with **all of their being** (Psalm 104:33; Psalm 146:2), just as God’s ordained singers did in the Old Testament: “...and the singers sang loud...” (Nehemiah 12:42; see also Ezra 3:11).

Psalm 81:1 “Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.” (See also Psalm 51:14; 59:16).

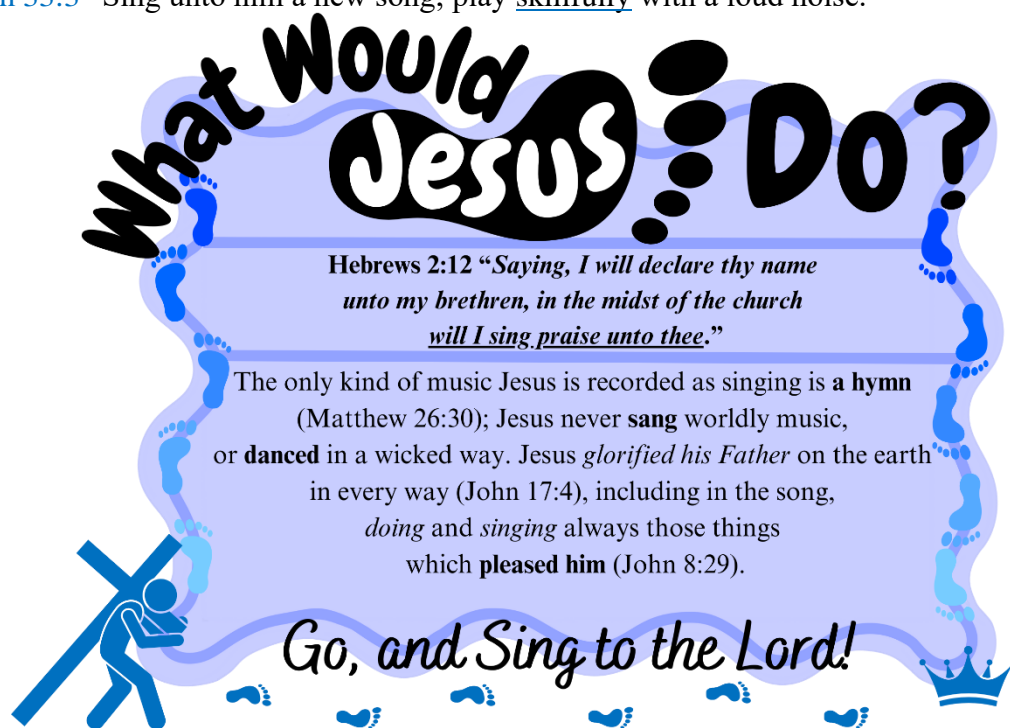
God desires to hear a **joyful noise** when he listens to our singing (Psalm 63:5; 71:23), one which we use all of our heart to sing (Psalm 9:1). “Is any merry? let him sing psalms” (James 5:13b).

Psalm 98:4 “Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.” (See Psalm 95:1).

C. Sing **SKILLFULLY**

When we sing unto God, we should be singing **masterfully**—before God with *all of our might* (1 Chronicles 13:8; Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Psalm 33:3 “Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.”



Giving

30

Discipleship Lesson 7

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

Giving money is the act of sacrificing *what one cannot keep*, to gain *what one cannot lose*. We will **think about** and **live for** whatever we spend all of our money on (Matthew 6:21). If we love money, our heart is not right in the sight of God (1 Timothy 6:10-11), and we will not serve him, because “No man can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24).

Luke 12:15 “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

Generosity is an **amount**, viewed *proportionately* to what we have, not *comparatively* to what others give (Luke 21:1-4), and considered for its sacrificial value (1 Corinthians 16:2). Generosity is also an **attitude**, viewed *internally* from the heart, and not *externally* from the hand. God loves the right kind of giver, which means that he hates the wrong kind of giver. God cares more about **how** and **why** you give than **what** you give (1 Corinthians 13:3).

Why Give to God?

Givers Survive	Givers Revive	Givers Thrive
<p>Earthly <i>Blessings</i> for Giving</p> <p>Your money is <i>entrusted</i> to you, so when it is given, it brings a blessing</p> <p>“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”</p> <p>Luke 6:38</p>	<p>Spiritual <i>Benefits</i> for Giving</p> <p>Your money is a <i>test</i>, so when it is given, it proves that you fear God</p> <p>“...that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always”</p> <p>Deuteronomy 14:23</p>	<p>Heavenly <i>Bounties</i> for Giving</p> <p>Your money is <i>temporary</i>, so when it is given, it is exchanged for something eternal</p> <p>“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal”</p> <p>Matthew 6:20</p>

I.

Securing Wealth by TITHING



Tithing Secures our Resources

Tithing is the practice of giving the tenth part of all one's financial increase unto God (increase = income and gifts; see Luke 18:12). The word "**tithe**" literally means "**the tenth**." God commands that we return to him our tithe: "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase..." (Deuteronomy 14:22, see v.28). Jesus described tithing as something which should not be left "undone" (Matthew 23:23). According to the Bible, **1/10th** of our income is not our money, it belongs unto God.

Leviticus 27:30 "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord."

Just as an Israelite would offer the initial part of their harvest (**firstfruits**), or the first offspring born to their animals (**firstlings**), as a way of securing the rest of the harvest or livestock, so is tithing God's way of *securing your present assets* (Exodus 23:19; Deuteronomy 18:4).

Proverbs 3:9-10 "9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

The tithe of God's people should be given to the local church. Those who fail to tithe are stealing from God, and they will be **cursed**, but those who tithe will be **blessed**.

Malachi 3:8-10 "8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, ..."

(A) Tithe for God's **MINISTERS**: *The Example of Abraham*

Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, an Old Testament character who was figurative of Jesus. In the same way, our tithe should be given unto **Jesus' body and institution** upon earth: **the church** (Colossians 1:24; Matthew 16:18).

Genesis 14:20 "And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all." (see Hebrews 7:8-10).

(B) Tithe for God's **MISSION**: *The Example of Jacob*

Jacob vowed to tithe unto God in Bethel, saying it is "God's house". We must also tithe to the New Testament **house of God, the church** (1 Timothy 3:15).

Genesis 28:22 "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."

(C) Tithe for God's **MINISTRY**: *The Example of Israel*

The Israelites in the nation of Israel were commanded to pay tithes unto the Levites (Nehemiah 10:37-39; Hebrews 7:5). The tithes in the Old Testament were taken to the temple (Deuteronomy 12:5-6), and in the New Testament, **the church is the temple of God** (2 Corinthians 6:16).

Numbers 18:21 "And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve..."

Even as the tithe was used by the Levites and priests to subsist, so also in the New Testament the tithe of the church allows the leadership to *minister full-time* (1 Timothy 5:17-18; Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7).

Galatians 6:6 “Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.” (See also 1 Corinthians 9:1-14).

II.

Saving Wealth by GIFTING



Gifting Saves up our Rewards

Gifting is the practice of giving *more than we are commanded* to others. God is the great giver, “who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17), and fills our hearts with food and gladness (Acts 14:17). Every good thing we have is **from God** (James 1:17), “... for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18). Thus, whatever we give unto God really came from God in the first place (1 Chronicles 29:14). In the same way that we received everything we have freely, we should **give everything we have freely**.

Matthew 10:8 “... freely ye have received, freely give.”

Just as men save their finances for later use, gifting is the greatest way to store up money in an eternal place (1 Timothy 6:17-19). We are never the poorer for giving. The best savings account is not **bank** or a **box**, but a **person**. The biggest test of how faithful we are with money is not *how much we keep*, but *how much we give away* (Luke 16:10-11). Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

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

(A.) Gifts for the **FIELD**

We can *lay up* treasure in heaven by *laying it out* for **God’s gospel’s sake**. Whenever we give to true missionaries or ministries, we become fellow helpers to the truth (3 John 6-8), and we shall be rewarded with them for *our enabling of their work* (Matthew 10:41-42; see Psalm 68:11-13).

Philippians 4:17 “Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.”

(B.) Gifts for the **FRIENDS**

We can *lay up* treasure in heaven by *laying it out* for our **godly friends’ sake**. When we are asked, we should give (Luke 6:30), and when we are able and aware, we should give (Luke 3:11).

Luke 16:9 “And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.”

(C.) Gifts for the **FAMILY**

We can *lay up* treasure in heaven by *laying it out* for our **godly family's sake**. It is the commandment and pleasure of God to honour our parents financially (Matthew 15:3-6), and those who monetarily provide for their family are keepers of the faith.

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



Sowing Wealth by ALMSGIVING



Almsgiving Sows out our Righteousness

Almsgiving is the practice of donating one's possessions or money unto the poor. We ought to **help** those in need if we can (Proverbs 3:27), and **intentionally** seek them out (Deuteronomy 15:7-11). Since God cares for the poor (Psalm 12:5; 40:17), if we do not care for them, then *God's love does not dwell in us* (1 John 3:16-18).

Proverbs 29:7 “The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.”

Just as men spend their money to plant seed in the ground, considering it to be gain and no loss, so are alms, like **seed** (2 Corinthians 9:7-8). In addition to benefitting the poor, giving alms is also an act of sowing to oneself future help (Ecclesiastes 11:1-2), “lending to the Lord” (Proverbs 19:17). We will see our alms multiplied back to us either *in this life* or in the *life to come* (Luke 12:33; 14:13-14; 18:22).

2 Corinthians 8:14 “But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality”

We are thus **blessed** if we consider those who poor (Psalm 41:1-3; Proverbs 22:9), and **cursed** for being blind or deaf to them (Proverbs 21:13; 28:27). Our alms should go to a **worthy** poor person.

Ⓐ **WANTING** Person – Who has a True Need

Our alms should go to those who are in **actual need**, and are truly poor and destitute (James 2:15), not liars, or people who could do well without it.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 “⁷ If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: ⁸ But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.”

Counting the Cost

“...Freely ye have received, freely give”

Matthew 10:8

Jesus instructed his disciples to **leave behind** all of their worldly possessions and occupations, and to follow him (Matthew 4:19-20; Luke 5:27-28). A disciple of Christ must forsake their temporal *material* and *relational* **possessions**, and either *lose it all* or *use it all* for the eternal kingdom of God (Matthew 19:29).

If you are not willing to give wholly, you cannot be Jesus' disciple

ⓑ. **WORKING** Person – Who has a True Ethic

Our alms should go to those who are **busy** and **hard-working people**. Never support the lazy who refuse to work (Psalm 37:25; Proverbs 20:4; 21:25). If we give to a slothful person, we are simply supporting their wicked lifestyle, and God will not respect this as alms.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

ⓒ. **WORSHIPPING** Person – Who has a True Faith

Our alms should go most often to the “**brethren**” (1 John 3:17; James 2:15-16), not for unbelievers. Alms should be collected for **faithful church members** (Matthew 25:40), and not those who forsake the assembly (1 Corinthians 16:1). Most of our giving should be through the church.

Galatians 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

What Would Jesus Do?

2 Corinthians 8:9 “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

Jesus left behind all of the riches of heaven to live as **the poorest on earth**, without even a bed or a certain shelter (Luke 9:58). He gave up *all he had* and *all he was* for others (Galatians 2:20; Titus 2:14). Everything of value that Jesus used in his ministry was **lent to him**: a *manger* to be laid in, a *lunch* to multiply with, a *boat* to preach in, a *donkey* to ride on, a *room* to eat in, and a *tomb* to be buried in. The *only* thing recorded that Jesus ever bought was *you* (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Go, and Give to the Lord!

#1) Bible

Standing on the Promises

(1) Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus

*Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

(2) Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

(3) Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.

(4) Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

(5) Standing on the promises I shall not fall,
List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call.
Resting in my Savior as my All in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

#2) Church

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

(1) Brethren, we have met to worship
And adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power,
While we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
Of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around.

(2) Brethren, see poor sinners round you
Slumb'ring on the brink of woe;
Death is coming, hell is moving,
Can you bear to let them go?
See our fathers and our mothers,
And our children sinking down;
Brethren, pray and holy manna
Will be showered all around.

(3) Sisters, will you join and help us?
Moses' sister aided him;
Will you help the trembling mourners
Who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior,
Tell them that He will be found;
Sisters, pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around.

(4) Let us love our God supremely,
Let us love each other, too;
Let us love and pray for sinners,
Till our God makes all things new.
Then He'll call us home to heaven,
At His table we'll sit down;
Christ will gird Himself, and serve us
With sweet manna all around.

#3) Evangelism

A Soul-Winner for Jesus

(1) I want to be a soul winner for Jesus ev'ry day,

He does so much for me;

I want to aid the lost sinner to leave his erring way,

And be from bondage free.

(2) I want to be a soul winner and bring the lost to Christ,

That they His grace may know;

I want to live for Christ ever, and do His blessed will,

Because He loves me so.

Chorus

A soul winner for Jesus, A soul winner for Jesus,

O let me be each day; A soul winner for Jesus,

A soul winner for Jesus,

He's done so much for me.

(3) I want to be a soul winner till Jesus calls for me,

To lay my burdens down;

I want to hear Him say, servant, "You've gathered many sheaves,

Receive a shining crown."

#4) Prayer

What A Friend We Have In Jesus.

(1) What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,

Oh, what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer!

(2) Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness;

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

(3) Are we weak and heavy-laden,

Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In His arms He'll take and shield thee,

Thou wilt find a solace there.

#5) Memorization

Give Me the Bible

(1) Give me the Bible, star of gladness gleaming,
To cheer the wand'rer lone and tempest tossed;
No storm can hide that peaceful radiance beaming,
Since Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Chorus

*Give me the Bible, holy message shining;
Thy light shall guide me in the narrow way;
Precept and promise, law and love combining,
Till night shall vanish in eternal day.*

(2) Give me the Bible, when my heart is broken,
When sin and grief have filled my soul with fear;
Give me the precious words by Jesus spoken,
Hold up faith's lamp to show my Savior near.

(3) Give me the Bible, all my steps enlighten,
Teach me the danger of these realms below;
That lamp of safety o'er the gloom shall brighten,
That light alone the path of peace can show.

(4) Give me the Bible, lamp of life immortal,
Hold up that splendor by the open grave;
Show me the light from heaven's shining portal,
Show me the glory gilding Jordan's wave.

#6) Singing

All Creatures of Our God and King

(1) All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

Chorus

*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

(2) Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

(3) Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light.

(4) And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care!

(5) Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

#7) Giving

Take My Life

(1) Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise. (x2)

(2) Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee. (x2)

(3) Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee. (x2)

(4) Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose. (x2)

(5) Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne. (x2)

(6) Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee. (x2)