

Accountability “Follow Me” Phase Basic Accountability Group (BAG) Lessons

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Accountability Small Group

“Follow Me” Small Group Study Format

CONNECTING

1. Share about what has happened throughout the previous week.
2. Share quiet time Bible Reading Highlights, significant entry from your spiritual journal or insights from personal Bible study.
3. Break into review groups and review the verse you have memorized within the past week.

SEEKING GOD (Drawing Near to God)

1. Are there any personal roadblocks, challenges or fears that you would like to discuss regarding your life?
2. What should we pray about today that would make a difference for you?

To maximize prayer time and allow greater opportunity for personal sharing, break into subgroups of 3-4 people. This is especially important if your group is more than eight people.

SHARING CHRIST (Declaring the Good News)

1. During the past month, how have you sought to build relationships with the unbelievers on your *Prayer, Care and Share* list (or others) in order to direct them toward Jesus Christ?
2. What outreach activity might we do as a group or with another ministry of our church in order to reach out to our unsaved friends?

COMMITTING TO ONEANOTHER (Deepening Spiritual Growth)

The foundation of spiritual growth is your understanding of God's Word. We grow best as we combine obedience to the Bible in the context of close accountability relationships.

USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SMALL GROUP LESSON DISCUSSION GUIDES HERE.

SERVING OTHERS (Demonstrating God's Love)

Christians should be known by the good works they do within the community. What service project or act of kindness could you do as an individual, as a group or with others ministries of the church in order to demonstrate Christ's love in a tangible way?

CLOSING

Close in prayer and enjoy refreshments and fellowship together.

EIGHT LESSONS ON POWERFUL PRAYING

Powerful Praying!

The Dynamics of Prayer

Philippians 4:6

Lesson 1

1. How would you define prayer?
2. Prayer is based on a personal relationship with Christ. What kind of person prays effectively? (James 5:16)
3. How can we have the confidence to draw near to God? (Hebrews 4:14-16)
4. What authority do we have to approach God in prayer? (John 14:14; 16:24)
5. What reason might there be for not receiving an answer to our prayers? (James 4:3)
6. How does unconfessed sin affect our prayers? (Psalm 66:17-19)
7. What will keep us from receiving anything from the Lord? (James 1:6-8)
8. What condition does 1 John 5:14-15 suggest for answered prayer?
9. What does Paul suggest should accompany our prayers? (Philippians 4:4-7)
10. Your prayers should be balanced. Using the "A.C.T.S." of prayer as a guide, evaluate if your prayer life includes a good balance between **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving and **S**upplication.

Powerful Praying!

The Most Powerful Prayer Ever Prayed

Matthew 6:5-15

Lesson 2

1. What role did prayer play in your family's life when you were growing up?
2. How did Jesus describe those who prayed to be seen by men? (Matthew 6:5)
3. How did Jesus instruct His followers to pray? (6:6)
4. How will God reward sincere and humble prayers? (6:6)
5. What did Jesus have to say about trying to impress God and others by repeating meaningless phrases (lit. "utter empty words") during prayer? (6:7)
6. To whom did Jesus teach us to pray? (6:9)
7. What should be our attitude toward God and His kingdom? (6:9,10)
8. Who should we look to regarding the necessities of life? (6:11)
9. Why is it so important for us to forgive those who wrong us? (6:12,14-15)
10. What should we pray regarding temptation? (6:13)
11. How can you use this prayer as a guide to improve your personal prayer time this week?

Powerful Praying!

Teach Me To Pray

Luke 11:1-10

Lesson 3

1. How do you react to a child's relentless request for something?
2. What was Jesus doing when one of His disciples approached Him? (Luke 11:1)
3. What was the disciple's request? (11:1)
4. What other religious leader had taught his disciples to pray? (11:1)
5. What topics did Jesus' prayer cover in this prayer? (11:2-4)
6. In the parable told by Jesus, why did the person in need go to the friend at midnight? (11:5-8)
7. In this story, whom does the friend in the house represent? (11:5-8)
8. Why did he eventually grant the man's request for bread? (11:8)
9. How did Jesus summarize the principle of this parable? (11:9-10)
10. What do you need to ask your Heavenly Father for?
11. How can you demonstrate patient, expectant persistence in prayer this week?

Powerful Praying!

Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Lesson 4

1. Why is forgiveness difficult?
2. What question did Peter ask and what was Jesus' surprising response? (Matthew 18:21-22)
3. In our culture are people likely to forgive someone more than once?
4. In the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, what happened to the servant who owed more than he could ever repay? (18:23-27)
5. In what ways has God shown mercy in forgiving your sins and the sins of others?
6. After being shown mercy, how did the first servant deal with a fellow servant who owed him a small amount of money? (18:28-30)
7. If God is so willing to forgive us, why do we find it hard to forgive others?
8. How did the onlookers in this Parable respond to the actions of the first servant? (18:31)
9. How did the king react when he heard about the actions of the first servant? (18:32-34)
10. How does Jesus' application for this parable compare to His teaching offered in the Sermon on the Mount? (18:35 and 6:14-15)
11. Who do you need to ask forgiveness from for a wrong you have done? This week, be reconciled to others by seeking or extending forgiveness.

Powerful Praying!

Touch Your Friends Through Prayer

Ephesians 3:14-21

Lesson 5

1. How often do you pray for those you love? Who do you pray for?
2. What did Paul request in prayer for those in Ephesus? (Ephesians 3:16)
3. Through whom would the Ephesians be strengthened and for what purpose? (3:16-17)
4. How and when have you allowed God to become too small in your life?
5. Why did Paul want the Ephesians to be "rooted" and "established in love"?
6. What does Paul go on to say about the love of Christ? (3:19)
7. What did Paul say as he closed his prayer? (3:20-21)
8. How does Paul's doxology encourage you? (3:20-21)
9. Talk about how you can improve in your intercessory prayer (prayers for the needs and well-being of others).

Powerful Praying!

Seek First His Kingdom

Matthew 6:25-34

Lesson 6

1. What do people worry about the most?
2. What three things did Jesus tell His followers not to worry about? (Matthew 6:25)
3. What did Jesus use to illustrate that God is a reliable provider? Why? (6:26)
4. Explain why worrying is not a positive solution to problems. (6:27)
5. How did Jesus argue against worry regarding the necessity of obtaining proper clothing? (6:28-30)
6. What group of people should be expected to worry about life's necessities? (6:31-32)
7. If we keep God's priorities, what can we expect? (6:33)
8. Why is worrying over the future so disruptive for today's peace? (6:34)
9. What is the difference between planning for the future and worrying about the future?
10. What steps can you take this week to keep your focus on His kingdom and His righteousness?

Powerful Praying!

A-S-K: Ask, Seek, Knock

Matthew 7:7-12

Lesson 7

1. If you were able to ask for anything in the whole world with the assurance that your request would be granted, what would you ask for?
2. According to James, what is one reason that we will not obtain what we need or desire? (James 4:2-3)
3. When we do ask something of God in prayer, what guidance is offered in 1 John 5:14,15.
4. Jesus taught His followers to A-S-K with expectation. What did He say would result from each of the following actions? (Matthew 7:7, 8)
 - a. Ask . . .
 - b. Seek . . .
 - c. Knock . . .
5. What point was Jesus trying to make by illustrating how godless parents provide the basic staples of life for their children (here represented by bread and fish)? (Matthew 7:9-11)
6. What is the likelihood of God answering the appropriate requests of His praying children? (Matthew 7:11)
7. In light of this truth--that God can and will supply His children with "good gifts" if they ask--what command does Jesus set forth? (Matthew 7:12)
8. This command (Matthew 7:12) is commonly known as the "Golden Rule." There is a similar ethical teaching found in major religions such as Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism which states "do not do to others what you do not want done to you." How does it differ from Christ's command?
9. This week, how can you demonstrate trust in God to supply your basic needs and how can you use these resources to bless others?

Powerful Praying!

Jesus Prays For All Believers

John 17:20-26

Small Group Lesson 8

1. When have you seen disunity in a family, church or community?
2. As Jesus prayed for other disciples, who else did he include in His prayer? (John 17:20)
3. Why did Jesus want all believers to be one? (17:21)
4. What did Jesus want to communicate to the world through the unity seen among His followers? (17:23)
5. How have Christians allowed division and destroyed unity in our world today?
6. How is the Father's relationship with the Son an example for us to follow in our relationships with other Christians?
7. What desire did Jesus express to the Father in John 17:24?
8. Who did Jesus say that the world did not know? (17:25)
9. Why was Jesus going to continue to make the Father known? (17:26)
10. What can you do to promote the unity among Christians that Jesus prayed for in John 17:20-26?

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Christian Service

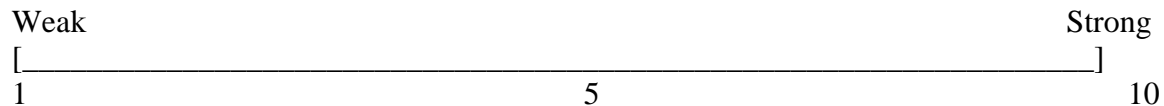
Follow Jesus And You Can Make A Difference

1. If you could chose an ideal height, how tall would you be?

2. Read *Luke 19:1-9*.
 - a. What impress you most about Zacchaeus?
 - b. What do you think Jesus' facial expression was when He called Zacchaeus to come down?
 - c. Did the people dislike the chief tax collector because he collected taxes or was it because he had money? How do people usually feel about people who have more money than they do?
 - d. Why do you think Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' house for dinner?
 - e. In verse 7, what did the people mutter about?
 - f. How should we feel about sinners and what should our response be?
 - g. What happened to Zaccheaus that changed him forever?

3. What was Jesus' mission according to *Luke 19:10*?

4. How much passion do you have for lost souls? On a scale of 1 – 10...



5. What do we learn from *John 12:47* concerning Jesus' mission?
6. What is the mission of our church in our community?

What do we need to enable us to carry out this mission?

7. Read the words of Jesus in *Luke 4:18-19* and complete this sentence. "Follow me and I will make you
8. Discuss how **you** can make a difference today in someone's life.

Christian Service

Love Will Win The World

1. What is the difference between the soul and the body?
2. Where did the soul come from? (*Genesis 2:7*)
3. Where does the soul get its worth?
 - a. *Genesis 1:27:*
 - b. *John 3:16:*
4. What value did Jesus place on the soul? (*Mark 8:34-37*) According to this scripture, how does a person “save their soul”?
5. What is the heart problem that man has that is more severe than heart disease or even emotional heartbreak? (*Jeremiah 17:9-10*)
6. What must happen to take care of this heart problem so we can make Heaven our home according to the story in *John 3:1-8* with Nicodemus?
7. How do we help other people save their soul?
8. Why is it that an unsaved soul does not give two hoots about saving anybody else’s soul? (*Romans 5:6-8*)
9. How do we save the lost souls in our community...the ones whose lives we touch?
10. Talk about these quotes:
 - a. “You have to earn the right to share Christ by the way you love others.”
 - b. “You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving.”
11. Share a personal illustration you’ve had recently that demonstrates how God loves others to Himself through you.

Christian Service

A Bib or an Apron?

1. What are some of the reasons why you enjoy the springtime of the year?
2. List several purposes for Christ's coming to live among us, to teach, to die, to be resurrected, and then appear to over 500.
3. Read *Mark 10:45*. How did Jesus communicate the "good news" of the Kingdom of God with his life as well as words?
4. Discuss how hard it is for us as "Westerners", to put on the apron instead of a bib.
Philippians 2:5-8.
5. Even though we are called to serve (and we are most like Jesus when we are serving), is it possible to help a person **too much**?
6. Here are three principles to help you avoid helping a person too much.
 - a. **Must set limits.** In the story Jesus told about the Samaritan who helped the man who was left half-dead (*Luke 10:25-37*), what did he do and what did he not do?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
 - b. **Respect their choices.** Whenever I try to help by making their choices for them, it is called "manipulation". Even Jesus modeled this in *Luke 18:18-25*. What did He do?
 - c. **Respect God's plan.** Read *Luke 22:31-34*. Even though Jesus prayed for him, did Peter fail?

TWO LESSONS ON STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship

Managing Your Time and Temple (Body)

Small Group Lesson 1

1. How would you rate your present job performance as a manager of your time and temple?

Stewardship involves managing someone else's property or possessions. A Christian steward is one who manages his life and resources to the glory of God, since he and all he has belongs to God. The Christian steward offers the whole of his life as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1) realizing that all men will give an account to God for the way they have lived. (Romans 14:11-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

2. Your **Time** is a gift from God. If you are a wise steward and obey the commands of our Lord, how will you use your time? (Ephesians 5:15-17)
3. In Matthew 6:33-34, what two things are believers told to seek?
4. How did Paul instruct the Thessalonian Christians to manage their time? (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)
5. How might you improve the way you use your time?
6. Your **Temple** (body) is a gift from God to be managed for His glory. What does it mean to you to be the temple of the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
7. What does Paul urge you to do with your body? (Romans 12:1)
8. What does Paul say we should avoid in managing our bodies for God's glory? (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)
9. What are some changes you might make in order to take better care of your "temple"? Consider areas such as eating, exercise, rest and habits that hinder your spiritual walk or witness.
10. Accept the position as God's steward of your time and temple.
 - a. Acknowledge God's ownership
 - b. Thank Him for all He has given
 - c. Determine to manage all your resources to the glory of God

Stewardship

Managing Your Talents and Treasures

Lesson 2

1. What is one of your most treasured possessions?
2. What talents and abilities has God given you?
3. Your **Talents** are a gift from God. How should you use the gifts and talents God has given you? (1 Peter 4:7-11)
4. How would you apply Colossians 3:17 to the stewardship of your talents?
5. Your **Treasures** are a gift from God to be managed for His glory. What do you learn from Jesus' parable in Luke 12:13-21?
6. Why is it important to have the proper attitude toward money? (1 Timothy 6:6-11)
7. What is one positive use of money? (1 Timothy 5:3-8)
8. What did God remind His people to do in Malachi 3:8-10?
9. How does Jesus instruct us to give? (Luke 6:38)
10. What did Israel's King David declare regarding God's ownership as stated in 1 Chronicles 29:10-16?
11. This week, accept your position as God's steward of your talents and treasures.
 - a. Acknowledge God's ownership
 - b. Thank Him for all He has given
 - c. Determine to manage all your resources to the glory of God

FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

Financial Principles

The Shrewd Manager

1. What is the difference between a manager and an owner?

In what way(s) are you an owner?

In what way(s) are you a manager?

2. Read *Luke 16:1-2*. What was the manager accused of doing?

What did he do with this prospect? (*Luke 16:3-9*)

Why did Jesus call this man “shrewd”?

3. What are some ways we can put worldly wealth to the best use?

How can money produce eternal benefits? (*Matthew 6:19-21*)

4. Who gives us the power to gain wealth? (*Deuteronomy 8:18*)

Discuss this quote: “It’s not how much you make, but what you do with it that really counts.”

5. Share your own experiences with *Proverbs 3:9-10* and *Luke 6:38*.

6. Back to the *Luke 16* story... is there a relationship between how we handle “worldly wealth” and our spiritual growth?

7. Share ways that will encourage each other in how to become better managers of what God (the owner) has given us.

Financial Principles

The Seeds Of Prosperity

1. List all of the things that make for a good life, a prosperous life.
2. What do we learn that God wants for us to have in *3 John 2*? What does the part in this verse, “Above all things”, imply to you?
3. What are some of the things that cause poverty?
4. Read *Psalms 1:1-3*. What do we learn about tree planting and prosperity?

SEVEN SEEDS OF PROSPERITY

Seed #1 – Trust. What do we learn from *Proverbs 28:25*? What does it mean to make God your source?

Seed #2 – Diligence. What does the word diligence mean?

What do we learn from *Proverbs 14:23*?

Why do we have to stand up to laziness?

Seed #3 – Wisdom. What can we learn from these verses?
Proverbs 28:20

Proverbs 28:22

Proverbs 13:11

What does the Bible tell us to do when we need more wisdom? (*James 1:5*).

Seed #4 – Can Do. Why is this so important for having a successful and prosperous life? Why does the “can do” spirit best exemplify the Christian life of faith?

Seed #5 – Discipline. Talk about this: “Nothing in your life is going to manage itself.” Why is discipline a necessary ingredient in having a prosperous life?

Seed #6 – Generosity. What do we learn in *Proverbs 14:31*? If generosity is the seed of prosperity, what is greed the seed of?

Seed #7 – Perseverance. Have someone share an experience in which they persevered and it paid dividends.

Financial Principles

Financial Freedom

1. What does the concept “Financial Freedom” mean to you?
2. Do people **plan** to get into financial difficulty?
3. According to *2 Corinthians 9:8-11*, what is it that God desires for our lives?
4. What is the condition for an abundant harvest (financially, relationally, etc.) in our lives according to *2 Corinthians 9:6*?
5. What value does a plan have in our financial freedom? (Discuss and apply *Jeremiah 29:11*)
6. Where do you plan to be financially one year from now, five years from now, 20 years from now?
7. What is **your plan** to accomplish your objectives?
8. According to *2 Chronicles 31:21*, what are some important elements in our plans for succeeding?
9. The Lord is concerned about the motivation for our financial plans. What kinds of plans will God bless? (*Proverbs 19:21*)
10. What is to be our proper perspective on God’s financial blessings according to *Ecclesiastes 5:18-19*?
11. To experience financial freedom, what lessons are to be learned from:
 - a. *Proverbs 24:33-34*
 - b. *Proverbs 20:4*
 - c. *Proverbs 13:4*

Read *Psalms 37:1-7*. Pick out the action words and discuss how prayer relates to each one and the outcome of our financial plans (or any other plan) when submitted to the test of prayer and Scripture.

Financial Principles

Triumph Through Tithing – Part 1

1. What is the definition of a tithe?
2. According to *Leviticus 27:30*, to whom does a tithe belong?
3. Where is the tithe to be given (*Malachi 3:10*)

SIX PRINCIPLES OF TITHING

1. Tithing is a biblical principle
 - a. Who started tithing before the Law of Moses? (*Genesis 14:20*)
 - b. According to *Genesis 14:23*, who made Abraham rich?
 - c. What does the Bible say about tithing in *Deuteronomy 14:22-28*?
 - d. What is the teaching about tithing in Israel and when Jesus came on the scene in *Matthew 23:23*?
 - e. The one reason we should tithe is because?
2. Tithing is a kingdom principle
 - a. What are we taught in *Matthew 6:33*?
 - b. The Lord's Prayer teaches us that the Kingdom is to be where, in our order of priorities?
 - c. Who is responsible to see God's work is done on this earth? How much does it cost to do God's work on this earth?
 - d. Who is it that makes the ministries of our church possible?
 - e. How important is the success of the ministry of your church to you?
3. Tithing is a financial principal
 - a. Why is tithing the first step toward solving money problems?
 - b. What is there about tithing that helps people to learn how to manage the rest of their money?
 - c. If a person is robbing God of the tithe, how can they expect God to help them in their financial life?
 - d. Why is it so difficult for us to let go of the tithe when we do not have enough money to cover all of our expenses?

Financial Principles

Triumph Through Tithing – Part 2

Name some of the “good fruit” you want to be remembered by.

According to *Luke 6:43-45*, how is this “fruit bearing” possible?

1. Tithing is a blessing principle
 - a. What is God’s desire for us according to *3 John 2*?
 - b. What are we promised if we will bring the tithe into the storehouse in *Malachi 3:10*?
 - c. *Malachi 3:10*?
 - d. If we tithe, what are we promised in *Malachi 3:11*?
 - e. What is the promise that we are given if we will tithe off the top by giving God the first fruit in *Proverbs 3:9-10*?
 - f. What is the law of proportionate return taught in *2 Corinthians 9:6* and *Luke 6:38*?
 - g. *Luke 6:38*?
 - h. Talk about this statement: God blesses obedience.

2. Tithing is a spiritual principle
 - a. What kind of a giver does God delight in and love? (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)
 - b. Talk about this statement: “Tithing has nothing to do with how much money you make. It is easier to tithe when you make a million dollars than it is when you make ten dollars. The principle is, will you give God the first tenth off the top that belongs to Him?”
 - c. Tithing is a matter of the heart. What did Jesus say about treasures in the heart in *Matthew 6:21*?
 - d. Talk about this statement: Until God gets your money, He does not have your heart. Why is this true?
 - e. When you get paid what is the first thing you should do: pay your tithe or pay your bills? Why do you say so?
 - f. In respect to tithing, what does it mean in *1 John 1:7* where it teaches that we are to walk in the light?

What are the good results of walking in the light and tithing? And, what are the bad results of refusing to walk in the light and give God the tithe that belongs to Him?

3. Tithing is an eternal investment principle
 - a. Of all the investments, what is the best, most lasting investment a person can make?
 - b. What is the one investment that you can never go wrong or lose on?
 - c. (*Matthew 6:19-21*)
 - d. Take a couple of minutes and write a personal covenant that you want to make with God about the tithe.

Financial Principles

Live Within Your Means

1. What is the first step to solving your money problems, according to *Proverbs 3:9-10*?
 - a. What is the fruit?
 - b. What does it mean to tithe off of the top?
 - c. Who does the tithe belong to, according to *Leviticus 27:30*?
 - d. When we tithe off the top we have taken the first step to financial success and are successful in this step. Talk about this: “Success breeds success.” How does being successful in this area help us to gain success in other areas of our finances?
2. What does it mean to “live within your means?”

TEN STEPS TO LIVING WITHIN YOUR MEANS (AFTER THE “FIRST FRUITS” ARE BROUGHT TO THE LORD.)

1. Take responsibility for your own finances.
 - a. In money matters, what is the teaching of the parable Jesus told in *Luke 19:11-26*?
 - b. If we do a good job of managing what we have been given, what is the promise of *verse 26*?
 - c. Talk about this: “No one will manage your money for you.”
2. Evaluate where you are in your cash flow.
 - a. How would a person go about doing this?
 - b. What is cash flow?
 - c. Right now, are you living “within” your means or “above” your means?
 - d. Have you asked God to be your senior partner in all financial matters?
3. Put a stop to all impulsive buying. Have you ever bought something on impulse and the next day you wish you had not bought it? When you have the impulse to buy something, what are some good questions to ask yourself?
4. Get out of the debt trap
 - a. How would you define good debt?
 - b. How would you define bad or depressing debt?
 - c. What was the teaching of *Proverbs 22:7*?
 - d. If someone is in the debt trap, what are the steps for them to take to get out?
 - e. What do you think about charge cards? Are they something we should have or not have?
5. Increase your income potential. What is the teaching of *Proverbs 15:5*?
6. Before making major financial decisions, gather information and seek sound advice.
 - a. What is the teaching in *Proverbs 18:13*
 - b. What is the teaching in *Proverbs 12:15* and *Proverbs 15:22*?
7. Make a budget and live within it.
 - a. Why is it a good idea to give different family members an allowance to live within?
 - b. How does one go about making a budget?
8. Raise your standard of living when you can afford it.
 - a. What is the teaching of *Proverbs 24:27*? What is the principle here?
 - b. Why do you think so many people today are living on a higher standard of living than they can afford and what are some of the results of this?
 - c. Save ten percent of everything you make. What is the teaching of *Proverbs 27:12*; *21:20*?
9. Make God your source. Read together the promise of *Philippians 4:9*. Have someone in your group share how God has supplied a financial need that they have had.

SMALL GROUP LESSONS ON VARIOUS TOPICS

Life By The Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26

1. If you could change one habit or personality trait in yourself, what would it be?
2. What is the conflict that Paul is describing in Galatians 5:17?
3. How can this conflict be overcome? (Galatians 5:16, 24, 25)
4. In your opinion, what acts of the sin nature are most prevalent in your city? (5:19-21)
5. Which acts of the sin nature have you observed among those who claim to be following Jesus Christ? (5:19-21)
6. How do Christians try to excuse the behavior of their old nature?
7. What happens to a Christian who is living under the control of the Holy Spirit? (5:22-23)
8. What are some of the changes that have occurred in your life since you became a Christian? How has living to please God affected your behavior and lifestyle?
9. How have you seen the fruit of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in your life?
10. What can you do this week to nurture the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Growing Spiritually

1. How do people satisfy their hungers and thirsts in life?
2. Jesus offered “living water” to the Samaritan woman (*John 4:10*). What claims did He make about this very special water?
3. What did He mean by “living water”? (*Isaiah 44:3-4 & John 7:37-39*)
4. What is this “thirst” (*John 4:14*) and how had the woman been trying to quench her thirst in the past? (*John 4:17-18 & Isaiah 55:1-2*)
5. Why didn’t the woman understand what Jesus meant by “living water”?
6. How had you tried to quench the thirsts of your life before meeting Jesus?
7. As soon as the Samaritan woman perceived that the conversation was heading toward religion, she tried to keep it from becoming personal by employing a common tactic. What was it and how did Jesus handle her evasiveness? (*John 4:19-24*)
8. Why was Jesus no longer hungry when the disciples returned with food? (*John 4:31-34*)
9. When Jesus referred to the harvest, what did He mean? (*John 4:35*) Who are the harvesters and reapers? (*2Corinthians 5:18-20*)
10. Who are you praying for that they will receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? List their names and pray for them now and throughout the weeks to come.

The Renewing Of The Mind/How To Renew Your Mind

Born of the Spirit

1. In *John 4:24*, what is God and if we are to worship Him, how must we worship Him?
2. In *John 3:3-6*, Jesus told Nicodemus that if anyone was to enter the kingdom of God, what was it that had to happen?
3. According to *II Corinthians 5:17*, when the Spirit is re-created within us, what happens?
4. What effect does being born again, born of the Spirit, have on the body, on the mind, or on the personality?

What is Your Soul?

1. The word “soul” (when used in distinction from Spirit) refers to a man’s mind (intellect) and his emotions.
2. What does *III John 2 (KJ)* say about our soul? And, how is our health connected to the soul? Pay attention to the reference “even as”.
3. Talk about this statement: “The soul is the realm in which salvation progresses.”
4. What is a prosperous soul? What does the word “hypocrite” mean? What is it that we are to do that is the opposite of being a hypocrite according to verses *II John 3-4* that results in a prosperous soul?

Your Mind Controls Your Life

1. Your mind is part of your soul. Let’s look at *Romans 8:5-8*.
 - a. What do we learn about the mind here?
 - b. How can it work?
 - c. What are the two ways it can work?
2. Where does the big battle take place over whether we’re going to be spiritual or carnal?
3. How do we win the battle?

What is the Renewing of the Mind?

1. Read *Romans 12:2*. If we are not transformed by the renewing of our mind, what’s going to happen?
2. When our minds are transformed by the renewing of the mind, what does this prove?
3. Write down what we must do to have our minds renewed.
4. Discuss this: Without the renewing of the mind, we walk by sight.
5. Discuss this: Without the renewing of the mind, we live by emotions.

A Mirror

1. How is God’s Word like a mirror to us? (*James 1:22-24*)
2. Read *II Corinthians 3:18*. Why is it that we look into the mirror of God’s Word, it reflects the glory of God?

“Affecting” Service!

1. When it's all said and done and life is over what would you like people to say at your funeral?
2. In *Romans 12:1*, what does it mean to give God “a living sacrifice”? How is this to be lived out in daily life and what is “reasonable service” and “spiritual worship”?
3. Read *Acts 9:36-43*. How did Tabitha's life measure up to the above terms?
4. Who is our perfect model for living service? (*Mark 10:45*)
5. Why do you think Tabitha's service had such an impact on lives?
6. In every person's life there are areas that we have control over, areas our actions have influence over and areas that are beyond what we can control or influence. Describe each of these areas in the life of Tabitha. What area was her service to the widows found in?
7. What areas do we have control over in our service to our family? What about areas of influence? What do we do with areas beyond our control? (*1 Peter 5:6-7*)
8. According to *Ephesians 2:10* what were we created in Christ to do?

Why does God stress this so much here?
9. Read *Matthew 20:20-24*. How does God's way of service differ from the ways of getting to the top in this world?
10. What do we learn about Paul and why he was effective in his service to Christ? (*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*)
11. Discuss this – “It is amazing what can be done for Christ when we don't care who gets the credit.”
12. Why is it hard to play second fiddle? How many second fiddle players does God need? Can any ministry be effective without second fiddle players?
13. In the sight of God what was more important, Tabitha's life of service, or her resurrection from the dead? (*Acts 9*)
14. What are some of the joys and benefits that come into a person's life when they really take hold of the concept of being God's servant by serving others in the name of Jesus?

God's Answer Is At The Door!

1. What kind of news would cause you to say, "Well, I can't believe it"?

What would it take to convince you it was true?

2. After reading *Acts 12:1-5*...
 - a. Why would King Herod want to please the Jews?
 - b. What kind of connection does *Verse 2* have with *Verse 5*?
 - c. What do you think would happen to your faith if the government murdered one of your closest friends because he/she believed in Jesus?
3. *Acts 12:6-11*...
 - a. List the obstacles Peter has to pass before he "came to himself" in *verse 11*.
 - b. What is the one "prison" God has delivered you from? How did he do it?
 - c. What have you learned from that deliverance to share with someone else?
4. *Acts 12:12-17*
 - a. What could have been some of the comments in the room between *verses 15-16*?
 - b. How are we like the people at that prayer meeting?
 - c. What are some of your prayers that you would be surprised if God answered? Why?

How To Listen To God

1. Which is the most difficult: talk or to listen? In your prayer life, which do you find to be the most difficult: to talk or to listen? Why is it important for us to learn how to listen to God?
2. As a group, make a list of hindrances of hearing God's voice in our lives and discuss each one: (Example: rebellious spirit)
3. Read *Psalms 81:8-14*.
 - a. What happened to the children of Israel when they did not listen to God?
 - b. What does God plead for His people to do?
 - c. What does God promise He will do if only we will listen to Him?
 - d. Where in your life do you really need to listen to God?
4. Talk about each of these four ways God speaks to us today: (ask for individual illustrations)
 - a. The Word of God (*Joshua 1:7-8*)
 - b. The Holy Spirit (*Romans 8:26-27, John 16:13*)
 - c. Other people
 - d. Circumstances
5. What do you think of when you think of the word "meditation?" How important is it for us to learn as Christians to meditate on the things of God? Why is this so difficult for us?
6. Some guidelines for meaningful meditation. Practice with one verse (such as *Philippians 4:19*)
 - a. Review the past.
 - b. Reflect upon God's character.
 - c. Remember God's promises.
 - d. Make a request.
 - e. Stillness.
 - f. Submission.Now share with each other what truth God has given you as you meditated.

Note: Some of the things that will happen from spending time in mediation: A new perspective, a renewed mind, guidance in your life, peace of mind, purification of your heart and life, strength to live on the received promises of God.

Joshua: Obedience To Victory

1. There is a simple formula in the conquest of Jericho (*Joshua 6*) that God's people can still follow to success: Confront the obstacle Claim the promise Follow Through with obedience Realize the fulfillment Discuss each section and make application to your life.
 - a. Confront (*Joshua 6:1-5*)
 - b. Claim (*Joshua 6:6-14*)
 - c. Follow Through (*Joshua 6:15-21*)
 - d. Realize (*Joshua 6:22-27*)

2. Joshua was considering a military campaign, but the Lord had another type of warfare in mind. Look at *Joshua 6:4*. The "trumpets of rams' horns" were not military trumpets but jubilee trumpets and were usually associated with religious ceremonies. Read *Zechariah 4:6* and relate it to this fact. What are your conclusions?

3. Consider God's plan of attack. Do you think that any military strategist would consider this plan workable? Why?
 - a. Look up *I Corinthians 1:25:29*. What do you learn about foolishness and wisdom here?
 - b. Why has God chosen the weak and unlikely to accomplish extra-ordinary things?
 - c. One thing that impresses me is that when God's plan was unveiled no one laughed, snickered, doubted or questioned. How would the wilderness crowd (the ones who died in the desert) have reacted to God's battle plan?
 - d. Why is my need to obey God greater than my need to understand Him?
 - e. Is lack of understanding a good excuse for my lack of obedience?

4. Remember Rahab? Her house was built on top of the wall. A further indication of God's miracle power is the fact that the portion of the wall that supported her home was left standing. What set Rahab aside from the rest of the town?

5. What do you learn about obedience from this chapter?

The Andrew Principle: “Only What We Share Is Multiplied”

1. From your memories, what are some of the things that make picnics so special?
2. What is the largest crowd you have ever eaten a meal with recently? How were they served?
3. Read *John 6:1-13*. What is the big problem Jesus faces with His disciples?
4. What is Philip’s response?
5. What is Andrew’s response?
6. What is the vehicle God used (and uses today) to bring about the miracle supply of food until everyone had enough to eat and more left over?

I. Sharing is the only way to win souls.

- a. It seems to be a way of life for Andrew. What is he doing in *John 1:41*?
- b. Who has God used to help introduce you to Jesus?
- c. What is the greatest thing you can do for someone in your family? In your neighborhood? In your workplace? In your social contacts?

II. Sharing is the only way to multiply love

- a. Can you ever get too much love? Why?
- b. How much love can a person receive: If they pull back in a shell? By being critical? By being rude/harsh? By sitting around waiting for others to come to them?
- c. What are some creative ways to give God’s love away...and giving it multiplies?

III. Sharing is the only way to keep from being selfish

Read John 12:24. What could this be saying about troubled marriages? About tension filled neighborhoods and workplaces?

IV. Sharing is the way to gain ego satisfaction

Describe something that proved to be a real boost to you after you took the first step to give God’s love away.

V. Sharing is the only way to keep the miracle going

- a. Read *John 4:35*. What is Jesus saying about our city? About our church?
- b. What would have happened in the story we read earlier (*John 6:1-13*) if the young boy had said, “No, I’m going to keep my lunch and eat it myself!”?
- c. What are some ways we can stop the miracle that God is giving us in our church?

The Healing Power Of The Holy Spirit

1. Discuss the various uses and functions of oil in our culture today.
2. Throughout the Bible, oil represents the Holy Spirit's presence. Please read *Acts 2:17*. Share a time when you have experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life.
3. There are various types of healing administered by the Holy Spirit in our lives today.

Body: physical
Soul: mind, emotions, heart
Spirit: spiritual conviction
Deliverance: strongholds and bondages of the enemy
Consecration: being set apart for the Lord's service

John 16:8-10

Type of healing:

Isaiah 1:6

Type of healing:

Isaiah 61:3

Type of healing:

Hebrews 1:9

Type of healing:

James 5:14-16

Type of healing:

Mark 6:13

Type of healing:

1 Samuel 16:13

Type of healing:

4. Discuss the similarities of the work and function of the Holy Spirit and function of oil in these healings.
5. What type of healing(s) do you need in your life?

Worship: Intimacy With God

1. FACT: Everyone, in every culture, worships someone or something. What are some of the various forms of that worship?
2. Read *Psalms 95:1-7*. What are some words that express your feelings as you hear this?
3. How is worship both an attitude and an activity? (*1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1*)
4. List all the ways that God is worthy of our worship in *Psalms 95:3-5; 96:4-6*.
5. Jesus said, "...true worshippers will worship the Father in _____ and in _____..." (*John 4:23-24*) How does this help us keep balance in our worship?
6. When we worship, who should be the audience and who should be the performer?
7. According to *Psalms 22:3*, God inhabits or dwells in our _____. How would you describe God's presence when you worship?
8. List as many benefits as you can that we can expect through worship.
9. Discuss this statement: "Our worship now is practice for heaven."

Blessings, Which Are Ours Through The Cross of Jesus

1. What was the promise given to Abraham in *Genesis 15*?

2. When one thinks of the Jewish people today, what is there that still stands out as a characteristic of their race?

3. Read *Galatians 3:13-14*. What does the word “redeemed,” mean?

4. Where did the curse come from and what were the results on the earth and in our lives? (*Genesis 2:3*)

5. What does Jesus do with the curse?

6. What does the word “salvation” mean to you?
 - a. Where does salvation come from? (*Psalms 27:1; Isaiah 12:2*)

 - b. Who was salvation made possible through? (*John 10:9; Acts 4:12; Acts 15:11*)

 - c. What are some of the conditions of our salvation? (*Romans 10:9; James 1:21; II Peter 1:10-11*)

 - d. Who is salvation possible for? (*Luke 3:6; Acts 2:21*)

7. What are all the benefits that are ours because Jesus died on the cross to destroy the curse and give us salvation? List all of these blessings.

Do you think God wants us to have a prosperous soul or a poor soul? (*III John 2*) What is it that gives a prosperous, healthy soul according to *III John 3-4*?

How To Manage Success

1. How does the world define success?
2. After reading *Matthew 25:14-30*, define success in terms of Bible understanding and application.
3. What is the one central teaching of this parable?
4. Should a Christian try to be successful?
5. What are the alternatives to success?
Is this an acceptable way to live?
 - Does this glorify God?
 - Does this help other people?
 - Does this bring the best out in you?
6. Of the three servants, which one do you like the best and why?
7. In *verse 14*, we read, “entrusted.” How is this word used here? What does it mean in your life?
8. In *verse 25*, why did the man hide his talent?
Why might people today hide their talent?
9. Where does every good and perfect gift come from? (*James 1:17*)
10. What is the Biblical principle of increase that tells what happens when we do a good job with what we have been given?
11. Give an example of someone who has mismanaged success.
12. List several things that you would tell another person to do in order to do a good job of managing success.

Let's Build Up The Hedge!

1. Are there spiritual forces attacking our lives, families and marriages today? Describe some of them.
2. Who is the primary enemy of our lives? (*John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8*)
3. In *Isaiah 5:1-7*, God gives an illustration of how His people were allowed to be attacked and overcome. How did this occur?
4. God's Word gives an example of a man who had become very successful. Three times God describes Job's character qualities. What were they? (*Job 1:1, 8, 2:3*)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
5. *Job 1:6* says Satan had been roaming the earth. What do you think he was looking for?
 - a. What had Satan apparently missed Job (*Job 1:8-11*)
 - b. What was placed around Job?
 - c. Why do you think God placed the hedge around Job and blessed him?
6. Let's look at Job's qualities.
 - a. What does it mean to be **blameless**? (*Philippians 2:14; 2 Peter 3:14; 1 Timothy 5:7*)
 - b. Describe an **upright** person. (*Proverbs 11:3, 6, 11*)
 - c. What does it mean to **fear God**? (*Deuteronomy 5:29, Joshua 24:14*)
 - d. If we **hate evil**, what happens? (*Psalms 97:10,11; 1 Thessalonians 5:22, 23*)
7. What happens to people when these qualities seem to be missing or willfully ignored?
8. When we forsake sin and submit to God in every area of our lives, what does *Psalms 32:6-11; 34:7* say happens?
9. How is your hedge? Is your life, your family, your church covered by God's power?

The Daily Renewing Of Your Mind

1. Talk about some confusing things going on in our world today that cause people to be confused in their thinking.

Why should we not take our values from the world around us?

What happens when people just follow the ways and thinking of the world?

2. Read *Romans 12:2*. Pick out the key words and list them.
3. What is the Bible telling us when it says, “Don’t be conformed to this world?” Is it possible for a born-again Christian to still be conformed to the world?

In order not to be conformed to the world, what must we do?

4. What does it mean to be transformed? If we are not daily transformed, what happens to our thinking?

5. Talk about each of these four ways that we can daily have our minds renewed:
 - a. Change your thinking from the negative to the positive – center on Jesus. How does this help?
 - b. Purify your heart through fellowship and prayer with the Holy Spirit.

As we confess our sins, what does God do?

As a result of purifying our hearts through prayer and fellowship with the Holy Spirit, what are the things that happen to our mind?

- c. Feed your mind on the Word and let God’s thoughts become your thoughts. Share some favorite verses that feed your mind.
 - d. Walk in victory – affirm that Jesus is with you, giving you victory.
6. What are the expected results of a renewed mind?