



Mens "Salt & Light"

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation (NLT), copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007, 2013 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

NKJV Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

All articles from the Wisdom Hunters Devotional online Devotional by Boyd Bailey are used with permission.

Excerpts from “Daily with The King” by W Glyn Evans are used with permission.

“The Inductive Method of Bible Study: The Basics” retrieved: June 1, 2015, from <http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/tips/the-inductive-method-of-bible-study-the-basics-11628183.html>

“Inductive Bible Study” retrieved: June 1, 2015, from <http://www.gotquestions.org/inductive-Bible-study.html>

Courson's Application Commentary on the New Testament – Food for Thought: a Commentary on Romans 6. Publisher Thomas Nelson 2003. Modified from text.

“Why Read Christian Biography” article by Faith Cook retrieved selection on June 1, 2015 from <http://www.theologynetwork.org/the-holy-spirit-and-christian-living/why-read-christian-biography.htm>.

This publication is intended for use with the Men's Discipleship Ministry of Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg. You may need to adapt outlines and schedules to meet your specific group's needs.

If you want to know more about “Salt & Light”, check out our website at: www.saltandlightgroup.com

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AFTER READING ALL THIS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK!

ALL FOR HIS GLORY

Men's "Salt & Light "

Revised June 2015

Table of Content

"Salt & Light" Introduction.....	1
The Vision: It's All About Him	2
Where Do I Begin?.....	6
Conclusion.....	7
Keep the Standard High.....	8
The Big Four.....	9
Please Write These Two Sections in the Front of Your Bible.....	10
Reading Relationally	11
Weekly Agenda with the Large and Small Groups	13
Each Week in Your Small Groups	13
Before You Come Back to Group	14
What Happens if You Miss Your Group?	14
The Inductive Method of Bible Study: The Basics	15
Inductive Bible Study	17
What We Do in "Salt & Light" 2.....	18
Agenda on "Salt & Light" 2 Night.....	19

Tools for Your Encouragement

Preparation for Communion	20
Your Quiet Time.....	23
As You Come to Him	24
Why Read Christian Biography?	24
You Can Memorize Scripture	25
How to Memorize Scripture	25
Topical Memory System verses (from Navigators).....	26
Life Issues Verses	27
Praying Through Scripture	28
Let's Be Honest	29
The Wake-Up Call.....	30
One Liners.....	32
My Sheep Hear My Voice.....	34
The Word Hand Illustration:.....	35
The Wheel Illustration	36
Explaining the Gospel.	37
The Power of Prayer Evangelism	39

“Salt & Light” Introduction

Welcome to “Salt & Light”! To help you get started we will spend some time looking through this “Salt & Light” booklet. Today you will spend some time reading through different pages in the book and we will discuss what God is showing us as we go. This booklet is yours to take with you to use as a resource once we get moving ahead in our journey with Christ in unity with each other. We are so honored that the Lord has brought you to join us and we can’t wait to see how He will speak to all of us through what He speaks to you!! We are better together!!!

The tools you will need for this study group:

1. If you don’t already have these items, we may have some for you to take. Please ask if you need anything!!
 - A **STUDY** Bible
 - A journal or notebook to record any revelations received during your Quiet Times, different Scriptures that particularly strikes you as you are reading, and prayer requests for you and your group.
 - Index cards to record your weekly memory verse.

Ok, let’s get started:

1. Please fill out the information sheet at the back of this booklet. Cut it out and turn in to your instructor.
 - The Before/How/Now: Give us a few words that describe you before you came to know Jesus as your Lord. Then write how you came to know Him. Lastly, write what your life is like as a result.
2. Put your name and today’s date on the front cover.
 - This is your “tool book”, your own personal guide.
 - Write in it, take notes, make comments, underline, circle, etc.
3. Read “The Vision: It’s All About Him”, **pages 2 through 5**.

Now, let’s get on with tonight...

1. Read “Where Do I Begin?” **pages 6 & 7**.
 - Underline and make notes.
 - Let us discuss.
2. Read the Conclusion on **pages 7 & 8**.
3. Let’s take a look at the Big Four on **page 9**.
2. Turn to “Please write these two sections in the front of your Bible” on **page 10**.
 - Follow the instruction to write these on the inside cover of your Bible.

Reading Relationally! It’s what we do!!

1. Turn to **page 11**. Read through Psalm 84:12 on **page 12**.
2. Let’s select a Psalm to read through together.

Let’s move on...

1. Turn to **page 13**. Let’s look together at the agenda. This is our general plan for “S&L” time together.
 - Let’s discuss what you will be doing this week and when you come back.
2. The rest of the booklet are resources or *tools* for your encouragement.

And finally...

That’s it! You will be assigned a permanent group and next week you will be on with your discipleship journey. We are all excited to be on this journey with you. **Eph. 3:20-21** Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The Vision: It's All About Him

In April of 2001 we officially started our “**Salt & Light**” groups. In “**Salt & Light**” we are reading relationally through the entire Bible at our own pace, fellowshiping with the Father, and encouraging each other! We are doing this together, as a team, cheering each other on!

We have never had so many books out on marriage, raising children, decision making, etc...and yet we have never had more divorces, relationship problems, problems with our children, etc.! Why? We might be looking for answers in the wrong book! Often people run to self-help books instead of the Bible. Why rely on man's opinion? The Bible says that He is the “Almighty Counselor.” (**Isaiah 9:6**) Only a moment of reflection would reveal that we have gotten very wrapped up in so many other materials and we have been using the Bible as a resource book, not The Book. By reading through the entire Bible, we are seeking the whole counsel of God. **Psalm 119:160** tells us, “The sum of His Word is Truth.” We desire no other answers but His!

It is so interesting how people often ask if you have read this book or that book, but we rarely hear people saying, “Have you read the book of Romans, or Deuteronomy or Luke?” I am sure you get the point. Of course we can still access all those other wonderful resources, but the problem often is that instead of letting “His Word” dwell richly in our hearts, the “resources” have our hearts. Instead of seeking the whole counsel of God, we often copy or repeat what others have said. Others who are personally sitting at His feet, which means that we are missing out on the thrill of what happens when we ask God to open our minds to understand the Scriptures? (**Luke 24:45**) We are missing the intimate relationship with the Father.

Self-Feeding Christians

We understand that eating food is the life giving necessity our body needs to survive. Without healthy food on a regular basis our body would shrivel up and die. In the same way, reading and hearing the Word of God is our spiritual food. Without the reading and hearing of the Word in relationship with Jesus, on a regular basis, our spirit would shrivel up and die.

People are often living off the insights which the Holy Spirit has given to others and are not satisfying themselves because they have not gotten the full meal from the Lord. The reading of the Word is where the spiritual relationship is built. Some have been snacking, and snacking just leaves them feeling unfulfilled and wanting a real meal! May you prayerfully consider putting all other reading material aside until you get through the Bible the first time! You will be glad you did! You will benefit by the reading of Christian Biographies too, but only if it doesn't interfere with your daily time in God's word. (See Page 24 regarding the rich experience of reading Christian Biographies).

Each time you read a Christian book, listen to television, radio, or a video speaker, hear your pastor give a message, or listen to a conference teacher, may each one of these brothers and sisters generate a hunger in you to go and hear from God! May that be our mindset as we listen to others who have spent time with God and who then share their treasures with us. God is interested in us spending time with Him ourselves! He doesn't care how much we know, until He knows how much we care.

In “Salt & Light” we are teaching folks to be self-feeding Christians, feasting directly from His Word. The power of the Holy Spirit, speaking to us through the Bible alone, has been underestimated. We are seeing “just” His Word powerfully change lives as people are daily feeding their minds with the pure milk of the Word, the whole counsel of God.

Brain Washed

Once while many of us were gathered together reading His Word, a seeker said to me, “Excuse me, but I just have to tell you I feel like what we are reading in this Bible is just brainwashing us.” I said, “You know, you are exactly right. We all need our brains washed with the Truth because of all the lies we've believed.” You could have heard a pin drop. At the end of our time together in God's Word, one of those girls became a Christian! Faith comes by hearing the Word of God! Her brain was definitely washed with the Truth! We know who won that battle! His name is Jesus

and He is the only Truth, the only Way and the only Life, and He came to set us free...DAILY! God's Word powerfully changed her life and It will powerfully change your life each day, if you read It!

As God continues to send us out with this message, we hear again and again, "This is so freeing!" Is reading the entire Bible a lost art? I think for many it may be. Wherever we go to take God's message, we ask the question, "How many of you have ever read the entire Bible?" Seldom do more than two or three hands go up. Then we ask, "How many of you would like to read the entire Bible?" Every hand goes up! May we all be voices crying in the wilderness **(Mark 1:3)** to get people back to Him!

God has enlarged our borders for the sake of His Kingdom by blessing us with fellowships for teens, college/career, men, women, couples, and co-ed groups. As people are reading through His entire Word, God continues to equip His saints through His Word and the leading of His Spirit to do the work of the ministry that they have been called to do. **(Ephesians 4:11-16)** The believers that are facilitating these groups don't feel like they have to be leaders, they just know THE Leader! They don't have to be experts, they just know THE Expert. The only preparation for these facilitators is quality, connecting time with Him each day! We minister out of the abundance of our relationship with the Father. **(John 15:5)**

The believers, and yes, seekers, that come to these groups do so because they want to read relationally with Him through the entire Bible After all, is there any other book where you can literally converse and interact with the author while you are reading? They are also treasuring God's Word in their heart by memorizing Scripture weekly, in order to tell people what God says and not what they think. "Those who present their own ideas are looking for praise for themselves, but those who seek to honor the One who sent them are genuine and there is nothing false about them." **(John 7:18)** "Let the Word of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use His Word to teach and counsel each other... and whatever you do or say, may it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ." **(Colossians 3:16-17)** "Salt & Light" leaders tell their groups, "It is my job to help you accomplish your goal of reading through the entire Bible and memorizing Scripture." It is very exciting to join God in His work and to watch all God is doing!

Working at the Relationship

It seems many people are working at the wrong thing...they are working at the work and not working at the relationship with Him. **John 15:5** expresses God's heartfelt priority here. "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." So the fruit comes from abiding! Let me say that again...the fruit comes from abiding! Abiding is unbroken fellowship, keeping short accounts with God, and being quick to confess. God did not create us to work for Him, but to have a relationship with Him... joining Him in His work as He invites us to be a part of what He is doing. Being together with Him is the focus. Oswald Chambers said it well, "God has not called us to anything but Himself, and everything else flows from that call." Jesus ministered to other people out of the abundance of His relationship with the Father. "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..." **(Matthew 6:33)** Whenever we put other things first there is confusion and lack of peace.

The Battle is the Lord's

As we focus on our relationship with Him, the struggle will be making time to be with God every day. Jesus died to restore our relationship with God and time with Him is worth fighting for! We are in a battle! Being with Him is the root of the fruit...when we abide, we bear much fruit. Since the fruit comes from our relationship with God, doesn't it make sense that personal, relational time with God is where Satan is going to attack? It's our relationship with the Lord that makes Satan shake in his boots. And he will try to do everything to keep us away from our daily time with the Lord, to prevent us from reaping a harvest of fruit...lasting fruit! If Satan can get us to just work at the work and keep us away from the relationship he knows he has us. He knows we will get burned out working in our own strength...and burned is what he is after, in more ways than one! Let's face it: We are in a war and the enemy does not want us to have this kind of a relationship with a Holy God. But, Hallelujah! God is jealous for us and He wants us to feel the same about Him. The Holy Spirit will empower us to fight for a relationship with Him. He is worth every moment! You will see!

Empowered by the Holy Spirit to fight this battle, we meet with the Lord each day. During this time God does not want us to merely drive through but to get out of our car and go in. Each day, when we first come to the Lord, our minds are often already in 4th gear... we have to downshift to 1st gear, put it in park, turn off the engine, and get out of our car and go in. You may be thinking, "Yeah, but to be honest there are just some mornings I don't feel like reading the Word." The greatest thing about God is He understands us completely! Just have a talk with Him and say, "Lord, You know how I am feeling this morning. Would you please give me the desire and strength to spend time with You?" You see, it is a win-win situation with God. He doesn't let our weaknesses bother Him. He is bigger than our frailties! Remember, He's just waiting for you to ask. And He is more than ready to answer, you will see! **John 17:3** says, "This is eternal life: that (you) might know Him... and Jesus Christ whom He has sent." **Philippians 1:6** says, "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus," and **Philippians 2:13** says, "It is God who is at work within you both to will and to work for His good pleasure." He just wants us to cooperate with Him when He comes and invites us to join Him in His work. The reason He invites us to join Him is because He wants to be with us! He doesn't need us, but He does want us!

It has never been clearer that God is not interested in our ability, but our availability. Even though there is an abundance of fruit, we have never done so little and seen so much: it's more of Him and less of us. (**John 3:30**) Isn't that what we are all after? He has just asked us to work at our relationship with Him, to show up when He invites us, and join Him in His work. Obediently we come to Him and He takes over. It is glorious! We never want to go back the other way. We meet with Him daily in His Word and through prayer! It will cost you a lot to follow Jesus like this, but it will cost you a whole lot more not to!

Your Tool Box

As we pursue a relationship with God, all the things that God is teaching us from our time with Him in His Word (the Scriptures that you are memorizing, the insights that God gives others, sermons you hear, etc.), will go into your *tool box*. As we live our lives encountering those that God brings across our paths, we are asking God, "What is it that You want to say?" (not what do You want me to say?) The entire focus is on Him. We let Him go into our *tool box*. When we ask Him, He will give us what we need...*He is intimately acquainted with all our ways*. Remember **Matthew 10:19-20**, "Do not be anxious about what you are to say or speak for it shall be given to you in that hour what you are to speak. For it won't be you doing the talking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." Also remember **John 7:18**, "Those who present their own ideas are looking for praise for themselves, but those who seek to honor the One who sent them are honorable and there is nothing false about them."

We frequently review what is in our tool box and then we ask Him what He wants to say or do. We watch and listen and make ourselves available to Him. Perhaps this is best illustrated by one of my quiet times. I was reading one day, feeling discouraged and defeated because I wasn't doing consistently those things I was reading about.

Overwhelmed (sound familiar?), I started to close my Bible and the Lord said, "You know the problem here is this. I know that you can't do what you just read, but you don't know that you can't do what you just read. You see there is not one thing in this Book that you can do 'apart from Me.' (**John 15:5**) But you can do all of this through Me who strengthens you. (**Philippians 4:13**) All I want to know is the heart of the matter. Do you want to do what you just read and if you do, then why don't you ask Me? Now go back through those verses that you felt defeated by and talk to Me and let Me know that you want to do what you just read. Pray back through them. I am just waiting for you to ask! Remember that I told you, 'I began a good work in you and I will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.' And I said, 'I am at work within you (I didn't say, 'you're at work within you') giving you the desire to obey Me and the power to do what pleases Me!' " (**Philippians 1:6, 2:13**)

Praying Through Scripture

Why do we pray through Scripture? In **1 John 5:14-15** God tells us, "This is the confidence you have in approaching Me, that if you ask anything according to My will, I hear you. And if you know that I hear you-whatever you ask- you know that you have what you asked of Me." [faith] We don't know how, when, or where He will respond. But when we pray through His Word (which is His will), we do know that we can be sure He will respond. And respond He does!

Hallelujah, what a Savior! Jesus never mentioned unanswered prayer. He had the unlimited certainty of knowing that when He prayed for the Father's will, that prayer is always answered. Everything is a prayer request. He's just waiting for you to ask!

Let's apply Jesus' example. As we begin to meet with God each day, we should follow the Scriptures' invitation to first "enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise." (**Psalm 100:4**) Then instead of trying to open our own minds to understand the Scriptures we pray through **Luke 24:45** and ask *Him to open our minds to understand the Scriptures*. We also ask Him, Lord, may our hearts burn within us while You are speaking to us and teaching us, would You please explain Your Scriptures to us? (**Luke 24:32**) Pray His Word back to Him. It is His will. He's just waiting for you to ask and when you do, hang on for the ride of your life because He will answer. Remember it is not the answer that you are after but the ONE WHO IS the answer!

And last, but certainly not least, remember to *take every thought captive* (**2 Cor. 10:3-5**) and make it a *prayer request*. Discernment, judgmental thoughts, criticism, everything that comes into these minds of ours becomes a *prayer request*. When *everything is a prayer request*... then you become a solution to the problem instead of a problem to the problem and your vessel stays clean, because your mind stays clean... it is "stayed on Thee." (**Isaiah 26:3**) In other words, praying immediately as you capture your thoughts keeps you out of trouble, and keeps others from getting in trouble or gets them out of trouble! Capture your thoughts before they capture you! *Much prayer, much power! No prayer, no power!* God does not need us to pray... but He loves for us to talk to Him. To help us do that consistently, He has us join Him in prayer. After all, Jesus does sit at the right hand of the Father and LIVES to intercede for us. So the next time you get that tap on the shoulder, you will know that He is inviting you to join Him in intercession! Wow! How intimate, He takes my breath away! No, He doesn't *need* me, but He definitely *wants* me... I like being wanted, how about you?

Exodus 34:14 says, "You must worship no other gods but only the Lord, for He is a God who is passionate about His relationship with you!" May we all be a *voice crying in the wilderness* to get this message out.

If you give a person a fish, it will feed him/her for a day.

If you teach them how to fish, it will feed them for a lifetime!

This is the beginning of a personal relationship with God, not a course in Bible knowledge alone.

Where Do I Begin?

Here's some food for thought. Most people's view of God is not completely accurate because they have only listened to other people's opinions about God. What people hear about Him may come from family and friends, philosophy, books, TV, radio, movies, etc., and often they have drawn conclusions about God based on inaccurate information and the traditions of men instead of the Word of God. The problem is they have not given God a chance to speak for Himself. People may have read bits and pieces from the Bible, but to accurately hear God speak they must have the whole counsel of God. For example, in **Matthew 4:6** when Satan misquotes Scripture, Jesus responds with Scripture and says, "The Scriptures also say...." (that's the whole counsel of God!)

Remember, this is no ordinary book! This Book is the Word of God written to you, up close and personal, penned through over 40 men over a 1,500 year period, by the inspiration of God's Spirit. (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**) Many of the writers never knew each other, yet all the books of the Bible fit together perfectly... don't take my word for it, check it out! Did you know this book has sold more copies than any other book in the world? Did you know that more people have died for this book than any other book? It has also been burned more than any other book in the world! Just what is it about this Book that people would be willing to die for it, and that others would be threatened by it enough to want to burn it? You're on a journey to find out just that!

Common sense has it that none of us would want to spend time with someone if we have heard things that would make that person seem less than desirable. Unfortunately many people have an incorrect view of God based on what others have told them, and this prevents them from spending time with Him in His Word. When they finally go to the Word, the God they are about to meet may not at all be the same God they expected! Take a moment and allow yourself to be introduced to the True God and His awesome character. Go to His Word and let Him speak for Himself!

The First Week

Day One

Read **Psalm 103** – Underline each word or phrase that speaks of God's character. What is He like?

Day Two

Read **Isaiah 40: 25-31, Romans 8: 31-39** and **Psalm 145** – Underline each word or phrase that speaks of God's character.

Day Three

Read **Psalm 139** – Underline each word or phrase that describes the following:

What does God know about me?

What does God do for me?

What have I discovered about God?

Day Four

Read **Daniel 3** – Meet three men who believed what God said in **Psalm 103** and **Psalm 139**. What words come to your mind to describe the three men in **Daniel 3** and to describe the king?

Day Five

So, what's next? Have you ever read a novel or known anyone who has? Would you say that the Bible is similar in size to some novels? Well then, couldn't we agree that it is a possibility to read through the entire Bible? O.K., now that we have that settled, let's get started!

We recommend you read the "The Big Four" (Refer to "An Overview of the Bible – The Big Four.") first, which will give you an overview of the entire Bible, as well as equip you with a tool so that you can confidently ask someone, "Would

you like to get together and read some of the Bible?" Most people will never ask this question to a non-believer because they don't know what to do. Now you have a tool!

Day Six

Today, and from now on: Pick up where you left off the day before. Perhaps some days read a chapter or more, while on other days you may delight in meditating and studying simply a verse or two. ASK God, He WILL show you! It's best, if you can, to spend time with God first thing in the morning. Then, in the evening, read one Psalm and one chapter of Proverbs. We all need our minds washed at the beginning and end of the day with the Truth! "For you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free." (**John 8:32**) Who doesn't want to be free?

Conclusion

Moving Ahead

We all like to accomplish a goal. Note your progress. For example, when you finish reading Chapter 1 of Genesis, put a check mark beside that chapter. Do the same for the rest of the chapters in Genesis. Then, when you complete the entire book of Genesis, turn to the Table of Contents in the front of your Bible. There are 66 books listed there. Put a check mark beside Genesis. Now, how many books do you have left to go? That's right: 65! Remember that we suggest you first read Genesis through Exodus 20, followed by Matthew, John, and Romans, in that order. Then proceed on to the rest of the Bible remembering to read a Psalm and a Proverb each night (repeat the Psalms and Proverbs each time you finish these books). When you are finished reading the entire Bible, share what you have done with someone you know and celebrate your victory by doing something special, like going out to lunch or dinner!

What in the world are you going to do now that you have finished reading the entire Bible? That's right: start over! It is most assuredly the Book without bottom! You will never tire of hearing His voice! For your second time through you could try reading the Bible in a different translation.

Words of Encouragement

Then pray through **Luke 24:45**, Lord, please open my mind to understand the Scriptures. (This instead of you *trying* to open your own mind to understand.) Also ask Him to "teach and explain His Word to you so that your heart may burn within you while He is speaking." (**Luke 24:32**) Remember, do not just *read* the Bible, but **read relationally**. After all, is there any other book that while you are reading, you can literally converse and interact with the author?

Pray for a desire to *listen to God speak to you* as you read His Word. Ask Him to do just that! He's just waiting for you to ask and He loves that you want to. How will you know God is speaking to you? Will a bush catch on fire? Will a thundering voice peal through the heavens? No, it's not that mysterious. It can simply be a verse that seems to *jump out* at you while you are reading, or a verse that seems to *speak* right to an issue or situation in your life. It's truly that easy!

This is the beginning of a **personal relationship with God**, not a course in Bible knowledge alone. Before you begin reading each day, do as the Scriptures say in **Psalms 100:4**, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise.

Be sure to **underline** anything you sense the Lord is speaking to you about as you are reading. Remember, this is no ordinary book! This Book is *the Word of God* written to you, *up close and personal*.

Let me also encourage you during your **first time reading through the Bible**, to make it a point to find out what God is like and to discover His character for yourself. If you daily read the Bible and **search for God's character**, you will come to know Him intimately, in a deeper way. That is a promise, and an exciting one at that! You will see. This will give you a balanced view of what He is really like, and you will find Him irresistible, kind, patient, loyal, a *Man of His Word*, forgiving, long-suffering, and serious about what He says to you!

This is the most important step, and critical in developing your **relationship with God**. Why? Because most likely,

you are not going to trust someone you do not know. Walking with God is all about trusting Him. Again, you are encouraged to work your way through the Bible daily. Take notes and think about what He is really like from whichever passages or chapters you are reading each day.

A Word about Commitment

We have been given such an unbelievable opportunity to allow God to glorify Himself by uniting us together by the power of the Holy Spirit in our group setting. **1 Corinthians 13:9** describes that for now we “know” only in part. With that in mind we all have our “part” in the body of Christ. When you join a group you are actually bringing a part of the very understanding of God and His Character, taught to you through the Word and experienced by you through your personal relationship with Jesus. That part is greatly needed by the whole body!! And guess what? The others in your group will be bringing their part too. A part that you need desperately also. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God will reveal a greater revelation to all of us. Isn't that just amazing?! It is of utmost importance that you are faithful to your commitment to the others in your group by coming every week. We understand there could be an occasion when you could not make a particular meeting. We ask that you would contact your leader and let him know. Leave any prayer requests with him to pass on to the others so that your prayer needs continue to be presented during your absence.

Food for Thought That Bears Repeating

The Bible was penned by over forty men over a 1,500 year period, through the inspiration of God's Spirit (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). Many of these men never knew each other, yet all the books of the Bible fit together perfectly. This Book has been burned more than any other book in the world, and more people have died for this Book than any other book. Just what is it about this Book that people would die for it or feel threatened enough by it to burn it? You are about to set out on a personal journey that will lead you into an intimate relationship with the Author of The Book! Will you prayerfully consider putting all other reading material aside until you get through the Bible for the first time? You will be glad you did!

May you be richly blessed and changed as you meet with Him each day.

HANG ON FOR THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE!

Keep the Standard High

From Daily With The King By: W. Glyn Evans

I must adopt a workable standard in my dealings with others...

The standard must be biblical and it must be workable. A departure from either will spell failure.

The standard is simple: absolute conformity to an ideal; and on the other hand, wholehearted compassion for the one who fails the ideal. I believe both elements of this standard are biblical and workable. I believe both elements are essentially biblical, that is, God uses this standard in His dealings with us.

I must never discard the ideal. If I do, there is no point whatever in going on with this discipleship business. If I say to myself (and others), "Trust Christ as Savior, but sin all you please," I have obviously tied myself up in a deadly contradiction. On the other hand, if I say, "Trust Christ as Savior, but never sin again," I have placed upon myself a burden that is too much for flesh and blood to bear. So I live on the razor's edge of an exciting adventure-reaching for the purest ideal while encouraging myself not to give up if I slip and stumble en route.

This relieves me of tension with my fellow Christian workers. Failure to reach the ideal is not disaster, provided, of course, there is proper recognition of the fault and proper contrition regarding it. But upward we go in our next try, always aiming where God wants us to be, always trusting His power to get us there. The flesh may momentarily stall us, but by God's grace it will not permanently restrain us. Believers are born to victory, and His inward driving power will always propel us higher. For we "have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him." **Colossians 3:10**

The Big Four

By Mark Bogart, missionary with The Navigators

Overview of the Bible

1) **Genesis 1 – Exodus 20:**

The Old Testament is the foundation for the New Testament. (**Luke 24: 27, 32**)

A. Genesis 1 – 11: 4 Major Events (Creation, the Fall, the Flood, Tower of Babel) Themes:

- Attributes of God
- Where sin came from
- Judgment of God

B. Genesis 12 – 50: 4 Major People (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph) Themes:

- Promises of God
- Faithfulness of God

C. Exodus 1 – 20 Themes:

- God remembers His covenant to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (**Ex. 2:23, 24**)
- Passover (Ex. 12)
- Ten Commandments (Ex. 20)

2) **Matthew:** The link book to the Old Testament (Ch. 1) Themes:

- Jesus as King (**Matt. 2:2**)
- Jesus as the new Lawgiver (Matthew 5 ties into Exodus 20)

3) **John:** Goes back to the beginning (**John 1: 1-3**) Themes:

- Emphasis on belief (**John 20:31**)
- 7 Signs
- 7 “I Ams” demonstrate who Jesus is

4) **Romans:** Paul’s clear and logical explanation about the Gospel (**Rom. 1: 16-17**) Themes:

- God’s righteousness
- Man’s sinfulness
- God’s solution

Why use the Big Four?

- Many people are no longer familiar with the Bible – this gets them into the Bible.
- Those who are familiar with the Bible have it in bits and pieces – this gives the big picture.
- This is Bible based – gets people into the Word on a personal basis and allows for self-discovery.
- God’s Word, not Bible study material, becomes the source of authority.
- People read the Bible on their own when not with you – extensive and intensive sowing.
- The habit of spending time in the Word begins forming and carries over after conversion.
- You can use this in small groups or one-on-one.
- This is an evangelism method that helps to produce disciples.

Read these books and look for the above-mentioned themes in each book. Begin praying for someone with whom to share this.

Please Write These Two Sections in the Front of Your Bible

#1 Look for God's Character in:

Day 1 – Read Psalm 103
Day 2 – Read Isaiah 40:25-31,
Romans 8:31-39, and Psalm 145
Day 3 – Read Psalm 139
Day 4 – Read Daniel 3
Day 5 – Begin Bible Overview

#2 The Big Four:

- Genesis to Exodus 20,
- Matthew
- John
- Romans

Also in the back of your Bible you will keep an ongoing record of all the Scripture verses you have memorized. Please write each reference as you memorize it.

Why are we writing this in our Bible?

So at all times you have a tool at your fingertips to use with a co-worker, a neighbor, a friend, or a family member. And you are free with confidence to say: "Hey, would you like to get together and read "some" of the Bible?"

Most Christians will never ask this question to a seeker or a new Christian or a Christian who is not growing, because they don't know "where to begin" with a person. Now you have the "how to" handy at all times, written in the front of your Bible! We are being "Intentional & Purposeful" & ready "in season & out."

Have them copy this in their Bible, too, by looking at your Bible page and write this in the front of their Bibles, just like you did. They, too, will have this simple plan now at their fingertips!

Why, because **2 Timothy 2:2** says "Take these things you have learned and teach them to faithful men who will teach others also." And **Ephesian 4:12** says "...To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...that's why we are teaching you this.

Be sure that when the overview is completed that they go back and pick up Exodus 21 and move forward through the Old Testament. In the New Testament they will have already completed Matthew, so they will pick up in Mark and move forward through the New Testament. The goal is that you are moving forward in both Testaments at your own pace. You can read some in the Old & some in the New each day if you like. Just be sure you are checking everything off in your Bible & moving forward through both Testaments.

Also each day you will read a Psalm and a Proverb. When you finish Proverbs and Psalms as you are reading through the Bible you just keep starting them over. If you don't want to include this in your morning reading, you can do it in the evening.

Also record your memory verses on the back page of your Bible.

Reading Relationally

Revelations from the Holy Spirit often come from Reading Relationally. This means talking to God about what you are reading while you are reading His Word. For example: Interact with Him as you read, as you would in a conversation with a friend. Ask questions, ask Him to explain and clarify for you, give Him encouraging words of thanks, praise, amazement and exclamation. Remember: “My sheep (that’s you) hear My voice, I know them and they follow Me.” **John 10:27**

Pray this from **Luke 24:45**: Lord, open my mind to understand the Scriptures. Ask Him.... Lord, what do You want to say? and then when He speaks, respond to Him right then. Enjoy!

Imagine it’s Sunday afternoon and your friend is over to watch the football game with you. You know he can only stay until halftime because he has to get back home to finish the lawn. As you are watching the game, your friend mentions your son’s high school game. He asks how it went. You begin sharing in great detail about the game and how exciting it was. You were so proud of your son’s hard work and sportsmanship. God had done much in you and your son over the past couple years and you were reminded and in awe of this during his performance at the game. It is obvious that your friend is listening with great interest, but he never comments on anything that you are sharing. Yes, there is eye contact, he is paying attention, but he never asks any questions, expresses vows, or interacts with you over your story. Well, half-time comes and he says good-bye and heads out the door. You thank him for stopping by to watch the first half with you, and you say good-bye. You are so glad your friend was here, but the lack of interaction leaves you wondering if he was even listening or if he really cared. I think this is how we can make God feel when we are reading His Word. When we don’t interact & dialogue with Him, I think He misses the interaction too.

Interestingly enough, a mutual friend of the two of you pulls into the driveway to visit and watch the rest of the game with you. Out your living room window you hear your friend that was just leaving, expressing in great detail how wonderful it was to hear about your son’s football game. He says how excited he was to hear the details of how the your son’s team did and especially how God had revealed to you about His amazing care for your son. At that moment you wonder, gee, why didn’t he share that with me?

Let me suggest this: I believe that this is often what we do to God. Like the friend that was visiting & talking later with the mutual friend, we go talk about God after being with Him, but we don’t talk to God in response to what we are reading in His Word as we are reading. We spend perhaps an hour with Him, we listen and maybe even take notes, but we never really engage the Author of the Bible that we are reading. I spent too many years reading as an observer rather than meeting with our Savior personally for the relationship for which I was created. Miraculously, He desires to have an interactive conversation with us, literally, talking with us out of the pages of His Word (**Hebrews 4:12**). We must remember to engage with Him at that moment while we are in His Word:

1. Ask questions as we go.
2. Respond in amazement to a particular character’s actions.
3. Say “Thank You.”
4. Express vows in response to what we just read.
5. Confess right then that you aren’t doing what you are reading about but would love God to give you a want to.

These are just a few suggested examples of how we interact and there are assuredly many more!

The point is, it is not just that you are reading the Bible but “how” you are interacting with the Author and “that” you are interacting while you are reading. He doesn’t want us to “just read” and gather information and go perform it. He wants us to realize that He wants to be involved in the process with you as you are reading. He wants us to talk with Him while He is talking to us through His Word. We know how to do this because we naturally do it all the time with friends. And He wants us to do that with Him, our Companion and Friend. God doesn’t complicate something so important to Him. He wants us to realize that we cannot do one thing written in His Word alone, because “apart from Him, we can do nothing.” (**John 15:5**) But He wants us to realize that “we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” (**Philippians 4:13**) He is just waiting for us to ask – and ask as we are reading, not just when we are finished reading.

Interact with Him as you would a friend over coffee. He doesn't want to be treated like a business interaction or a mere acquaintance. Let's face it, there is no other book in the whole world that you can interact with the author **while** you are reading. This is called Reading Relationally. But you can do that with the Bible because it is the Living Word! I believe that God is merciful, but I believe He feels just like the person in my story who poured his heart out to his friend and then received no response or interaction during the course of their hour together. Let's delight and bring abundant pleasure to the Lover of our souls and talk with Him throughout the pages of His Word as we journey with Him each morning in His love letter to us! Let's not just talk about God, but let's talk to Him as we are reading! Hang on for the ride of your life because He has treasures He wants to share from His heart to yours when you interact with Him! Try it... you will see! My Bible is full of my writing down God's responses to my questions and amazing insights that only He can give. As you experience relationship with God, nobody will have to tell you to talk about God and His Word... You will be looking for an audience automatically out of the overflow of your relationship with God. Not only are you blessed but so are many others! Your genuine enthusiasm is contagious and makes people hungry to go and hear from God like that themselves! Now I must say, it doesn't get any better than this!

So here is an example of Reading Relationally from Psalm 84. Keep in mind that when you are in a conversation with someone, as you are listening, you don't comment on every sentence they utter. In the same way, as you are reading God's Word relationally, you don't comment on every line you read, but when you have a question, comment, etc., that's when you engage. Our conversation (sometimes silent, sometimes audible) follows each verse:

Psalm 84:1 "How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty." (Lord, what is Your dwelling place like anyway?) ("My child, you are My dwelling place, keep it clean and keep it lovely".)

Psalm 84:2 "I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the LORD. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God." (Lord, I so want to worship You constantly this way. I notice that when I am in a crisis that I am much quicker to cling to You and pour out to You with my whole being, body and soul. And as much as I don't want to admit it, I really do thank You for allowing difficulties in my life and caring enough to train me by allowing challenging things. Please help me to remember there is purpose to my pain as a part of the work of Your kingdom.) ("My child, as I teach this truth to others through you, listen, for it is a reminder to you too.")

Psalm 84:3-6 "Even the sparrow finds a home there, and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young— at a place near Your altar, O Lord Almighty, my King and my God! How happy are those who can live in Your house, always singing Your praises. Happy are those who are strong in the LORD, who set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs, where pools of blessing collect after the rains!" (Oh Lord, only You can turn weeping into refreshing springs! And if that weren't enough, You bless us, not with "puddles", but with "pools" of blessings! Wow Lord, thanks for that amazing insight You just gave me, what a wonderful picture! You are awesome! What kind of God are You that can love like this?! I thank you for the privilege of knowing You and being trained by You.) ("My child, may you sense My pleasure over your love for Me. It's important to Me that you know that.")

Psalm 84:7-10a "They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem. O LORD God Almighty, hear my prayer. Listen, O God of Israel. O God, look with favor upon the king, our protector! Have mercy on the one You have anointed. A single day in Your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else!" (Oh Lord, may I learn to become more and more intimate with You; that this is the continual cry of my heart. Lord, what are Your courts really like?) ("My child, I love that you are asking. Keep reading the Psalms and I will reveal the answer to your question.")

Psalm 84:10b-12 I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked. For the LORD God is our light and protector. He gives us grace and glory. No good thing will the LORD withhold from those who do what is right. O LORD Almighty, happy are those who trust in You," (Father, I know that I am not trusting in You right now over the decisions that I have to make which is why I am not content and happy. But right now I am asking You to give me a want to, to trust You in every aspect of this decision. I am choosing right now to trust You and to stop trying to figure things out myself. I so desire to keep Your dwelling place clean, surrendered and lovely! I love You and thank You for being so real and speaking to me today!) ("And My child, I love that you are real with Me.")

Sample Agenda with the Large and Small Groups

Leadership Training: All **Leaders and Co-Leaders** meet for Prayer, Scripture Review, Sharing, Teaching and Discipleship.

Informal Fellowship in the Lobby with all “Salt & Light” groups

Worship (all groups)

Teaching Time to all groups (from facilitator up front)

Break out Groups

- **Scripture Memory Review** with a partner. (Review 5 different verses each week, so that all the verses you have already memorized eventually get reviewed, then start all over again. New verse for the week will be shared during the time you share your Quiet Time.)
- **Reading Relationally** as a group, using the passage selected by the group leader
- **New Scripture Memory Verse and Quiet Time Sharing**
 - **First person volunteers to share:** They say their new verse, they tell the group what Bible passage (chapter/verses) they will share from. Entire group turns to that passage. First person shares their **Quiet Time**, their “**take away**” & **words describing God’s character** from the chapter they are sharing from.
 - **Second person volunteers to pray:** Prays for the first person. Then, after praying, the second person shares their new verse and their Quiet Time. This continues giving each group member an opportunity to pray and share until the final person shares. The last person to share is prayed for by the person who went first.
 - **Reminder:** Your “take away” is your “application” from what the Lord is saying to you. You are sharing your personal response to God’s Word. What are you “taking away” as a result? Please be specific. This helps the next person pray more specifically for you.
 - **The “Golden Thread”:** When everyone is done sharing, take time to discover what the “**Golden Thread**” was for the evening. Was there a common theme in what everyone shared?
- **Prayer Requests** - each person comes prepared with their prayer requests on an index card and gives their card to their group leader. The Leader shuffles all of the cards, then each person picks a card. The card you select is the person you will pray for during the week.
- **Closing Song** – All groups.

Each Week in Your Small Groups

- Each small group is led by an assigned “Salt & Light” leader
 - ... The leader will facilitate; guiding and directing though the schedule
 - ... all communication and follow up is done through the leader with the assistance of the co-leader
 - ... occasionally we will alter the regular schedule
- Pray together for the Lord’s presence and insight and for our hearts and minds to be open.
- Everyone has an opportunity to share their Scripture memory verse.
- During our time together we will share such things as:
 - ... How did God’s Word speak to you?
 - ... How did you see God at work?
 - ... How did God answer prayer?
 - ... Be ready to answer the questions: What is your personal, practical application? What is your “take-away”?

At the end of each evening, after everyone has shared, you will discover together the “gold thread” (**Exodus 28**) that ties together all that your group has shared.

Before You Come Back to Group

Take a few moments before you come to prayerfully go through all of your week's journaling and ask God which things He would like you to share with the group.

- You will be sharing where you are reading and what insights God impressed on you in the book you are reading.
- You do not need to share everything.
- Be mindful of the time and size of your group so that everyone has a chance to share.
- Write down any specific prayer requests you may ask your group to pray for you.

Be Prepared! Now you're ready!!

What Happens if You Miss Your Group?

On occasion you may need to miss joining your group because of illness, conflicting scheduling issues, vacations, etc. Needless to say, anytime you are not present, you will be greatly missed. Please use the following guidelines to email your leader and the others in your group when you miss. This is used as a way to keep us connected and accountable to do what we say we desire to do.

#1 - Contact your leader and communicate the reason for your nonattendance.

- This may be a phone call, text, or email just letting him know not to expect you.
- If you have time, share your prayer requests for your group to pray through in your absence.

#2 - Send an email* to your leader with the following information:

1. This is my new memory verse (write it out and be sure to call your leader or co-leader to say it).
2. These are the chapters/verses that I am sharing from.
3. This is my share (*use either format*).

#1 (see pg. 15-17)

This is what it says:

This is what it means:

This is what it means to me:

4. This is what I learned about God's character.
5. This is my "take away"/application for myself.
6. These are my two prayer requests for this week.

Or # 2

S-is there a sin for me to avoid?

P- is there a promise to claim? A praise to give?
A prayer to pray?

E- Is there an example for me to follow?

C- Is there a command for me to obey?

K- Is there knowledge for me to learn, especially about God or His discernment about a situation?

*You may just call your leader with this information if you do not use email or otherwise can't do an email. The key is to keep connected by communicating the best way possible for everybody.

The Inductive Method of Bible Study: The Basics

Inductive Bible study consists of three component parts, which we will look at separately, but which frequently overlap in practice. These three parts are observation, interpretation, and application.

Observation answers the question: What does the passage say? It is the foundation which must be laid if you want to accurately interpret and properly apply God's Word. Have you ever read a book, chapter, or verse of the Bible and five minutes later been unable to remember anything you have read? So often we read the Bible with our eyes but not with our mind. There are several reasons for this. Either

- we think God's Word will magically make an impression on us without any effort on our part, or
- we don't really believe we can understand what we've read, or
- we are waiting for the pastor to teach on this section of Scripture so we'll know what to believe.

Often, however, we forget what we have read simply because we don't know what to look for in the text. Therefore, in the first part of this book you are going to learn what to look for when you read your Bible.

Because observation is discovering what the passage is saying, it requires time and practice. You'll discover that the more you read and get to know a book of the Bible, the more its truths will become obvious to you. You'll be awed at the wealth of spiritual riches contained in even the shortest books of the Bible—and you will have discovered it yourself! You will know that you know!

Interpretation answers the question: What does the passage mean? And the basis for accurate interpretation is always careful observation. Interpretation is the process of discovering what the passage means. As you carefully observe Scripture, the meaning will become apparent. However, if you rush into interpretation without laying the vital foundation of accurate observation, your understanding will be colored by your presuppositions—what you think, what you feel, or what other people have said, rather than what God's Word says.

Interpretation is not necessarily a separate step from observation, for often, as you carefully observe the text, at that very moment you begin to see what it means. Thus, interpretation flows out of observation.

However, interpretation can also involve separate actions or steps that go beyond merely observing the immediate text. One of these exercises is investigating cross-references. First and foremost, let Scripture interpret Scripture. You may also use other helps, such as word studies or the evaluation of resources such as commentaries and Bible dictionaries to check your conclusions or to supplement your understanding of the historical or cultural setting of the text.

What we are going to do is to give you principles of interpretation and offer special sections to guide you in handling different types of writing, including figures of speech, parables, and allegories. We'll also show you how to do word studies and how to use Bible study tools that will greatly enhance your learning. It's going to be exciting—and so enlightening!

Application answers the question: How does the meaning of this passage apply to me? Usually this is the first thing we want to know when we read the Bible, but proper application actually begins with belief which then results in being and doing. Once you know what a passage means, you are not only responsible for putting it into practice in your own life, but accountable if you don't! Ultimately, then, the goal of personal Bible study is a transformed life and a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.

Application is not a third step in the inductive process. Rather, application takes place as you are confronted with truth and decide to respond in obedience to that truth. The basis for application is **2 Timothy 3:16-17**:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped

for every circumstance of life. To be equipped for every good work of life—totally prepared to handle every situation in a way that honors God—is not only possible, it is God's will. And that's what you will learn how to do if you will apply these study principles. Oh, the hundreds of stories we could tell you about what God has done because people disciplined themselves to know His Word in this way. It would thrill your heart! But right now stories aren't our purpose; getting you into the Word inductively is! Then, friend, you can tell your own story! We'd love to hear it!

When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life.

How Observation, Interpretation, and Application Relate to Each Other

Accurate interpretation and correct application rest on the accuracy of your observations. Therefore, it is vital that you develop observation skills, even if at first they seem time-consuming or you feel less than adequate and even awkward doing them. Studying inductively is a learning process that does not happen overnight. It happens by doing—doing over and over again, until the doing becomes almost a habit, and a wonderful one at that.

As you go through the inductive process, you'll sometimes find observation, interpretation, and application happening simultaneously. God can give you insight at any point in your study, so be sensitive to His leading. When words or passages make an impression on you, stop for a moment and meditate on what God has shown you. Bring the plumb line of truth against what you believe and how you are living.

When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life.

Through a diligent study of God's Word, under the guidance of His Spirit, you'll drop a strong anchor that will hold in the storms of life. You will know your God. And when you know your God, not only will you be strong, but you will do great exploits for Him (**Daniel 11:32**).

Kay Arthur and her husband, Jack, are the founders of Precept Ministries International. This ministry reaches hundreds of thousands of people internationally through "Precept Upon Precept" Bible studies and Kay's radio and television program Precepts for Life. Kay is the bestselling author of more than 100 books and Bible studies, and is also the active spokeswoman for The New Inductive Study Bible.

This article adapted from How to Study the Bible by Kay Arthur (Harvest House Publishers © 2001.) was found online at <http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/tips/the-inductive-method-of-bible-study-the-basics-11628183.html>.

Inductive Bible Study

(Retrieved from GotQuestions.org)

Inductive Bible study is an approach to God's Word focusing on three basic steps that move from a general overview to specifics. Through these three steps, we apply inductive reasoning, which is defined as the attempt to use information about a specific situation to draw a conclusion. The steps are **observation** (what does it say?), **interpretation** (what does it mean?), and **application** (what does it mean for my life?). Inductive Bible study is a valuable tool in understanding and applying the principles of God's Word. Inductive Bible study can be done on many different levels. The shorter version is good for a brief devotional. The more extensive study is wonderful for digging deeper into the mind and heart of God.

A sample verse to illustrate the method is **2 Samuel 9:1**: "David asked, 'Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?'" As we **observe** this verse and ask ourselves "**what does it say?**", we see that David simply wants to know if there are any living relatives of Saul's that he may be kind to for Jonathan's sake. Whether or not there are any relatives or why David is asking are to be determined in the next step. The first step of observing the verse is generally confined to a simple understanding of what the verse is saying. At this first step, there may be words or phrases that are unfamiliar to us, in which case checking different Bible translations is helpful.

The second step—interpretation (what does it mean?)—requires a more in-depth examination than the first step. At this step, we want to be careful to find the meaning of the verse in its context. For our sample verse, as we look into the background of the incident we find that the relationship between David, God's anointed future king of Israel, and Jonathan, son of King Saul, was very close. Jonathan had saved David's life when Saul was pursuing him (**1 Samuel 20**). David had described their relationship as "extraordinary" and he mourned Jonathan's death greatly (**2 Samuel 1:25-27**). In this context, we see David wanting to do something nice for any of his relatives who might still be alive. His love and loyalty were still strong even though Jonathan had been out of his life for some time. David did not sit passively and wonder about this; he took action and searched for these people.

The third step in inductive Bible study is the practical **application** of the principles (**what does it mean to me?**). Among the ways we can apply our sample verse to our own lives is to see David's action as one of love and loyalty. We might ask ourselves: How loyal am I to my earthly friends and my heavenly Friend? Am I casual and passive about the relationships? Or am I willing to go out of my way to honor them? What can I do this week to let them know that I love them? Based on my detailed research, what did God communicate to me? Has He given me any commands, warnings, promises, or encouragement? Part of the application process is asking ourselves, where we go from here? How can we use what we have learned from the passage in the future? A crucial part of any Bible study is asking God to implement the principles into our lives and praying for His wisdom as we go forward with this knowledge.

It is important to note that, while inductive Bible study or any other method is helpful to Christians as we delve into God's Word, ultimately it is the Spirit of God who opens the Scriptures to us because He has first opened our hearts to Truth. It is the Spirit who interprets spiritual truth to those who are spiritual. The natural man does not and cannot understand spiritual truth (**2 Corinthians 2:12-14**). So before attempting any Bible study method, we must be sure we have the Holy Spirit living in our hearts (**1 Corinthians 6:19**) through faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

What We Do in “Salt & Light” 2

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of Truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**

PURPOSE: (a) to study the Bible using the Bible (b) to know the character of God and (c) to handle accurately the Word of Truth.

After your group has shared their quiet times for a month or so, please study a book of the Bible together. Do the following with a book of the Bible you all agree to study. We recommend that you first start with a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John), then go on to Acts.

1. We meet weekly. The first week we share from our own personal reading and on alternate weeks we study a chapter together. Please note, some chapters are very long. You may want to divide those into two sessions.

In addition to doing the study together every other week, you can add **variety** ever so often. Have your group members divide up in groups of 2 or 3. Each cluster can volunteer to do the various options listed below. Then after a given time frame, return as one group and share what you discovered.

2. Below are some suggestions you can prepare at home **or** you can just do together in your group. Your Leader will determine which components below you will do on a given week.

- Take turns reading the verses of the chapter out loud consecutively. Before you start reading, pray and ask God to: Open your mind to understand the Scriptures **Luke 24:45** and tell Him that you long for your heart to burn within you while He is speaking to you... and ask Him to explain the Scriptures to you. **Luke 24:32**
- Read relationally (converse with the Author Himself) while reading the chapter you are studying. (You can read relationally out loud as a group or each person can read alone silently). Note to Leaders: After you are assured that your group understands reading relationally & are comfortable with each other, you may introduce reading & pausing & praying out loud relationally in the group.
- Prayerfully discover the following: Who is writing the chapter you are reading? What do you know about him? Who is the audience...Christians, non-Christians or both?
- Whether at home or together, you can take notes on any insights that He gives you & jot down any questions that you asked Him about what you read... record His answer to you. *He's just waiting for you to ask!
- As God speaks to you about various passages within that chapter, cross-reference the ones He impressed upon you. Record what He shows you. Scripture always confirms Scripture.
- Circle the words in the text that God impressed on your heart and circle words in the text that are repeated. Consider using a dictionary to look up the meanings. This will broaden your understanding of the context that the words are used in. Write down what you found. (If you have one, a Bible Dictionary is helpful too.)
- You can use any commentary that you would like for another perspective on the Word of God.
- On a sheet of paper, make 3 columns at the top with these titles:

God/Jesus/Holy Spirit	Christians	Non-Christians
Verse 6 Powerful Verse 19 Forgiving	Verse 22 Bold Verse 29 Fervent	Verse 12 Skeptical Verse 15 Afraid

Now you will be making a list of characteristics for each title - as you see in the diagram above. Be sure to write down the verse where you found each characteristic. Example: vs.6 *God is powerful*. From the chapter that you just studied, please come to a conclusion as you ask the Lord for His insights, regarding the following:

1. What have I learned about **God/Jesus/Holy Spirit**? What is He like in the chapter that I just studied? What words describe Him? (Please list in the appropriate column)
2. What have I learned about the character(s): **Christians & non-Christians** in the chapter? What are they like? What words describe them? (Please list in appropriate column)

Lastly, write down from the chapter you just studied what God's message is for you.

Sample Agenda on "Salt & Light" 2 Night

"Salt & Light" 1 with a Partner at your Table

Select a partner to do S&L 1 with.

- **Scripture Memory Review** with a partner. (Review 5 different verses each week)
- **Reading Relationally** with your partner, using the passage selected by the group leader.
- **New Scripture Memory Verse & Quiet Time Sharing with Partner**
 - ... **First person volunteers to share:** they say their new verse, they tell their partner what Bible passage (chapter/verses) they will share from. Partner turns to that passage. First person shares their **Quiet Time**, their **"take away"** & **words describing God's character** from the chapter they are sharing from.
 - ... **Partner Prays:** Prays for the person who just shared. Then, after praying, that person shares their new verse and their Quiet Time.
 - ... **Reminder:** Your "take away" is your "application" from what the Lord is saying to you. You are sharing your personal response to God's Word. What are you "taking away" as a result? Please be specific. This helps the next person pray more specifically for you.
 - ... **The "Golden Thread":** When partners are finished sharing, take time to discover with your partner what the **"Golden Thread"** is for the evening. Is there a common theme in what each one shared?
- **Prayer Requests** - Each person comes prepared with their prayer requests on an index card and exchange cards with their partner. Pray for each other during the week.

"Salt & Light" 2

Group Led by Leader

- One Book and chapter will be assigned ahead of time. All will be studying the same thing.
- Each group member should have their "SALT & LIGHT" Booklet with them and turn to the section entitled *What We Do in "Salt & Light" 2* (Pg.18). Follow these guidelines for discussion.
- Leader will direct the focus on different components each week which were designated & discussed prior in the Leaders meeting.

Reminder:

At the end of your study be sure to discuss your **"take away"** and **"Golden Thread"** among yourselves.

- Your **"take away"** is your "application" from what the Lord is saying to you. You are sharing your personal response to God's Word from the chapter we are studying. What are you "taking away" as a result? Please be specific.
- When your group is finished sharing, take time to discover with your group what the **"Golden Thread"** is for the evening. Is there a common theme in what each one shared?

Close in Prayer

Closing Song

NOTES:

Tools for Your Encouragement

Preparation for Communion

“As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, ‘Take it, for this is My body.’ And He took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, ‘This is My blood, poured out for many, sealing the covenant between God and His people.’” **Mark 14:22-24**

Food for Thought: a Commentary on Romans 6

By Jon Courson (amended)

Romans 1-5 tell us we are dead *in* sin.

Romans 6-8 tell us we are dead *to* sin, meaning that sin no longer has any authority over us; it can no longer dictate to us what to do.

Chapters 1-5 tell us that we are free from the *penalty* of sin. Chapters 6-8 tell us we are free from the *power* of sin.

Chapters 1-5 tell us that salvation is accomplished apart from works. It's done. It's finished! The work is complete.

Christians try to fight sin by preaching, “don't do this, don't do that!” God's Word teaches us to say “**Know** His Heart & Truth”.... **know** that you have a new identification with Jesus Christ. (**Romans 6:3-5**) We are set free through Jesus' Cross!

In **Romans 6:6**, the word crucified or destroyed in this verse in Greek is *Katargeo*. It means *rendered inactive or paralyzed*. It doesn't mean annihilated. Therefore when your old sin nature screams at you to do the old things, Paul says in essence that although he can yell, he is powerless to act since the Cross paralyzed him from the neck down.

Romans 6:7-9 The work of the Cross is complete.

Romans 6:9-11 Paul is saying know this that when Jesus died on the Cross, your old sin nature was with Him, count on it! That is why **Communion** has two elements, for when you take the cup, you celebrate the fact that you are “free from the penalty of sin”. And when you take the broken Body, you acknowledge the fact that you are “free from the power of sin.” The word *healed* in Greek in this passage is *Sozo*. It speaks not only of physical healing, but of the fullness of salvation...being set free from sin, and insulated from all oppression! This explains why Jesus received those lashes, and why His body was pierced, why He went through what He did – for besides the shedding of blood which provides forgiveness from sin, the breaking of His body provides victory over sin. The power of sin IS broken! Believe it by faith. Sin's dominion is not broken through clever counseling or talking it through. It is broken through one thing only: the work of Calvary... Christ's death on the Cross.

Whatever we struggle with or whatever temptation we are wrestling with, it is powerless in light of the Cross. When we finally have had enough, when we at last have our fill of the venom which we have allowed to infect us and those around us, when we finally determine that we don't want to be under sin's dominion any longer, know this; you can be free at that moment. No support group needed, no counseling is necessary. Just say, “Lord, now I understand. You told me that the Old Man was paralyzed on the cross. I believe it.” That settles it, and with the spike of the Cross, and the hammer of the Word, you nail it right there and walk away free. It is that simple!

Scriptures to Renew Your Mind

Selections from Romans 5

Faith Brings Joy

³We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us--they help us learn to endure. ⁴And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation. ¹⁷The sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over us, but all who receive God's wonderful, gracious gift of righteousness will live in triumph over sin and death through this one Man, Jesus Christ.

Selections from Romans 6

⁶Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. ¹²Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires. ¹⁶Don't you realize that whatever **you choose** to obey becomes your master? ¹⁸Now you are free from sin, your old master, and you have become slaves to your new master, righteousness. ¹⁹Before, you let yourselves be slaves of impurity and lawlessness. Now **you must choose** to be slaves of righteousness so that you will become holy. ²⁰In those days, when you were slaves of sin, you weren't concerned with doing what was right. ²²But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.

Romans 7:4: The law no longer holds you in its power, because you died to its power when you died with Christ on the Cross. And now you are united with the One who was raised from the dead. As a result, you can produce good fruit, that is, good deeds for God.

Selections from Romans 8

²For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death. ³God destroyed sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁵Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace. ⁷For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. ⁹But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. ¹¹The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. ¹²So, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³For if you keep on following it you will perish, but if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it and its evil deeds you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into His family --calling Him "Father, dear Father." ¹⁸Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will give us later.

³¹What can we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³²Since God did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else? ³³Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? Will God? No! He is the one who has given us right standing with Himself. ³⁴Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for He is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us. ³⁵Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death?

³⁶(Even the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. ³⁸And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. ³⁹Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Selections from Galatians 5

Freedom in Christ

¹So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you stay free. ⁷You were getting along so well. Who has interfered with you to hold you back from following the truth? ⁸It certainly isn't God, for He is the one who called you to freedom. ¹³For you have been called to live in freedom--not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love.

Living by the Spirit's Power

¹⁶So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict. ¹⁹When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these

evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, ²⁰idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.²² But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there. ²⁵If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, or irritate one another, or be jealous of one another.

NOTES:

Your Quiet Time

God's Word is our Daily Bread.

Quiet Time in the Morning

Meeting with God in the morning is a preparation for the day, a time for spiritual cleansing and a teaching time....spiritual counsel from the Almighty Counselor. **Luke 21:38.** And all the people would get up early in the morning to come to Him in the temple and listen.

Isaiah 50:4 The Lord God has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple.

Psalms 88:13 But I, O Lord, have cried out to You for help, and in the morning my prayer comes before You.

Psalms 90:14 O Satisfy us in the morning with Your loving kindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad.

Psalms 5:3 In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will eagerly order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.

Psalms 143:8 Let me hear Your loving kindness in the morning, for I trust in You; teach me the way in which I should walk; for to You I lift up my soul.

Mark 1:35 And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place and was praying there.

Psalms 59:16 But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your loving kindness in the morning for You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of distress.

Psalms 119:9, 11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart, and there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it, for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Psalms 1:1-3 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither, and in whatever he does, he prospers.

Jeremiah 30:2 Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "Write all the Words which I have spoken to you in a book. (i.e. Journaling)

Jesus Christ ministered to other people out of the Abundance of His Relationship with the Father!

As You Come to Him

Prepare	<u>Psalm 27:8</u> – My heart has heard You say, ‘Come and talk with Me.’ And my heart responds, ‘Lord, I am coming.’
Remember	<u>Hebrews 4:14-16</u> – Let us cling to Him and never stop trusting Him. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses... Therefore, let us come boldly, with confidence to the Throne of Grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.
Enter with Thanksgiving	<u>Psalm 100:4</u> – Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and into His courts with Praise.
Confess	<u>1 John 1:9</u> – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Ask	<u>Luke 24:45</u> – Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.
Desire	<u>Luke 24:32</u> – They said to one another, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?’
Believe/Faith	<u>1 John 5:14-15</u> – This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.
Confidence	<u>Acts 4:13</u> – Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.
Result of being with Him	<u>Luke 19:40</u> – But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, ‘Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!’ He replied, ‘If they keep quiet, the stones (rocks) will cry out.’
With Him = Much Fruit	<u>John 15:5</u> – I am the Vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.
Fact	<u>Exodus 34:14</u> – You must worship no other gods, but only the Lord, for He is a God who is passionate about His relationship with you!

Why Read Christian Biography?

A selection from an article by Faith Cook

“When we are parched and dry in our own souls a great cure is to pick up and read a good Christian biography. It floods the mind and soul with vitality, faith, and joy in God. It inspires us to read about the lives of faithful men and women that have run the race with endurance. It helps us press on ourselves.” - Tyler Scarlett

Christian biographies let you know that you are not the only one that faces problems, they can challenge your preconceived notions about who God is and what He does, they serve as a warning against the sewage and destruction of sin, they reassure us that God uses ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary purposes, they show us that God, who worked in the past, is still at work in the present, and they increase our understanding of just how powerful our God truly is.

Perhaps the greatest blessing of all that comes from reading Christian biographies, and one that should encourage us to start if we have not done so already, is the assurance that our God is an unchanging God. All that He has done in the past He can repeat in our day. His power is unlimited, His grace is plentiful. He is still able to take up men and women who earnestly seek Him and use them effectively in whatever sphere He may chose. As we read, we enter into a great heritage of two thousand years of devotion and service to the God of heaven. And who can tell what He might yet do for us even today?

Biographies of Christians Hero's Then and Now: [http:// www.ywampublishing.com/c-70-christian-heroes-then-now.aspx](http://www.ywampublishing.com/c-70-christian-heroes-then-now.aspx)
 50 Best Christian Biographies: <http://www.onlinechristiancolleges.com/50-best-christian-biographies/>

You Can Memorize Scripture

If you have had trouble memorizing Scripture, don't be discouraged. Read on for insights and ideas on how to memorize God's Word.

You Can Memorize Scripture! Your memory is good! Do you think you have a poor memory? Wait a minute. What's your address and phone number? How about all the information you know by heart about your job? How about all the people you call by name? Or the facts and figures you can recite about your favorite sport or hobby? You see, your memory is really pretty good after all. Anything is easy to memorize when you are really interested in it, or use it often. A good memory is not something you either have or don't have. It is a skill, and like other skills, it can be improved. Attitude is what makes the difference. Adopt an attitude of confidence in Scripture memory and you will develop skill in memorizing. Here's some additional encouragement: You can count on God to help you memorize Scripture. He wants His Word to be in your heart.

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts." **Deuteronomy 6:6** "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." **Colossians 3:16**

How to Memorize Scripture

by The Navigators.

As you start to memorize a verse

- Read in your Bible the context of each verse you memorize.
- Try to gain a clear understanding of what each verse actually means. You may want to read the verse in other Bible translations or paraphrases or perhaps consult a commentary-after you've done your personal study!
- Read the verse through several times thoughtfully, aloud or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole. Each time you read it, say the topic, reference, verse, and then the reference again.
- Discuss the verse with God in prayer, and continue to seek His help for success in Scripture memory.

While you are memorizing the verse

- Work on saying the verse aloud as much as possible.
- Learn the topic and reference first.
- After learning the topic and reference, learn the first phrase of the verse. Once you have learned the topic, reference, and the first phrase and have repeated them several times, continue adding more phrases after you can quote correctly what you have already learned.
- Think about how the verse applies to you and your daily circumstances.
- Always include the topic and reference as part of the verse as you learn and review it.

After you can quote correctly the topic, reference, verse, and reference again

- Writing the verse out can be helpful. This deepens the impression in your mind.
- Find a friend to check you on the verse. Better yet, memorize together!
- Review the verse immediately after learning it, and repeat it frequently in the next few days. This is crucial for fixing the verse firmly in your mind because of the tendency to forget something recently learned.
- Review! Review! Review! Repetition is the best way to engrave the verses on your memory.

Topical Memory System verses (from Navigators)

Great memory system! These are life giving Words to encourage you and help equip you to encourage others.

Assurance of Salvation	Assurance of Answered Prayer	Assurance of Victory	Assurance of Forgiveness	Assurance of Guidance
1 John 5:11-12	John 16:24	1 Corinthians 10:13	1 John 1:9	Proverbs 3:5-6

Pack A: Live the New Life

Christ the Center	II Corinthians 5:17	Galatians. 2:20
Obedience to Christ	Romans 12:1	John 14:21
The Word	II Timothy 3:16	Joshua 1:8
Prayer	John 15:7	Philippians 4:6,7
Fellowship	Matthew 18:20	Hebrews 10:24,25
Witnessing	Matthew 4:19	Romans 1:16

Pack B: Proclaim Christ

All Have Sinned	Romans 3:23	Isaiah 53:6
Sin's Penalty	Romans 6:23	Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	Romans 5:8	I Peter 3:18
Salvation Not by Works	Ephesians 2:8,9	Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12	Revelation 3:20
Assurance of Salvation	I John 5:13	John 5:24

Pack C: Rely on God's Resources

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

Pack D: Be Christ's Disciple

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

Pack E: Grow in Christlikeness

Love	John 13:34,35	I John 3:18
Humility	Philippians 2:3,4	I Peter 5:5,6
Purity	Ephesians 5:3	I Peter 2:11
Honesty	Leviticus 19:11	Acts 24:16
Faith	Hebrews 11:6	Romans 4:20,21
Good Works	Galatians 6:9,10	Matthew 5:16

Life Issues Verses

We suggest you select any of these verses for your weekly memory verse using your own translation. Or for a period of time, you and your group could memorize a section together using the same translation or your own.

Knowing God's Will
Proverbs 16:9
Proverbs 3:5-7
Jeremiah 29:11-13
Romans 12:2
Isaiah 30:21
1 John 5:14-15

Perfectionism
Galatians 3:3
Psalms 127:1-2
Ephesians 2:8-9
Ecclesiastes 2:10-11
2 Corinthians 12:9
Luke 10:40-42

Money
Matthew 6:19-20
Deuteronomy 8:17-18a
1 Timothy 6:9-10
Philippians 4:11b-13
2 Corinthians 9:6-7
Matthew 6:24

God's view of you
Psalms 139:13-14a
1 Samuel 16:7b
Jeremiah 9:23-24a
Philippians 2:3-5
Peter 3:3-4
Matthew 10:29-31

Anger
James 1:19-20
Proverbs 29:11
Proverbs 15:1
Romans 12:19
Ephesians 4:26-27
Colossians 3:8-10

Stress
Psalms 118:5-6
Matthew 11:28-30
Psalms 73:26
Philippians 4:6-7
2 Corinthians 4:16-18
1 Peter 5:6-7

Dealing With Sin
1 John 1:8-9
1 Corinthians 10:13
Romans 6:11-13
Galatians 6:1-2
James 4:7-8
Ephesians 6:10-12

Depression
Psalms 42:5
Lamentations 3:19-23
2 Corinthians 1:8b-9
Isaiah 43:1b-2
Psalms 34:17-18
2 Corinthians 4:8-10

Suffering
Romans 5:2b-5
1 Peter 4:12-13
1 Peter 1:6b-7
2 Corinthians 1:3-4
James 1:2-4
James 1:12

Guilt
Romans 8:1-2
Psalms 51:9-10
Proverbs 28:13
Psalms 32:1-2
2 Corinthians 7:10
James 5:16

Sex
1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
Matthew 5:27-28
1 Corinthians 6:18-20
Ephesians 5:3
Romans 13:13-14
Hebrews 13:4

Love
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
John 13:34-35
1 John 4:20
Romans 8:38-39
Matthew 22:37-40
1 Corinthians 13:1-3

The “**Topical Memory System (TMS)**” and “**TMS: Life Issues**” were developed by The Navigators as a simple, easy-to-use system to help believers memorize key verses that point to basic truths and important instructions. The **TMS** focuses on how to live a life of Christ-focused, assured discipleship, and the “**TMS: Life Issues**” focuses on significant, relevant issues that face us on the road through life.

If you would like to order the complete Topical Memory System, including pocket-sized memory verse cards, instead of writing out your own cards visit one of the NavPress website here:

<http://www.navpress.com/#sthash.DZ5V059H.dpbs>

<http://www.navpress.com/Topical-Memory-System/dp/1576839974#sthash.pzrCm9a4.dpbs>

<http://www.navpress.com/Topical-Memory-System-Issues-God-s/dp/1600066712#sthash.GZo1bypa.dpbs>

Praying Through Scripture

Jesus prayed Scripture and He is our example.

Why Pray Scripture?

Jesus is our model. With the Scriptures, He opposed temptation and answered His critics.

He even prayed the Words of the Psalms from the Cross.

Praying the Scriptures is talking to God in His own language. How does a baby learn to talk? By listening to His Father.

God's Word gives the Spirit His two-edged weapon. **Ephesians 6:17** says, "Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." Fill your prayers with the powerful weapon of God's Word. No soldier dares report to duty without a weapon. His life depends on it. So does yours! Bring the power of the Word into your praise and prayer. Amy Carmichael wrote, "The only thing that matters in our warfare is the faithful use of His precious blade, the Word."

God binds Himself to His promises, so learn to plead the promises of God. D.L. Moody said, "Tarry at a promise and God will meet you there." **Numbers 23:19** tells us, "Has God said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" Every promise is like a check, its value is nothing more than a piece of paper until it is cashed at the bank. Praying the Word of God "cashes" His promises. At the age of 90, George Mueller said that he never had an unanswered prayer. His secret? "I always pray with an open Bible, filling my praise and petition with God's Word. I pray God's promises, His declarations concerning Himself. I pray His names and titles by which He reveals His nature and character. I pray the rights He gave the believer to bold and confident access. When a need arose, I spread them all out before God who hears His children. My heavenly Father will not break His word to His own child."

Praying the Word of God builds faith. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." **Romans 10:17**

Praying the Scriptures assures that you are praying the mind and will of God. Charles Spurgeon said that our prayers are according to the mind of God when they are according to the Word of God.

Praying God's Word seals the answer. Promises predict the answers. They point to what to expect. **Isaiah 55:11** says that God's Word never returns to Him void without accomplishing what He desires. Don't worry on your knees and call it prayer.

Praying God's Word brings God's power into our praying. In the Amplified Bible, **Luke 1:37** says, "For with God nothing is ever impossible, and no Word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment." Mary clearly understood it this way. She replied, "May it be to me as you have said." **Luke 1:38**.

Praying Scriptures orchestrates prayer agreement for multiplied power. **Leviticus 26:8** says, "Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you."

Deuteronomy 32:30 refers to one man chasing a thousand, or two putting ten thousand to flight.

How to Pray Scriptures

Read a verse or Scripture passage. Ask God what He sees. He will give you a praise, a confession, or a petition based on the passage. Pray it back to God. Praying the Word of God is God-oriented praying (a good antidote to self-centered shopping list praying). In praying a promise, focus on the God of the promise, whose name and character guarantee the fulfillment of the promise. Seek His face, not His hand. Gaze at God, glance at the requests. Match His attributes and names to your needs.

Let's Be Honest

How can we use Scripture to deal with our feelings?

This is a reminder to all of us that we need to recognize feelings as just that – feelings. We need to offer our feelings to God, and not condemn or judge those among us who honestly share their emotions (feelings) with us. A feeling or emotion is not a sin. How we respond to a feeling determines whether we will sin or not. The Lord desires truth and honesty at the deepest level and wants us to experience His love, forgiveness, and power in all areas of our lives. Experiencing His love does not mean that all of our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors will be pleasant and pure. It means that we can be real, feeling pain and joy, love and anger, confidence and confusion. The Psalms give us tremendous insight about what it means to be honest with the Lord. David and other psalmists wrote and spoke honestly about the full range of their responses to situations.

For example, David expressed his anger with the Lord because he felt abandoned by Him: I say to God my Rock, Why have You forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? (**Psalm 42:9, NIV**)

At times, David was very angry with others, and he expressed his anger to the Lord in terms that reveal the depth of his feelings: Break the teeth in their mouths, O God; LORD, tear out the fangs of those lions! Let them vanish like water that flows away; when they draw the bow, let their arrows fall short. May they be like a slug that melts away as it moves along, like a stillborn child that never sees the sun. Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns—whether they be green or dry—the wicked will be swept away. (**Psalm 58:6-9, NIV**)

David wrote of his despair about difficult situations: My heart is in anguish within me: the terrors of death have fallen on me. Fear and trembling have beset me; the horror has overwhelmed me. (**Psalm 55: 4-5, NIV**)

And he communicated his despair to the Lord: Why do You hide Your face and forget our misery and oppression? We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to ground. (**Psalm 44: 24-25, NIV**)

Sometimes he was confused: How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? (**Psalm 13: 1-2, NIV**)

Sometimes David communicated his love for the Lord: As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? (**Psalm 42: 1-2, NIV**)

At times David trusted in the Lord: The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked advance against me to devour me, It is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. (**Psalm 27: 1-3, NIV**)

At other times he was filled with praise for God: I will exalt You, my God the King: I will praise Your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise You and extol Your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. (**Psalm 145: 1-3, NIV**)

In Conclusion, think about this:

These passages demonstrate that God, who spoke of David as a man after His own heart, wants us to be open and honest with Him about all of our emotions, not just the pleasant ones.

It is clear after reading David's conversations with God; we have permission to be completely honest with our Heavenly Father. If we aren't dumping every last pain, hurt, discouragement, disappointment, and all of our other true feelings on God, it will leak out and get dumped on others. You can count on it! Whether this happens verbally or non-verbally...it **will** come out!

It is a lot of work to walk with God like this. But He wants to do the work in us. That is why pursuing a relationship with God is the critical priority over everything else in our life! God invites us to *come to Him*, (**Hebrews 4:16, Psalm 27:8**)

to pour all this out. What is the result? We will become closer to Him because we haven't left Him out of the process. He wants to be included! And, after He listens, He wants to tell us the Truth. He is into His children being set free. After all, what Father wouldn't be?

When we dump our anger or hurts on a close friend, what is the result? As they listen to us and pray with us, we connect with them and feel that someone understands us. We have an Ultimate Someone who is the Lover of our soul....Jesus Himself! He is just waiting for you to come and "let it all out!" David's talks with God clearly let us know we have permission to be open and honest about our feelings, why else would God have allowed all of those talks to be in His Word? Once again....the *Truth has set us free!*

The Wake-Up Call

Source unknown

Look at the Tester, not the tempter. John 8:36 – "If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed."

What if Satan called a worldwide convention, and in his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep the people from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from conservative values. But, we can do something else. We can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding relationship with God. If they gain that connection with God, our power over them is broken.

So let them go to church, let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time, so they can't gain that experience with God. This is what I want you to do, angels. Distract them from gaining hold of their God and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!" "How shall we do this?" shouted his angels.

"Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent unnumbered schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, then borrow, borrow, borrow. Convince the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6 or 7 days a week, 10- 12 hours a day, so they can afford their lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their family fragments, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work.

Over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still small voice. Entice them to play their car stereo whenever they drive, to keep the TV, smartphones and their PCs going constantly in their homes. And see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non biblical, contradicting music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with God.

Fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogs, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services, and false hopes.

Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted, and unprepared for the coming week. Don't let them go out in nature to reflect on God's wonders. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts, and movies instead.

And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotion.

Let them be involved in soul-winning. But crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from God. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause."

It was quite a convention in the end. And the evil angels went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians and Jews everywhere to get busy, busy, busy and rush here and there.

Has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge.

How about this definition of BUSY? **Being Under Satan's Yoke**

Has the Lord spoken to your heart? Please stop and have a talk with Him. If He has exposed anything that needs to change in your life, make it a prayer request. He is just waiting for you to ask! Remember, "He rides across the Heavens to help you, across the skies in majestic splendor" (**Deuteronomy 33:26**), and "He is passionate about His relationship with you. (**Exodus 34:14**)

Please remember to ask the Lord to show you when you are hearing any other voice than His. Then make the choice not to engage with the voice of the enemy! Preventative medicine.

NOTES:

One Liners

1. We're better together.
2. We're not victims, we're victors. We don't work for the victory, we work from the victory. We don't have to work for something we already have but we do have to work at maintaining it.
3. Get feisty, ladies!
4. You're hosting royalty.
5. Don't look at the tempter, look at the tester.
6. Possess your possessions.
7. We're not damaged goods.
8. Don't feed the dogs.
9. It all starts in the mind.
10. Satan, the sinful nature, and the foxes (messengers of Satan) are all on God's Holy leash.
11. You don't have to play Christian anymore.
12. We're not doing baggage maintenance anymore, we're doing temple maintenance.
13. Don't have a feeding frenzy; instead, fellowship with the Father.
14. Obedience always cancels the plans of the enemy, and God always blesses obedience.
15. Hang on for the ride of your life.
16. Praise paralyzes the enemy.
17. God's not asking you to stop talking, but to change your audience to Him.
18. Don't rehearse conversations with yourself; instead converse with the Father.
19. Jesus is not a part-time lover; He never divorces His bride.
20. The sinful nature is a sorry loser and it stalks you.
21. Is what you're doing working for you?
22. The sinful nature never has your best interest at heart, but God ALWAYS has your best interest at heart.
23. After a good teacher teaches you, he tests you.
24. God is not a cruel commander; He doesn't put you on the front lines without taking you through a Holy boot camp or a spiritual gym.
25. Every time you are tempted (hear that other voice) God is asking you, "Do you know what I did for you on that Cross?"
26. We broke up with our sinful nature and now we're going with God.
27. God has an amazing plan for your life: even though you may have ruined plan A, He has an extravagant plan B for you.
28. Quick, catch all the little foxes!
29. Satan always fascinates, and then he assassinates.
30. We may not have it all together, but together we have it all.
31. The sinful nature is paralyzed from the neck down.
32. Don't have an affair with your old sinful nature.
33. The message of the Cross can be summed up in 3 words: Come to Me.
34. Dump your truck.
35. Okay, God, this is how I feel...
36. We have 100% of the Holy Spirit.
37. God doesn't do anything halfway.
38. Keep short accounts with God.
39. You have a sinful nature, but it doesn't have you.
40. Ask God to show you when you're hearing any other voice but His.
41. God, please show me when I'm having conversations with myself.
42. David dumps.
43. Nothing can happen without God's permission.
44. It's the Lord who allows us to hear those other voices for the purpose of getting us to turn to Him.
45. Everyone is trying to change their behavior. God's way is to change our mind according to His truth, then the right behavior will follow.
46. You can't make yourself clean. If you could, why did Jesus even need to come here?
47. It's not just about you feeling better after you pour out to God regarding someone who has offended you, but it's about you being about the work of His Kingdom and praying for that person that offended you.
48. When Satan knocks on your door, just say, "Jesus, it's for You."
49. Your behavior shows others who you are listening to. Others' behavior shows you who they are listening to.
50. We have too much junk in our trunk.
51. Don't cope, have hope.
52. Either you are listening to the father of lies or the Father of Light.
53. Listening to lies is loving the loser, listen to the Lord and live.
54. Every time you hear those other voices that God allows, Jesus is asking you "Do you know what I did for you on the Cross?" If you know, you will choose His voice over the others.
55. All of life is a course on forgiveness, and it started with My forgiving you.
56. Only the guilty laugh.

57. Do you want to get well? **John 5**
58. God rides across the Heavens to help us.
59. This is a time in our world for Christians to shine.
60. Hell is giving to men what they have wanted all along... freedom from Him.
61. God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.
62. God is not interested in your ability, but your availability.
63. If the mountain were smooth, you couldn't climb it.
64. God speaking: "You do know that your issue is not with that person. Your issue is with Me because I am the one allowing this. So do you have an issue with Me?"
65. God says, "Just because you don't see Me working doesn't mean that I'm not." (**Hebrews 11:1**)
66. God is just WAITING for you to ask.
67. When you are down to nothing, God is up to something.
68. God can work with a *want to*.
69. Never forget that Jesus WASHED the feet of those who would fail Him in His darkest hour.
70. The Task ahead of us is never greater than the POWER BEHIND US.
71. EVANGELISM is not a passion for souls. But it IS A PASSION FOR GOD!
72. Nothing we do or say in this LIFETIME will matter as much as the way we have LOVED one another.
73. It is far better to Forgive and Forget than to Resent and Remember.
74. The two most powerful warriors are patience and time.
75. Faith is continuing to run the race, assured that you will get your second wind.
76. When we wait on God, no time is lost.
77. We are measured by what we finish, not by what we start.
78. You can save a lot of time waiting on God.
79. Information without application leads to frustration.
80. God has plans that would minimize yours in comparison.
81. Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil... it has no point.
82. Rest in Me weary one, for this is a form of worship.
83. Apologizing does not always mean you are wrong and the other person is right. It just means you value your relationship more than your pride and ego.
84. God's grace has released us from selfishness -- why return?
85. God never gives us discernment to criticize, but to intercede.
86. Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.
87. Hurt me with the Truth, but never comfort me with a lie.
88. One who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day.
89. We are in trouble when *expectations* of a person exceed *appreciation* of that person.
90. God, before I ask You for anything, I want to thank You for everything.
91. God gives the best only to those who leave the choice with Him.
92. You may not know *what* the future holds, but you do know *Who* holds the future.
93. Live your life in such a way that when your feet hit the floor in the morning, Satan shudders and says "Oh no! She's awake!"
94. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
95. If you can't pray a door open, don't try to pry it open...wait on Him.
96. You may say, "I am waiting on God" but perhaps God is waiting on you.
97. You will always have time for that which you put first.
98. Where prayer is focused, power falls!
99. If God is your co-pilot, swap seats.
100. We don't have a hopeless end, we have endless hope.
101. Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservations.
102. Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of *wait*.
103. Enjoy Him, because He sure enjoys you!
104. Lord, what do YOU want to say?
105. Jesus Christ ministered out of the abundance of His relationship with the Father.
106. No passion ... no power.
107. God has not called us to anything but Himself... and everything else flows from that call.
108. You can't pour from an empty cup.
109. Start small... go deep... and think big!
110. If your output exceeds your intake, then your upkeep becomes your downfall!
111. More is caught than taught.
112. I can't brag about my love for God because I fail Him daily. But I can brag about His love for me because it never fails. (**Lamentations 3:22-23**)
113. Too blessed to be stressed.

My Sheep Hear My Voice

"My sheep recognize My voice; I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27

"After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they recognize his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't recognize his voice." **John 10:4-5**

As you go through the week, write in each of these columns:

What am I Hearing?

What is God Saying?

Now go back and confess those things that you heard from the enemy that you engaged in, because it breaks your fellowship with God.

“...if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.” **1 John 1:9**

The Word Hand Illustration:

As a “lamp unto [our] feet and a light unto [our] path (**Psalm 119:105**), the Word of God is more than simply a set of guidelines or recommendations. It gives us the foundation for how we live, move, and shape every aspect of our lives. (**2 Timothy 3:15-17** “You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.”). **The Word Hand Illustration** is a simple way to break down five methods of taking in God’s Word.



HEARING

Romans 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.” Hearing the Word taught by godly pastors and teachers provides fresh insight into the Scriptures to challenge and expand your own understanding, as well as stimulating your own appetite for Its Truth.

READING

Revelation 1:3 “God blesses the one who reads the Words of this prophecy to the church, and He blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.” Reading the Bible is often the way that God most directly speaks to us. Many people find it helpful to use a daily reading program or other method that takes a systematic approach to drawing lessons from the Bible.

STUDYING

Acts 17:11 “And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.” Earnestly studying the Scriptures allows God’s Word to speak directly to our hearts—to correct, encourage, and edify us. Writing down your discoveries will help you organize and remember them.

MEMORIZING

Psalms 119:9, 11 “I have hidden Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” Memorizing God’s Word trains us to use the Sword of the Spirit when we are faced with temptations and opposition by Satan. By holding passages from the Bible in our minds, we are also able to have them readily available for witnessing or in encouraging others with a “Word in season”. (**2 Timothy 4:2**).

MEDITATING

Psalms 1:2, 3 “But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.” They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.” Meditation is the thumb of the Word Hand, because when used in conjunction with each of the other methods, the Spirit begins to deeply move in our hearts and speak to our souls. Only as we meditate on God’s Word—thinking of Its meaning and application in our lives—will we discover Its transforming power at work within us.



The Wheel Illustration



Navigators have used the simple but effective illustration of The Wheel as a discipleship tool ever since its creation by Navigators' founder Dawson Trotman. By helping Christians understand how they are called to live as disciples of Christ, The Wheel illustration has helped to illuminate and clarify the motion of the Christian life since the 1930's.

Each part of this illustration represents a crucially important component of a vibrant Christian life—from the rim representing obedience to Christ, to the hub of Christ-centeredness, to each of the four spokes of witnessing, prayer, fellowship and the Word.

If you need a simple, effective way to visually explain the structure of a God-glorifying life to someone you're discipling, sharing The Wheel diagram can be as simple as drawing it out on a napkin or notepad. Challenge them to think deeply about how to be an obedient follower of Christ.



The Volitional Dimension: How You Relate to Yourself

The Hub: Christ the Center

Total surrender to Christ's authority and lordship is not always a decision made right at conversion, but is a necessary act of will. For the believer, the "old life" has gone and the new has come (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), and Christ dwells through us instead (**Galatians 2:20**). God creates within us the desire to do what He wants us to do in order to express His lordship in our lives.

The Rim: Obedience to Christ

Some acts of obedience to God are internal, such as attitudes, habits, motives, values and day-to-day thoughts. But even these eventually surface outwardly in our relationships with other people. Keeping His commandments in obedience is our outward indication of inward health and love for Christ—our worship (**John 14:21, Romans 12:1**).



The Vertical Dimension: How You Relate to God

The Word Spoke

The Word of God is His direct voice showing us not only who He is, but how to live and interact with everyone around us (**2 Timothy 3:16**). This means an earnest personal intake of God's Word is essential for health

and growth (**Joshua 1:8**). As God speaks to us through the Scriptures, we can see His principles for life and ministry, learn how to obey Him and become acquainted with the Christ who is worthy of our steadfast allegiance.



The Prayer Spoke

Prayer is the natural response to God as we hear Him speak through His Word. It is sharing our heart with the One who longs for our companionship and who cares about our concerns. Prayer not only trains our hearts and minds to know the power and glory of God, but also turns His ear towards action in our lives and of those who we pray for (**John 15:7, Philippians 4:6-7**).

The Horizontal Dimension: How You Relate to Others



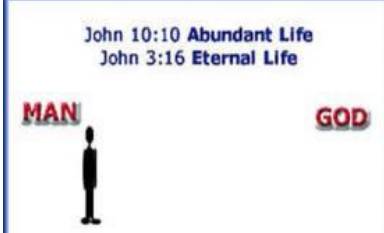



The Fellowship Spoke

God has directed Christians to build each other up through inter-dependence and loving relationships with each other (**Hebrews 10:24-25**). Gathering together as the Body of Christ draws God close around us as we praise Him and encourage one another (**Matthew 18:20**).

The Witnessing Spoke

God has given believers the joy and responsibility of telling the world about the Good News of Christ's work on earth (**Matthew 4:19**). In fact, sharing this spectacular news with others should be the natural overflow of a rich, vibrant life in Christ (**Romans 1:1**).

Explaining the Gospel.

	<p><u>God's Purpose:</u> God desires that we experience an abundant life. This would include such things as love, peace, purpose, and fulfillment. He also desires that we experience both abundant life now and eternal life with Him.</p> <p>John 10:10 John 3:16</p>
	<p><u>Our Problem:</u> Not only do we have the ability to make good choices, but we also have the ability to make evil choices and sin. The consequences of our sin bring about the judgment of God. On our own, there's no way we can attain the perfection needed to bridge the gap to God. Through the ages, individuals have tried many ways...without success.</p> <p>Romans 3:23 Romans 6:23 Hebrews 9:27</p>
	<p><u>God's Remedy:</u> In spite of the fact that we have turned our backs on God and have disobeyed Him, He has provided a remedy so that we can know Him personally. He wants to give us both abundant life and eternal life. Only one bridge can cross the gulf that exists between a person and God, and that bridge is Jesus Christ, through His death on the Cross. God sacrificed His Son to pay the price for all of our sins and bring us reconciliation to Him.</p> <p>Ephesian 2:8-9 1Peter 3:18 1Timothy 2:5 Romans 5:8</p>
	<p><u>Our Response:</u> Christ has made it possible for us to cross over to God's side and experience the full life that He wants us to have. But we are not automatically on God's side. In order to receive the gift of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation and cross over to God's side, we must believe Him and trust Him. Believing means trust and commitment - acknowledging our sinfulness, trusting Christ's forgiveness and letting Him control our life. Eternal, abundant life is a gift for us to receive.</p> <p>John 1:12 Romans 10:9-10 Results In: John 5:24 John 1:12</p>

How to receive Christ:

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit (Receive Him as Lord and Savior of your life).

What next?

1. Maintain regular intake of the Bible to know Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Tell others about your new faith in Christ.
4. Worship, fellowship and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached.

NOTES:

The Power of Prayer Evangelism

Prayerlessness is one of the greatest hindrances to evangelism in our families, workplaces and in our neighborhoods. One of the reasons why more people are not coming to faith in Christ is the lack of intercessory and intentional prayer for the lost. *"The evangelization of the world...depends first of all upon a revival of prayer."* Robert Speer. *"If you want to go to heaven, you have to make a reservation because it's a Gated Community."* Skip Gray.

Ask God to open their spiritual eyes: God because You said:

2 Corinthians 4 - Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

Ask God to set them free from spiritual captivity:

2 Timothy 2:25-26 They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

Ask God to give them ears to hear

Matthew 13:15 For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear and they have closed their eyes – so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to Me and let Me heal them.'

Ask God to give them faith to believe

Acts 20:21 I have had one message for Jews and Gentiles alike--the necessity of turning from sin and turning to God, and of faith in our Lord Jesus.

Ask God to give them the will to respond

Romans 10:19 But did the people of Israel really understand? Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God had said, "I will rouse your jealousy by blessing other nations. I will make you angry by blessing the foolish Gentiles."

Ask God to send people into their lives to witness to them

Matthew 9:38 So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send out more workers for His fields."

Ask God for ways to build caring relationships:

1 Corinthians 9:22 When I am with those who are oppressed, I share their oppression so that I might bring them to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ.

Ask God for opportunities to witness

Colossians 4:3 Don't forget to pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to preach about His secret plan--that Christ is also for you Gentiles. That is why I am here in chains.

Ask God for boldness to witness

Acts 4:29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give Your servants great boldness in their preaching.

Ask God for an opportunity to invite them to an event

Luke 14:23 So his master said, "Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full."

LIST NAMES BELOW PRAY FOR THEM EACH DAY:

Monday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Tuesday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Wednesday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Thursday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Friday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Saturday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Sunday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Date: _____ **Group:** _____

Men's "Salt & Light "
Attendee Information
Please Print Clearly

Name: _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone #: (H) _____ (C) _____

Email: _____

What Church do you attend? _____ **How long?** _____

Married? _____ **Children?** _____

How long have you been a Christian? _____ **Still seeking?** _____

Tell us about yourself (use back if you need more space):

How did you find out about this Men's group?

Out of the Darkness into His Marvelous Light
Please answer the following Questions....

Before – what did your life look like before you gave your life to Christ?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How – Specific event of how you actually came to Christ... or perhaps you are still seeking...just identify where you are. (You have to start where you are to get where you want to go!)

Now – what does your life look like now since you have given your life to the Lord?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light". **1 Peter 2:9**

Name: _____

**What are some things you would enjoy
doing to contribute to this Men's "Salt & Light" Ministry?**

Please circle items of interest:

Write below if you have more input. Thank you for your heart to serve the Lord in this ministry!!

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area of interest, gifting or talent	Description:
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Work — be specific i.e. entering email addresses, compiling data, working with web page design, creating flyers, etc. What programs are you familiar with?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance - i.e. problem solving, trouble shooting, brainstorming?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational skills —arranging "Salt & Light" storage room, helping with ministry projects, preparing for events, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Music — Play a musical instrument, sing solos or duets, lead worship, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Drama — for special evenings, certain topics, yearly events, occasional other smaller events.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning — being part of a team to implement & carry out the details for big events.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Food coordination - for one of our 2 yearly events, occasional other smaller events.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion and Ticket Sales — marketing and advertising events (social media, etc.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Manager Skills — Assigning tasks, overseeing others, unifying people in common goal.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Team Building Activities — come up with ideas, coordinate and implement.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism — Participating, organizing event, teaching, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer - Participating, organizing event, teaching, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please tell us - anything else you might like to do as well as anything that we have omitted from this list.	

CUT THIS PAGE OUT ALONG THIS LINE

