



Participant Guide: Memory Verses, Questions, and Discussion Points, and Outlines

Here is a series of 12 two-page Participant Guides that include the memory verse, questions and discussion points, and outlines for each lesson in the *JesusWalk: Beginning the Journey* curriculum for new Christian believers. Lessons are available free in video, audio, and written formats on the Internet. <http://www.jesuswalk.com/beginning/>

You'll need these Participant Guides if you and your mentor *don't* have the book version of *JesusWalk: Beginning the Journey*. If you each have a copy, use your books instead. Books are available for a modest price at <http://www.jesuswalk.com/books/beginning.htm>

Print out a copy of the current lesson. All but Lesson 11 can be printed on two pages (or two sides) of letter size or A4 size paper.

- **Take notes on the outline.** While you are watching the video or listening to the audio, you can take notes on the outline.
- **Follow the questions and discussion points.** After the lesson, discuss each of the questions and discussion points.
- **Memorize the memory verse.** Each of these lessons contains a memory verse, usually in the New International Version (NIV). Feel free to substitute the Bible translation most often used in your congregation.

Whether or not you have purchased the book, **you may print the pages in this Participant Guide at no charge whatsoever** for the mentor and new Christian. If you are teaching a group or class, you also have permission to print out the pages in this Participant Guide and distribute them at no charge to the members of your group. Please do NOT make them available on the Internet! Rather refer website visitors to the free copy on the [JesusWalk: Beginning the Journey site](http://www.jesuswalk.com/beginning/beginning-handouts.pdf). www.jesuswalk.com/beginning/beginning-handouts.pdf

1. Rescue—Grace and Forgiveness

Memory Verse

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

1. **Talk about** what Jesus rescued you from. In what way were you like the lost sheep in the story in Luke 15:4-7?
2. **Discuss** why you believe that God loves you. Does he love you because you are loveable or good? Does he accept you only if you meet certain conditions?
3. **Discuss** how you know you have been forgiven. Based on 1 John 1:9, if you sin after becoming a Christian, can you be cleansed from your sins again? What does it mean to “confess” your sins to God?
4. **Discuss** why so many people think they have to be good to earn God’s favor. Based on Ephesians 2:8-9, is there any way to earn God’s favor? What is the place of faith or trust in this process?
5. **Sing** (if you know the tune) the first verse of “Amazing Grace.” Why do you think John Newton was so thankful for God’s grace?
6. **Ask** your mentor when he or she was baptized and to tell you how it happened.
7. **Find out** how to be baptized in the church or group you have been attending.
8. **Make an appointment** to talk to the pastor or group leader about being baptized.
9. **Read the memory verse**, Ephesians 2:8-9 five times aloud with your mentor—even though it may seem a bit silly doing it. Then write it on a 3” x 5” card. (Any size will do.) That is how you begin to memorize something. Each lesson will have a memory verse that contains such an important truth that it is worth the time and effort to memorize.
10. **Pray together** about your new life in Christ. If you are not very comfortable praying aloud yet, ask your mentor to pray for you.
11. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet to go through next week’s lesson.

Outline of Lesson 1. Rescue—Grace and Forgiveness

1. You are a new Christian. What happened to you?

- God has rescued you.
- Jesus' Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4-7)
 - Jesus rescues us like the shepherd in the story rescued the endangered, straying sheep.
 - In Christian jargon "saved" means rescued.
- God loves you (John 3:16).
- God has forgiven you.
- Jesus died on the cross for your sins.
 - There is a promise of forgiveness in 1 John 1:9.
 - Forgiveness means that God doesn't hold your sin against you.
 - In the future, if you sin, confess your sins and God will forgive you.
- God accepts you unconditionally as his child. You don't have to do anything to earn acceptance.

2. God shows you grace and mercy

- "Grace" is God's favor to you, which you don't deserve and can't earn (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- "Mercy" is not getting the punishment you deserve.
- Song: "Amazing Grace" was written by ex-slave ship captain John Newton, who experienced God's grace.

3. Baptism

- In the Great Commission, Jesus commanded us to be baptized (Matthew 28:19-20).
- Baptism is a sign:
 - That you are united with Jesus.
 - That your sins are washed away.
 - Of your commitment to a new Master.
- Talk to a pastor about being baptized.

2. Disciple—Following Jesus Daily

Memory Verse

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” (John 8:31-32, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

1. **Read aloud five times** the new memory verse (John 8:31-32) and write it on a card.
2. **Discuss** why it is important how you think of your relationship to God. How will an understanding of yourself as a “disciple,” a “Christ-follower,” or a “Jesus-follower” help change your actions?
3. **Discuss.** How you would describe your relationship to God to someone who did not have the same kind of belief in Jesus that you now have?
4. **Look in** the front of a Bible to locate the Table of Contents. Here is where you can find the page numbers of the books contained in the Bible.
5. **Find** the two main parts of the Bible. Do you remember what they are called?
6. **Find** the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and the book of Acts, all in the New Testament.
7. **Decide** which Gospel you will begin to read each day. (Recommendation: John or Mark)
8. **Locate and read** Hebrews 4:12 in your Bible.
9. **Discuss** how you can obtain a Bible of your own, if you don’t have one already.
10. **Plan** the time of the day in which you will set aside 5 or 10 minutes to read your Bible and pray. This should be a time that you are awake and, if possible, a time that you can set aside nearly every day.
11. **Say from memory** (or try to) last lesson’s memory verse: Ephesians 2:8-9. If you can’t say it flawlessly yet, take out the card you wrote it on, read it, then try to say it again from memory.
12. **Pray together** about your new life in Christ and any problems you are currently having.
13. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet and go through next week’s lesson.

Outline of Lesson 2. Disciple—Following Jesus Daily

1. The disciple concept impacts your self-image

- Jesus called Peter and Andrew. They left their nets and followed him (Matthew 4:18-20).
- “Christian” means “little Christ,” a reference to Christ’s followers, but is used too broadly in our day.
- “Believer” emphasizes putting your faith in Christ.
- “Disciple” means “learner,” used of the early followers of Jesus.
- “Christ-follower” or “Jesus-follower” refers to a committed follower of Christ, a term understood positively in our culture.

2. Read the Bible Daily

- Bible reading helps you learn Jesus’ teachings directly
- The Bible has two parts: Old Testament and New Testament
- Begin with the Gospel of Mark or of John
- Get a newer translation—a study Bible, if possible.
- Each book in the Bible is divided into chapters and verses.

3. Learning to Pray

- Just asking God only for things for yourself is selfish.
- A balanced prayer approach follows the acronym ACTS:
 - Adoration
 - Confession
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication

4. Set Aside a “Quiet Time”

- Spend 5 to 10 minutes every day with God.
- Spend time reading the Bible, praying, and listening to God.
- A “quiet time” produces spiritual growth.
Ask God for guidance at the beginning of each day.

3. Temptations—Getting Victory over Sin

Memory Verse

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

1. **Read aloud** five times your new memory verse (1 John 1:9) and copy it onto a card.
2. **Report** how your daily quiet time is going. Discuss any problems you are having with setting aside the time, interruptions, tiredness, etc.
3. **Baptism.** Have you made an appointment yet to discuss baptism with a pastor? If so, what is the process in your church for being baptized?
4. **Discuss.** What is sin? In what way is it part of our fallen human nature?
5. **Discuss.** Does Satan make us sin? If not, what part does he have in temptation?
6. **Discuss.** How does the Holy Spirit help us resist sin?
7. **Discuss.** What strategies can help us resist temptation? Which of these strategies seem to work best for you?
8. **Discuss.** What is the difference between repentance and confession? How does confession strengthen you to resist temptation the next time you are tempted?
9. **Discuss.** How do you know that God will forgive you when you sin again and again? Is there a point where he stops forgiving you?
10. **Discuss.** When you are tempted, is that a sin, even though you are able to resist the temptation?
11. **Review** the memory verses for Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9) and Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32). Keep working on your memory verses during the week so you are able to say them without any mistakes. By the way, when you say the verse, also say the reference after the verse. Why don't you challenge your mentor that you can say the verses better than he or she next week.
12. **Pray.** Discuss with your mentor which sins you are having the most trouble resisting. Then pray with your mentor, asking God for help to resist temptation and for forgiveness.
13. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet and go through next week's lesson.

Outline of Lesson 3. Temptations—Getting Victory over Sin

1. Basics about sin

- Sin springs from a deep active or passive rebellion against God, resulting in sinful actions.
- We humans have a sinful nature, traced back to Adam and Eve.
- We have an adversary, Satan or the devil.
 - He is an actual spiritual person.
 - Jesus taught about him.
 - Jesus was tempted by Satan prior to his ministry.
 - Demons, fallen angels who serve Satan, also seek to tempt us.
- The Holy Spirit's power is greater than Satan's power.
 - The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual life. We are "born again" by the Spirit (John 3:6-7).
 - The Holy Spirit makes us alive spiritually (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - The Holy Spirit gives us power over the tyranny of sin (1 John 3:9).

2. Strategies that help us stop sinning

- Trust in God. God is with you to help you in this battle (1 John 4:4).
- Be Humble. You can't win this battle by yourself, only when you find your strength in God.
- Resist the temptation. Don't flirt with a sin, but resist it firmly (James 4:7)
- Flee from sin's temptation (1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:22). Stay away from people and situations that tend to lead you into sin.
- Embrace truth.
 - We do what we really believe to be true.
 - When we embrace the truth taught by Jesus, we will stop believing the false beliefs that lead us into sin (John 8:31-32).
 - Scripture memory is a way of embracing and internalizing truth (Psalms 119:11).
- Pray when you are tempted.
 - The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray about temptation (Matthew 6:13).
 - Jesus prayed when he was tempted.
 - Jesus taught his disciples to pray when they were tempted (Matthew 26:41).
- Love God and embrace his love for you.
 - When you see sin as an offence against one you love, it is easier to resist.

3. What If You *Do* Fall to Temptation?

- Christians do sin after their conversion, but there is forgiveness for us.
- Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:1-2).
- Repentance is sorrow for sin and willingness to turn away from it.
- Confession is stating that you have sinned—no excuses. Confession moves us from darkness to light (1 John 1:7).
- Receiving forgiveness. God promises to (1) forgive you and (2) cleanse you from your sin (1 John 1:9).

4. More tips

- Temptation is not sin, even though it may make you feel dirty.
- There is no end to God's forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-22).
It is worth struggling against sin. Don't give up. (John 16:33).

4. Fellowship—Connecting to a Community of Christians

Memory Verse

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

1. **Read aloud** five times the new memory verse (John 13:34-35) and copy it onto a card.
2. **Discuss.** Why does God’s nature of love require that Jesus’ followers be part of a community?
3. **Discuss.** What are four communities that Christian gatherings are compared to in the Bible?
_____ (Hint: A group consisting of blood relatives.)
_____ (Hint: The flesh and blood part of you.)
_____ (Hint: A group of wooly animals.)
_____ (Hint: The word literally means “the called-out-ones”)
What unique truths about the church does each of these analogies teach us?
4. **Discuss.** What benefits do you receive by being part of a church?
5. **Discuss.** Why are small groups important for your spiritual growth?
6. **Discuss.** What is wrong with “church hopping,” going from one church to another without settling down?
7. **Discuss.** Why aren’t any churches perfect? If this is so, according to John 13:34-35, why is loving one another a true sign of being authentic disciples of Jesus?
8. **Attend church with your mentor**, if you haven’t already done so. Discuss what impressions you had of the people in this church.
9. **What kinds of responsibilities** has your mentor had in a church or small group? How has a church or small group helped your mentor?
10. **Baptism.** Have you arranged to be baptized yet? If not, what is keeping you from moving forward with this?
11. **Discuss.** Last lesson we talked about resisting temptation. How is that going?
12. **Assignment for mentor:** Introduce your new Christian friend to several of your believer friends. You are the bridge for your Christian friend to the Christian community.
13. **Assignment for new Christian:** Have coffee or a meal with some of your mentor’s friends from his or her church or small group. If you go to a restaurant or coffee shop, ask your mentor to pay the bill.



14. **Review your memory verses** from Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9), Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32), and Lesson 3 (1 John 1:9). Can you say them more accurately than your mentor can? (Hey, mentor! You need to learn these, too.)
15. **Pray together** about you finding a regular church or small group to help you grow strong as Jesus' disciple. Also pray about any problems that you are experiencing.
16. **Ask your mentor** if he or she has any problems that you can pray for. If you feel comfortable, pray for your mentor's need right now. Praying for each other is one way we show our love for each other.
17. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet and go through next week's lesson.

Outline of Lesson 4. Fellowship

1. The Christian community is where we learn to love

- Love is the root of God's character (1 John 4:16).
- Love requires someone to love, it is not solitary.
- Jesus said love is our distinguishing characteristic (John 13:34-35).
- Love leads us into maturity.

2. The Bible describes the church in four ways. We are part of a:

- Family (Galatians 6:10; 1 Peter 3:8), sons and daughters of the same Father.
- Body (1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:16), we are interdependent, like different parts of a human body.
- Flock, cared for and protected by a shepherd (John 10:11). Human shepherds are called elders, priests, ministers, bishops, or overseers (Acts 20:28).
- Church (Matthew 16:18), a society of "the called-out ones."
 - The word "church" refers to the people, not to a building.
 - Gathering regularly is to help us grow (Hebrews 10:25).

3. Types of Christian Groupings

- Larger gatherings are for worship together and teaching.
- Small groups are where we connect for love and caring for each other and experience.
- Christian fellowship.
- Pairs, a mentor with a newer Christian helps you grow, too.

4. How to Find a Church

- No church is perfect. You are there to focus on God, not the flaws.
- Look for a church:
 - That teaches or preaches from the Bible.
 - Where people love one another.
 - That is not proud and exclusive.

5. Benefits of being part of a church

- Role models
- Specialized ministries and spiritual gifts
- Protection
- Healing
- Encouragement
- Growth

You have a lot to offer a church also.

6. **Be faithful** as (1) part of a small group and (2) a church. Then stay put. Don't be a "church hopper" who is: Selfish, Unrealistic, and Unfaithful.

5. Love—The Core of Christianity

Memory Verse

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
(1 John 4:7-8, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

- 1. Read aloud your memory verse** for this week (1 John 4:7-8). Write it on a card.
- 2. Report.** Did you attend a church last week? What did you like about it? What didn't you like about it? What didn't you understand?
- 3. Report.** How is your quiet time? Are you spending time regularly with God? What time of day is working best for you?
- 4. Discuss.** Why is a God of love so radically different from the gods of this world?
- 5. Discuss.** What happens to you when you finally understand that God loves you just the way you are?
- 6. Discuss.** What are the two greatest commandments? How do we fulfill the first commandment? How do we fulfill the second commandment?
- 7. Discuss.** Does it make any sense to love your enemies? Why should you love them? Is there a time when you were God's enemy? Is love a sign of weakness?
- 8. Discuss.** Why is it so important that you forgive those who have hurt you?
- 9. Discuss.** Does forgiving a person mean that you must trust him? Why or why not?
- 10. Discuss.** Who are the people who have hurt you most? Why is it so hard to forgive them?
Mentor: Share how some people have hurt you and how you came to forgive them.
- 11. Assignment.** Make a list of the people who you have trouble forgiving. Then pray daily that God will help you forgive them.
- 12. Review your memory verses** from Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9), Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32), Lesson 3 (1 John 1:9), and Lesson 4 (John 13:34-35). See if you can say them more accurately than your mentor can.
- 13. Pray together** about the people you need to forgive. Include in your prayers any problems that you or your mentor are experiencing in your lives. If you haven't learned to pray aloud with your mentor, start today by praying a one-sentence prayer.

14. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet and go through next week's lesson.

Outline of Lesson 5. Love—the Core of Christianity

1. **Jesus' view of love makes the Christian faith unique among all the world religions**

- God is love (1 John 4:7-8). Love is his trademark and core quality.
- God is the first lover who inspires our love (1 John 4:19), and he provides the template or image in which we were made (Genesis 1:27).
- God loves us in spite of ourselves (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9). Even before we were Christians, God loved us.

2. **The Two Greatest Commandments (Matthew 22:37-39)**

- Love God supremely.
- Love our neighbor as ourselves, e.g. the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37).

3. **The Implications of the Command to Love**

- We will experience persecution (2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 13:20-21), but we are to love our enemies, our persecutors (Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:14).
- Love causes us to forgive those who sin against us.
 - Jesus modeled forgiveness on the cross (Luke 23:34a).
 - Forgiveness is taught in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:12, 14-15).
 - If we want to be forgiven, we must forgive those who sin against us.
 - Forgiveness doesn't imply trust, or excuse of actions, or minimize the hurt.
 - Forgiveness means you have decided not to hold their sin against them any longer.
 - If this seems impossible, ask for God's help.
- Love Is Not a Sign of Weakness, but of Strength.
 - Love is the strongest force in the world.
 - Love overcomes evil and hate (Romans 12:20-21).
 - Example: Non-violent civil rights movement under Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

4. **Two Classic Statements of Love**

- The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)
- The "Love Chapter" (1 Corinthians 13)

6. Gospel—Understanding Christ's Story

Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

1. **Read aloud five times** today's memory verse (John 3:16) and write it on a card.
2. **Discuss.** What does “Gospel” mean?
3. **Discuss.** What does “incarnation” mean? Why do you think Jesus had to come in the flesh? Why do you think the meaning of Christmas has been so distorted by our culture?
4. **Discuss.** How can Jesus be God? What is Jesus' relationship to the Father and the Spirit?
5. **Discuss.** Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? Why do our sins make us deserving of spiritual death? Who was Jesus that he could take the punishment that we deserve?
6. **Discuss.** Why do you think Jesus was raised from the dead? What are the implications of the resurrection? Why do you think the meaning of Easter has been so distorted by our culture?
7. **Discuss** the Lord's Supper, sometimes called Communion, the Eucharist, the Mass. What is it supposed to remind us of? How is the Lord's Supper practiced in the church you are attending? Have you partaken of the Lord's Supper yet? Why or why not?
8. **Discuss** how your quiet time with God is coming. Are you experiencing any problems here? Have you finished reading one of the Gospels yet?
9. **Discuss** how you are forgiving those who have hurt you? Have you been able to forgive them in your heart yet? If not, what seems to be the problem?
10. **Review your memory verses** from Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9), Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32), Lesson 3 (1 John 1:9), Lesson 4 (John 13:34-35), and Lesson 5 (1 John 4:7-8). Say them together with your mentor without looking at your cards.
11. **Pray for each other.** Share with your mentor your needs to pray about and ask your mentor how you should pray for him or her. Then spend a few minutes praying for each other aloud.
12. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet and go through next week's lesson.

Outline of Lesson 6. Gospel—Understanding Christ's Story

1. **God Loves Us** (see Lesson 5)
2. **Jesus Is God in the Flesh**
 - This is called “the incarnation.”
 - Jesus was born of a virgin (Luke 1:35).
 - He is called Son of God, Savior, Christ/Messiah, the Lord, Son of Man, and God (Luke 1:35; 2:11; Matthew 26:63-64; John 20:28).
 - The three Persons of the Godhead are called the Trinity.
3. **Jesus Atoned for Our Sins on the Cross**
 - Jesus' death provided atonement or payment for our sins (Isaiah 53:4-5, 12; Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 3:18a).
 - Jesus served as a substitute or stand-in for us.
 - The Lord's Supper is the way that we remember Jesus death for our sins (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
 - The bread reminds us of Jesus body being broken for us.
 - The cup reminds us of Jesus shedding his blood for us.
4. **Jesus Was Raised from the Dead**
 - Jesus died on Good Friday and was raised on the third day, Sunday morning (Luke 24:1-6).
 - Jesus appeared to his disciples and many others after his resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-7).
 - The implications of the resurrection are:
 - The resurrection makes Christianity unique.
 - Jesus has conquered death for all of us.
 - Jesus is alive.
5. **Jesus Lives in Us by His Spirit**
 - God has made his home in you (John 14:23).
More in Lesson 7.

7. Holy Spirit—The Power of God’s Presence

Memory Verse

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

Note for the Mentor: This lesson is a bit harder to grasp, though the principles are simple and basic. Why don’t you ask your pastor to join you for this lesson, if that’s possible.

1. **Read aloud five times** today’s memory verse (John 14:16-17) and write it on a card.
2. **Discuss.** Why is the Holy Spirit harder to visualize than the Father and the Son? What do you think is the significance of “Spirit” as breath or wind?
3. **Discuss.** Before you were a Christian, did you ever sense the Holy Spirit drawing you to Christ, convicting you of your sins, or convincing you of the truth of Jesus?
4. **Discuss.** How does walking closely with the Spirit help you when you’re tempted?
5. **Discuss.** Have you noticed any change in your character and values since you’ve become a Christian? Which of the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 have begun to show up in your character so far?
6. **Discuss.** What gifts of the Spirit does your mentor think he or she has? What gifts of the Spirit do you suspect that you might have?
7. **Discuss.** Why is it so important to discern what gift or gifts you have and then spend time and energy there?
8. **Discuss.** Why do you think we are so quick to think things are impossible? If God is living with you by his Spirit, is there anything impossible to you?
9. **Review your memory verses** from Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9), Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32), Lesson 3 (1 John 1:9), Lesson 4 (John 13:34-35), Lesson 5 (1 John 4:7-8), and Lesson 6 (John 3:16). Try to say them together with your mentor without looking at your cards.
10. **Pray for each other.** Share with your mentor your needs to pray about and ask your mentor how you should pray for him or her. Then spend a few minutes praying for each other aloud.
11. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet and go through next week’s lesson.

Outline of Lesson 7. Holy Spirit—The Power of God’s Presence

1. The Holy Spirit’s Nature

- The Holy Spirit is a Person, not an impersonal force.
- The word “Spirit” means “breath” or “wind,” unseen, but powerful.

2. The Holy Spirit Works in Us

- The Spirit convinces or convicts people of sin (John 16:8).
- The Spirit brings spiritual life (John 3:5-7).
 - The Spirit dwells in us.
 - Spirit of Christ = Spirit of God = Holy Spirit
- The Spirit fills us. Three phrases are used:
 - Receive the Holy Spirit
 - Be baptized with the Holy Spirit
 - Be filled with the Holy Spirit
- The Spirit produces fruit and character of Christ in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23).

3. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit gives each Christian gifts to build up the church and do Christ’s work on earth and (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).
- These gifts include: teaching, pastoring, evangelism, music and artistic skills, service, mercy, and encouragement or exhortation.
- The Spirit also gives supernatural gifts.
- You discover your spiritual gifts by trying different ministries and receiving confirmation from others.

4. The Power of the Holy Spirit

- Because the Holy Spirit is God living in us, nothing is impossible (Jeremiah 32:27; Luke 1:37; 18:27; Matthew 17:20).
- We must seek to walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:25) and keep our lives attuned to God.

8. Witness—Sharing Your Faith

Memory Verse

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

- 1. Read aloud five times** today’s memory verse (Matthew 5:16) and write it on a card.
- 2. Discuss.** What is the difference between sharing your own personal testimony and sharing the Gospel?
- 3. Discuss.** Why do you think a person will be interested in how you became a Christian? What is the power in a person’s testimony?
- 4. Who is in your world?** Discuss with your mentor the people God has placed in your world in the following categories:
 - a. Friends
 - b. Family
 - c. Work or school associates
 - d. Neighborhood or store employees
 - e. Recreation, clubs, and teams

Which of them do you think might need Christ the most?

- 5. Pray** for each of these names with your mentor. Ask God to open their hearts. Ask God to give you an opportunity to talk with each of them.
- 6. Outline your testimony** in these three points.
 - a. *Before* I became a Christian
 - b. *How* I became a Christian
 - c. *Since* I became a Christian

Briefly share your testimony with your mentor today using this outline.

- 7. Assignment.** This week go home and write out your testimony. Then practice saying it in about three minutes. The next week share it with your mentor.

8. **Discuss** the dangers with associating with old friends, “missionary dating,” lack of love, and being ashamed.
9. **Discuss.** Why is love so important in your witnessing?
10. **Discuss.** Isn’t just living your life all you need to do? Is sharing a verbal testimony really necessary? Why or why not?
11. **Review your memory verses** from Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9), Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32), Lesson 3 (1 John 1:9), Lesson 4 (John 13:34-35), Lesson 5 (1 John 4:7-8), and Lesson 6 (John 3:16), and Lesson 7 (John 14:16-17). Try to say them together with your mentor without looking at your cards.
12. **Pray for each other.** Share with your mentor your needs to pray about and ask your mentor how you should pray for him or her. Then spend a few minutes praying for each other aloud.
13. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet and go through next week’s lesson.

Outline of Lesson 8. Witness—Sharing Your Faith

1. **Witness**

- A witness tells what he knows by personal experience.
- The Great Commission commands us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20) and be Christ’s witnesses to the world (Acts 1:8).

2. **Sharing Your Testimony**

- Our world is comprised of our friends, family, work or school associates, neighborhood or store personnel, and recreation, clubs, or teams.
- We list the people in our world to remind us to pray for them, introduce them to our Christian friends, invite them to our baptism, and look for opportunities to encourage them.
- In times of trouble, share that God can help them and offer to pray for them.
- Prepare to share your testimony in about 3 minutes, using this structure:
 - My life before Jesus
 - How I met Jesus
 - My life since Jesus
- Let the Holy Spirit guide you in when to witness. You are the junior member of his team.
- Sharing your testimony is what Christ has done for you; sharing the Gospel itself is explaining what Christ has done for that person.

3. **Cautions in Witnessing. Problems can arise from:**

- Associating with old friends who tempt you to go back to your old lifestyle.
- “Missionary dating” the opposite sex in order to witness to them.
- Insensitivity to people.
- Being afraid of not knowing all the answers.
- Being ashamed of Christ (2 Timothy 1:8).

4. **Authenticity**

- Love must be our motivation, not pride or self-righteousness.
- Our lives will be the most powerful testimony that Christ can change a life.

9. Worship—Communing with God

Memory Verse

“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” (Psalms 34:1, NRSV)

Questions and Discussion Points

1. **Read aloud five times** today’s memory verse (Psalm 34:1) and write it on a card.
2. **Discuss.** What is the difference between outward worship and worship with your heart? What can we do when our heart seems cold when we come to worship?
3. **Discuss.** Do we worship out of self-interest or to honor God? What is the problem when we come to worship in order to *get* something, rather than to *offer* something to God?
4. **Discuss.** Which part of a worship service do you enjoy the most? Why? Which part of a worship service do you think is most honoring to God? Why?
5. **Discuss.** Which postures have you observed in people who are worshipping? Which have you tried out yourself? Which of these seems most meaningful to you?
6. **Assignment.** This week in your own personal quiet time, experiment with six or more postures in worship. Then report back next week on what you experienced.
7. **Discuss.** Have you ever experienced joy in worship? If so, why do you think it brings you joy? Why do you think worship brings God joy?
8. **Review.** Which of your friends are you particularly praying for that they might become Christians? Has God answered your prayers for them in any way you can see at this point?
9. **Review.** Last week you worked on an outline for your testimony:
 - (a) Before I became a Christian,
 - (b) How I became a Christian,
 - (c) Since I became a Christian.Have you written it out yet? Share it with your mentor today, trying to keep it to about three minutes.
10. **Review your memory verses** from Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9), Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32), Lesson 3 (1 John 1:9), Lesson 4 (John 13:34-35), Lesson 5 (1 John 4:7-8), and Lesson 6 (John 3:16), Lesson 7 (John 14:16-17), and Lesson 8 (Matthew 5:16). Try to say them together with your mentor without looking at your cards.

11. **Pray for each other.** Share with your mentor your needs to pray about and ask your mentor how you should pray for him or her. Then spend a few minutes praying for each other aloud. Also pray for friends you hope to witness to.

12. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet and go through next week's lesson.

Outline of Lesson 9. Worship—Communing with God

1. The Nature of Worship

- Worship means to come before God to honor him and draw close to him.
- Our worship needs to be from the heart, not just going through religious motions (Matthew 15:8).
- Worship styles have little to do with heart worship.

2. Offering Worship can take many forms:

- Praise (Psalm 145:1-3)
- Singing
- Thanksgiving
- Confession
- Prayers or supplications
- Tithes and offerings
- Thanks before meals
- Conduct of your life (Romans 12:1)
- Postures can express worship. Here are some for you to explore yourself and understand when you see practiced by others:
 - Bowed head
 - Folded hands
 - Eyes closed
 - Lifted or outstretched hands
 - Kneeling
 - Lying prostrate
 - Making the sign of the cross

3. Receiving During Worship. We don't worship primarily to receive, but to honor God.

- But in worship we can receive:
 - Instruction
 - Guidance
 - Comfort
 - Joy
- Sometimes we experience emotional deadness during worship. In these times we worship by faith, not by feeling.

4. Worship should be a regular habit for us as it was for Jesus (Luke 5:16; 4:16).

10. Generosity and Service—Love in Action

Memory Verse

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

1. **Read aloud five times** today’s memory verse (Mark 10:45) and write it on a card.
2. **Discuss.** Why does love require giving and service? What is the logical connection?
3. **Define** the word “generous.” Why is love generous rather than stingy?
4. **Discuss.** Why do you think God identifies himself so strongly with justice and grace for the poor, the widows, and the orphans? Why do they so often suffer injustice?
5. **Discuss.** What is our motivation to give financially to God and his work? In what way is our giving an act of worship? In what way does our giving reflect our love?
6. **Define** the word “tithes.” How should the principle of percentage giving guide our giving in the New Testament era?
7. **Discuss.** Who is the owner of the world? In what sense does all we have belong to God? If God is owner, then what is our role towards our world and our possessions? How does this affect how well we take care of the earth?
8. **Discuss** with your mentor about giving to God’s work. Ask your mentor how he or she determines how much to give? Discuss how you can determine what percentage of your income you can begin to give.
9. **Review.** Last week you were to experiment with six or more postures in worship. What did you discover when you did this? Which worship postures did you find most meaningful to you?
10. **Review.** Have you had an opportunity to share your testimony yet? Do you see anything happening in the lives of the friends you are praying for?
11. **Review your memory verses** from Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9), Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32), Lesson 3 (1 John 1:9), Lesson 4 (John 13:34-35), Lesson 5 (1 John 4:7-8), and Lesson 6 (John 3:16), Lesson 7 (John 14:16-17), Lesson 8 (Matthew 5:16), and Lesson 9 (Psalms 34:1). Try to say them together with your mentor without looking at your cards.

12. **Pray for each other.** Share with your mentor your needs to pray about and ask your mentor how you should pray for him or her. Then spend a few minutes praying for each other aloud. Also pray for the friends to whom you hope to witness.

13. **Appointment.** Set a time and place to meet and go through next week's lesson.

Outline of Lesson 10. Generosity and Service—Love in Action

1. Love is giving and generous

- Jesus modeled loving service for us (Mark 10:45; John 3:16).
- Generosity flows from love, as seen in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-35).

2. Ways We Can Show Generosity

- Helping the Poor (Psalms 140:12).
 - Showing hospitality (Romans 12:13).
 - Giving to the poor unselfishly (Matthew 6:3-4).
 - Helping orphans and widows is the essence of genuine religion (James 1:27).
- Seeking Justice for All
 - Based on Jesus' understanding of his ministry (Luke 4:18-19).
 - Extending now blessings that will ultimately come the Kingdom of God is established.

3. Showing generosity towards God's work

- Since ancient times God's people set aside a tithe (10%) for God's work, to help the poor, and to celebrate in worship.
- We are not under the Old Testament law, but tithing is still a good guideline for our generosity towards God.
- Tithing, percentage giving, comes with an offer of God's blessing (Malachi 3:8-10; Luke 6:38).
 - We don't tithe selfishly in order to receive blessings, but out of love for God.
 - Tithing is a sacrifice, since we are responsible to take care of our other financial obligations.
 - Start by giving the percentage you are able, then ask God to help you increase to 10%.
- God is the owner of all; we are managers or stewards (Psalms 24:1; Luke 19:11-27; Genesis 2:15).

4. Serving is another way of showing generosity

- Jesus modeled service when he washed the disciples' feet at the Last Supper (John 13:12-15).
- Since we are members of the body, the church, each of us must do our part (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:16).
- Spiritual gifts equip us to serve.

11. Bible—Guidebook for Living

Memory Verse

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

1. **Read aloud five times** today’s memory verse (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and write it on a card.
2. **Discuss.** When we say that the Scripture is inspired, what do we mean?
3. **Discuss.** Have you ever had the Holy Spirit illuminate a verse for you? What was it like?
4. **Activity.** Open your Bible to the Table of Contents. Then open to each of the major sections of the New Testament. Gospels (begins with Matthew), Acts, Paul’s Letters (begins with Romans), General Letters (begins with Hebrews), and Revelation. Read a few verses in each section to get the flavor.
5. **Discuss.** What Bible translation do you use? What is the difference between a Bible translation and a Bible paraphrase?
6. **Activity.** Look at the various features of a study Bible. (Mentor: If you don’t have one, try to borrow one to bring to the meeting.) Look for scripture cross references, footnotes, a concordance, and other helps.
7. **Your own Bible.** If you don’t have your own Bible yet, what is your plan to earn the money to purchase one? What kind would you like to get?
8. **Select** a daily Bible reading plan that seems to suit you and begin to use it this coming week. You can view [several Bible reading plans online](http://www.jesuswalk.com/beginning/bible-reading-plans.htm), then print one out to carry in your Bible. www.jesuswalk.com/beginning/bible-reading-plans.htm
9. **Review.** Last week we talked about regular giving to God’s work on a percentage basis. What plan for regular giving have you decided upon?
10. **Review.** Last week we talked about service to others. In what ways is God using you to serve others?
11. **Review your memory verses** from Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9), Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32), Lesson 3 (1 John 1:9), Lesson 4 (John 13:34-35), Lesson 5 (1 John 4:7-8), and Lesson 6 (John 3:16), Lesson 7 (John 14:16-17), Lesson 8 (Matthew 5:16), Lesson 9 (Psalms 34:1), and Lesson 10 (Mark 10:45). Try to say them together with your mentor without looking at your cards.

12. Pray for each other. Share with your mentor your needs to pray about and ask your mentor how you should pray for him or her. Then spend a few minutes praying for each other aloud and for those to whom you are witnessing.

13. Appointment. Set a time and place to meet and go through next week's lesson

Outline of Lesson 11. Bible—Guidebook for Living

We have been given powerful aids to help us grow spiritually: Christ's Spirit, Christian brothers and sisters, and the Bible.

1. The Inspiration of Scripture

- The Bible is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- The Spirit guided each Bible author to record God's message accurately.
- Each book of the Bible must be understood within its own culture, historical setting, and language.
- The Spirit inspired different types of messages God intended for us:
 - Examples of man's arrogance and disobedience
 - People of faith to emulate
 - Songs of praise
 - Prophecies to correct his people
 - Letters to guide the early church
- Because the Bible is inspired, it speaks with God's authority.

2. The Theme of the Bible Is Love

- Not primarily a list of laws to obey.
- The key to understanding the Old and New Testaments is love. The greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-40): (1) Love God, (2) Love your neighbor.
- Jesus' teaching is not a heavy burden, but a gentle yoke (Matthew 11:28-30).

3. Why We Should Read the Bible

- Instruction (John 8:31-32)
- Correction (Hebrews 4:12)
- Examples
- Training and growth
- Inspiration
- The Holy Spirit illuminates the Word of God and reveals it to us.

4. The New Testaments 27 books and letters have these categories:

- Gospels
- Acts of the Apostles
- Paul's Letters
- General Letters
- Revelation

5. Bible translations

- Translations from the original language
 - The Old Testament was written in Hebrew.
 - The New Testament was written in Greek.
- Translations vs. paraphrases
 - Examples of translations: KJV, NIV, NASB, NRSV.
 - Examples of Paraphrases: Living Bible, The Message.
- A Study Bible contains many resources to help you learn the Bible.

6. Ways to Read the Bible

- A Habit of Daily Bible Reading. Bible reading plans.
 - New Testament in one chapter a day
 - Three Bible chapters a day: Psalms, Old Testament, New Testament
 - Online Bible reading plans to print out and tuck into your Bible
www.jesuswalk.com/beginning/bible-reading-plans.htm
- When the Bible seems boring, try making changes—change position, read less, study, reading aloud.
- Scripture Memory
 - Write it on a card.
 - Read it aloud several times.
 - Try saying from memory.
 - Review occasionally.
 - God's word in your heart.
- Reading aloud
 - Times to read aloud
 - Before or after meals with your family
 - At small group meetings
 - At church services
 - By yourself
 - Reading aloud increases comprehension: reading, speaking, listening.
Bible becomes a friend and earpiece to God's heart (Psalm 119:105).

12. Lord—Obedient Servants of the King

Memory Verse

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” (John 14:21, NIV)

Questions and Discussion Points

1. **Read aloud five times** today’s memory verse (John 14:21) and write it on a card.
2. **Discuss.** Read the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders (Luke 6:46-49). What was Jesus attempting to teach through this parable? What is the point of the parable?
3. **Discuss.** Why is obeying another person so difficult? Why is obeying Jesus so important? Where do you find it most difficult to obey God?
4. **Discuss.** What do we mean when we say: “Jesus is Lord”?
5. **Discuss.** Is the role of being a servant of God demeaning or honorable? What is involved in being a “faithful” servant?
6. **Discuss.** In what sense is Jesus “King”? What are the implications of this?
7. **Discuss.** In John 15:15, Jesus calls his disciples “friends” rather than “servants.” Why does he call them friends?
8. **Discuss.** If you are a “friend” of Jesus, what does that mean for your life? What benefits will it bless you with? What responsibilities does it place upon you?
9. **Review.** Have you selected a Bible reading plan yet? Which one? How is it working out for you?
10. **Review your memory verses** from Lesson 1 (Ephesians 2:8-9), Lesson 2 (John 8:31-32), Lesson 3 (1 John 1:9), Lesson 4 (John 13:34-35), Lesson 5 (1 John 4:7-8), and Lesson 6 (John 3:16), Lesson 7 (John 14:16-17), Lesson 8 (Matthew 5:16), Lesson 9 (Psalms 34:1), Lesson 10 (Mark 10:45), and Lesson 11 (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Try to say them together with your mentor without looking at your cards.
11. **Pray for each other.** Share with your mentor your needs to pray about and ask your mentor how you should pray for him or her. Then spend a few minutes praying for each other aloud, and for those to whom you are witnessing.
12. **Select.** Since this series is now over, what kind of Bible study or small group will you become a part of so you can continue studying the Bible with others?

Outline of Lesson 12. Lord—Obedient Servants of the King

1. Discipleship Begins with Obedience

- Following. Jesus called his disciples, “Come, follow me.” (Matthew 4:18-20).
- Obedience
 - Obedience is a sign of our love for Jesus (John 14:15, 21).
 - The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders (Luke 6:47-48) teaches that we must put into practice Jesus’ teachings.
- Priority (Matthew 10:37). Jesus demands our highest level of allegiance.

2. Obedience Is Required Because of Who Jesus Is

- Jesus Is Lord.
 - Implication of his title as “Lord”
 - Means: “owner, lord, master.”
 - Lord was substituted for the divine name Yahweh.
 - “Jesus is Lord” means Jesus is our divine Lord and Master.
 - “Jesus is Lord” is the first Christian confession (Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 12:3).
 - We are the Lord’s servants. Parable of the Talents: “Good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).
- Jesus Is King
 - Both “Messiah” and “Christ” mean “Anointed One.”
 - Kings were anointed with oil when they were crowned.
 - Jesus is the Messiah, the delivering king, who will restore the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15; Matthew 16:16; Matthew 21:9; Mark 15:2).
 - We must humble ourselves before the King (James 4:6, 10; Luke 22:42).

3. Jesus Calls Us Friends

- Though Jesus is divine Lord and King and Savior, he calls us his friends (John 15:15).
- Friendship is an expression of his love.
- God loves you.
- Calls you on the journey, “Follow me, friend.”